

NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
Historical Services Branch

Interview NGB-08

INTERVIEW OF

MAJ ROBERT MAGNANINI
Assistant G-2
42nd Infantry Division (Mechanized)

CONDUCTED BY

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National Guard Bureau

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Editorial comments inserted later are indicated by use
of brackets []

TAPE TRANSCRIPTION

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** This is MAJ Les' Melnyk, Army
3 National Guard Historian for the National Guard Bureau.

4 Today I am interviewing MAJ Robert Magnanini.
5 He is the Assistant G-2 Operations, in the Operations
6 Section, for the 42nd Infantry Division.

7 Today's date is the 21st of September 2001.
8 This interview is taking place in Battery Park, New
9 York City, and relates to the events following the
10 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on 11
11 September 2001.

12 MAJ Magnanini's name is spelled M-a-g-n-a-n-i-
13 n-i.

14 MAJ Magnanini, if you could begin first,
15 briefly, by telling us what you do in your civilian
16 capacity and a brief synopsis of your military career
17 up to this point.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Okay. I will start with the
19 military. I was active Army from 1984 to 1990. I was
20 a military intelligence officer, assigned to the 7th
21 Infantry Division after OBC, and then I ended up
22 serving as a counter-terrorist officer.

1 Technically, I think I was the military
2 information officer in one of the Mideast Sinai
3 peacekeeping forces in 1987.

4 I came back from that and I was involved with
5 a few operations in Central America, with Honduras, and
6 in Panama. I also served in a counter-drug capacity,
7 training foreign nation military units in South America
8 and various countries, up through, I guess, 1989.

9 I think my technical title, I was the all
10 source production section chief of the 7th Division G-2
11 shop. My basic job was to control a bunch of analysts
12 and brief division commanders and deploying units on
13 threats in different areas of the world.

14 I then was sent down, I was down in Panama for
15 the Noriega invasion, went in on the first day, came
16 home February 4, and did a variety of units, both with
17 the division I was -- I started at the division
18 headquarters. I was sent down to be a brigade S-2 when
19 there were some issues at a brigade.

20 When the brigade pulled out, I was left as the
21 intelligence officer for the 7th Special Forces group,
22 units in western Panama. I was then transferred over

1 to be an Intel officer for some SEAL teams on the
2 northeastern part of Panama, and then came back,
3 resigned my commission in July of 1990 and began law
4 school at Columbia University School of Law in New York
5 City.

6 I graduated that in '93, joining the National
7 Guard in August of '91, served as the S-2 of the 107th
8 Brigade, which was located at the Park Avenue Armory, I
9 guess, until 1993.

10 That unit was then broken down, changed into a
11 corps support group. There was no MI captain positions
12 and I was not going to regress to be a first
13 lieutenant.

14 So I was transferred to the 69th [Infantry],
15 which was converting to ADA, where I was -- I'm not
16 sure what the first job was. I was in S-2 and then was
17 transferred from the 69th in June of '96 to [the 42d
18 Infantry] division, so I could get promoted to O-4,
19 since there were no O-4 MI slots down here.

20 And I've been up at the G-2 shop of the 42nd
21 since June of 1996, either as a G-2 operations or
22 deputy G-2. I basically, for any of the major

1 exercises, I am the TOC OIC at night and then I run the
2 night war and at night I do most of the briefings. So
3 that's my basic thing.

4 Civilian life dovetailed into this. I'm a
5 trial lawyer. So I'm used to looking at a lot of
6 information, standing up and making people believe what
7 I say is the truth.

8 And so -- and I work for a law firm called
9 Latham & Watkins, L-a-t-h-a-m, and Watkins, W-a-t-k-i-
10 n-s. We have an office in New York, but I work in the
11 Newark, New Jersey office.

12 **MAJ MELNYK:** And you reside?

13 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And I reside at 722 Coleman,
14 C-o-l-e-m-a-n, Place, in Westfield, one word, New
15 Jersey, 07090, phone 908-518-9184.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** We'll probably want to delete
17 that from the record.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Delete that. Okay. Yeah.
19 And then on September 11, I actually --

20 **MAJ MELNYK:** Yes. Thank you.

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** -- had a lunch meeting at
22 12:30 with some clients from Soloman Smith-Barney, who

1 were on the 35th floor of the World Trade Center, and
2 as I was driving in to work, there's a couple of hills
3 where you can actually see the World Trade Center on
4 the way in.

5 I was on the phone, working on my way in, as I
6 usually do, came over a hill, saw some smoke, came
7 over, saw actually the first part of that. It looked
8 like the first tower had started to crater in.

9 And by the time I got into my office, the
10 first tower had collapsed, and our office is in the
11 Seton Hall Law School Building, One Newark Center, on
12 the 16th floor, which has a panoramic view of lower
13 Manhattan.

14 So while I was on the phone with the division,
15 by the time I got in there, they knew there were two
16 planes had hit the towers. The TVs were on in my
17 office. I watched for a little bit and I called up to
18 the division, although most of the 42nd Division staff
19 had been deployed to Fort Leavenworth for a war fighter
20 BCTP seminar.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** Why had you not?

22 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** I actually had a trial that

1 was scheduled to start on Monday, September 10, and
2 that ended up settling on the Thursday before, but all
3 my vacation was used up. I usually use two weeks of my
4 vacation for a two week AT and then do a week vacation
5 with the family that I had already taken.

6 So at that point, with no vacation, I said I
7 needed to finish, you know, keep working.

8 So I had stayed behind and knowing that and
9 also MAJ George Chin had stayed behind, as well. And
10 so knowing that there were the two of us down here,
11 once I saw what had happened, I said -- I made two
12 comments, which probably a lot of people did.

13 But I said to my office people, I said
14 "Fucking bin Laden," and then I said, "Welcome to World
15 War III."

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** Yeah.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And I then tried to call into
18 the city, was unable to get a line, never was able to
19 talk to the 69th, who I knew was right here in New
20 York, with the 101 [Cavalry], who was right on Staten
21 Island.

22 I called up to division and I got COL Atwood,

1 who is the Secretary of the General Staff.

2 I spoke with him and while I was speaking with
3 him, looking kind of, I guess it would be southeast out
4 of the corner of my office, I could see the second
5 tower of the World Trade Center collapse in a pile of
6 smoke.

7 And I told that to COL Atwood and I said "It
8 looks like we're going to get activated," and he told
9 me, "Right now, nobody knows anything. Just sit
10 tight."

11 I then left work, actually drove one of my
12 paralegals home, whose in-laws live in Westfield, got
13 on my uniform and went to the 250th Signal Battalion
14 Armory, which is located about five minutes from my
15 house in Westfield.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** A New Jersey Guard unit.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. It's part of the 42nd
18 Division, but it's the New Jersey Guard.

19 So I showed up, they let me in through the
20 armory, and I watched CNN for a while, the various news
21 things, learned about the Pentagon, learned about the
22 crash in Pennsylvania, and then, at that point, was

1 waiting with the Signal unit for some sort of
2 activation.

3 They heard then that they had activated the
4 New York Guard, but not the Jersey Guard.

5 At that point I said, well, I better get
6 moving. So I went, drove home, grabbed a quick
7 sandwich my wife had made, loaded up my ruck sack and
8 threw a bunch of clothes into my kit bag, threw it in
9 my car, and then at that point, was still trying to get
10 through to somebody at the 69th or the 101 CAV.

11 So I started then driving and I figured I
12 would drive into the city, see what the units were
13 doing, get a status on them, and then report up to
14 division, where they were activating troops.

15 And I think at that point, I had called COL
16 Atwood and told him I'm on my way up, I'm just going to
17 swing into the city, and, at that point, I had driven
18 over to the Jersey Turnpike extension.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** So you still planned on heading
20 up to division [headquarters in Troy, NY] and not --

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. What my initial plan
22 was, was to come in here, check with the units, and

1 make sure that there was some sort of command and
2 control established for the units down here, since the
3 Brigade headquarters is in Buffalo and there was no
4 divisional staff people or anybody running around.

5 But I figured that things would be forming up
6 in New York and that I would stop in, and I told them,
7 I said, "I'll probably be four or five hours," and then
8 I said, "you'll see me at eight or nine tonight."

9 So I called that into the EOC at division.
10 They logged that in. And I was on the New Jersey
11 Turnpike extension, which runs to the Holland Tunnel.

12 They had sealed that off. I was in my
13 uniform, showed them my ID card, and the police waved
14 me on and I was able to go down what's usually a very
15 heavily congested roadway at about 90 miles an hour,
16 which was the only fun I've had in this damn thing.

17 Then I was able also to hit the Holland
18 Tunnel, get waved in by the police.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** Not pay the toll.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Not pay a toll, although I
21 think they did probably charge me my EZ pass. And then
22 there were actually civilians trying to drive around

1 the barricades to come into New York to look, and the
2 police were shooing them away.

3 I drove through the Holland Tunnel, with
4 nobody else in the tunnel, came out at Canal Street,
5 looked around and went, I guess it would be east on
6 Canal Street to Broadway.

7 Came down Broadway, amidst hundreds of
8 vehicles, and I hit Chambers Street, which is --

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right by city hall.

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. A couple blocks north.

11 And I made a -- I guess I made a -- I guess it would
12 be a left, I was going west.

13 And I went over --

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** It would have been a right.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** A right, yeah. And so I've
16 been here for ten days.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** About what time did you hit the
18 city? What time did you get out of the Holland Tunnel
19 into Manhattan?

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** I guess it was about 3:00
21 o'clock, somewhere around there, like between 2:30 and
22 three. It was going on three.

1 And I came over and I parked up by Stuyvesant
2 High School. I jumped out and I put on my LBE and my
3 helmet. I didn't have any goggles or masks or
4 anything, and I was running around -- and, actually, I
5 had brought my gas mask with me, but I didn't -- I
6 didn't -- I left that in the car.

7 I ran down Chambers a bit and came south on
8 one of the -- I don't remember what it was. Was it
9 Greenwich? I ran down one of the streets, down West
10 Street, I guess it was, because I had parked over here.

11 And I guess it was Greenwich, and I started
12 running down toward the World Trade Center, and there
13 was a lot of vehicles burning, a lot of smoke, but I
14 didn't see any sort of massed Army unit.

15 And for some reason, in my mind, I figured
16 that if the Army was going to be deployed, if they
17 deployed the National Guard, they would be north of the
18 Trade Centers to keep people out of there.

19 When I didn't see anybody, I jumped, ran back,
20 got in my car. That was about 3:20 or 3:30 somewhere
21 in there, drove back up, went up Broadway and drove up
22 to the 69th's Armory.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** At Lexington.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** At Lexington, yeah. And I
3 actually -- I went up and I drove around the armory and
4 parked on 25th Street, I guess, and I ran in to the
5 armory, saw master sergeant -- or I saw sergeant-major
6 Cruzado.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Was in there, C-r-u-z-a-d-o.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** I've interviewed him.

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Okay. Good. He's covered. I
11 ran in there, said, "What's going on, Top," and he
12 said, "Well, sir, the colonel is - colonel [LTC
13 Geoffrey] Slack and MAJ [Jose] Obregon had gone down to
14 the site in a Humvee."

15 And they had gone further south and were
16 walking around. I then tried to call division from the
17 armory, was unsuccessful, tried again to get in touch
18 with the 101 CAV, but the phone lines were so bad, you
19 couldn't get through to anybody.

20 So I waited there til about 4:30, I guess, and
21 colonel Slack and MAJ Obregon came back, and they told
22 me they had been around, seen the various fire trucks

1 exploding, buildings collapsed, body parts scattered
2 around, people running around dazed, and they were
3 getting their people ready to move, that they were
4 going to deploy the battalion.

5 At that point, colonel Slack got a call, I
6 think it was from the 3rd Brigade TOC, saying that they
7 had been OPCON'd to the 107th Corps Support Group, to
8 Troop Command.

9 Colonel [LTC] Slack then called Troop Command,
10 who was located at the armory on Park Avenue, 68 Park
11 Avenue. [53rd Troop Command is actually located in
12 Valhalla, NY. The 7th Regiment armory on Park Ave and
13 68th St is home to the 107th Corps Support Group, which
14 was given Operational Control of the troops in NYC on
15 Sept. 11]

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** The 107th.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The 107th, right.

18 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

19 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And was told by them
20 that they -- the 69th and all the 42nd Divisional units
21 in New York were, in fact, OPCON'd, but that the 107th
22 was not going to assume operational control, actually

1 direct movements, until the following morning.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** Describe colonel Slack's reaction
3 to that.

4 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Slack was a little -- it was a
5 mixture of disgust and amazement, and he turned and
6 told me that, and I said to him, "Well, that's not
7 correct." I said, "At 1600, they had operational
8 control. They have to exert command now."

9 You can't get units and tell them we'll get
10 back to you later. So colonel Slack said, "Well, it
11 sounds to me like we're not under their control til
12 tomorrow morning."

13 So it sounded like they were -- he was going
14 to formulate a plan to get down here, to get troops on
15 the ground.

16 At that point, I told him I would drive up to
17 the 107th and talk to them and see what they wanted us
18 to do. So I got a SPC Santiago, a great Humvee driver
19 in New York, and he took me up to - [coughs] - excuse
20 me.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** That's the remnants of all the
22 smoke you --

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Of all the -- yeah, and the
2 asbestos and whatever other crap they said is floating
3 around here.

4 But Santiago took me up to the 107th. I went
5 in there, went up to the second floor. I was very
6 familiar with the armory, having been there with the
7 brigade, and then went to their EOC.

8 They had a bunch of people running around,
9 including an interesting fellow, I'm not sure you've
10 come across his name, LTC Gilbert D. Mestler, M-e-s-t-
11 l-e-r, who is some sort of Army Reserve Special Forces,
12 and he's -- I'm not actually -- now that I've heard
13 some things about him, I'm not sure if he made his own
14 unit up or what.

15 But he is listed as Chief of Staff Executive
16 Officer, Special Operations Command, Korea, and he
17 actually was at some of the brigade war fighters at
18 Fort Dix earlier in the year, which involved a Korean
19 scenario.

20 He is up there. He tells me he is the OPS
21 officer at the 107th. And I asked him how could that
22 be, he was in the Army Reserve.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The 107th, at that point, was
3 very much a composite organization. Their senior
4 officers, people were still coming in. They had New
5 York Guard, not National Guard, but New York State
6 Guard, manning their operational missions on the desk.

7 They were trying to get a handle on what the
8 troops were that they had, what the mission
9 requirements were, as I'm sure the rest of the city was
10 running around.

11 I found out later that OEM, the Office of
12 Emergency Management, which actually controls this
13 operation, their command post was on the seventh floor
14 of the World Trade Center. So that was destroyed.

15 And I found out later, when I was at One
16 Police Plaza that night, that the police junction boxes
17 for all their telecommunications in southern Manhattan
18 was underneath the World Trade Center.

19 So when the building collapsed, the police,
20 especially One Police Plaza, had no communications with
21 any of its other units.

22 **MAJ MELNYK:** And for non-New Yorkers, One

1 Police Plaza is --

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Is the police headquarters for
3 New York City Police. It is located directly behind
4 the Municipal Building, by city hall, at the base of
5 the Brooklyn Bridge.

6 And so this fellow Mestler was up there.
7 There was a composite unit. I asked him, you know --

8 **MAJ MELNYK:** Mestler appeared to be in charge?

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Well, he -- yeah. He said he
10 was the operations officer. I had heard that general
11 [BG Edward] Klein was coming down from Valhalla. He is
12 the 53rd Troop Commander, and the unit was still kind
13 of getting set up.

14 So I asked him if they had any orders missions
15 taskings for any of the ground units and at that point,
16 they said no, we had not heard anything.

17 So I returned to the armory.

18 **MAJ MELNYK:** The 69th Armory.

19 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The 69th Armory. I spoke to
20 colonel Slack, said they're not prepared to assume
21 control until tomorrow morning.

22 Most of the staff and colonel Slack had a few

1 meetings. People were anxious to do something, knowing
2 what had happened and knowing that it's critical to get
3 there initially to save as many lives as you can and
4 prevent further damage.

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** About what time did you get back
6 to the 69th Armory, best of your recollection?

7 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** I think it was somewhere about
8 7:30, at that point. And then we still had not been
9 able to contact the 101.

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** CAV.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The 101 CAV, right. And then
12 at that point, I guess colonel Slack got a call, which
13 I confirmed with 107th, that COL Likar, L-i-k-a-r, I
14 believe his name is, who is the operations officer for
15 53rd Troop Command, stationed in Valhalla, New York, up
16 in Westchester, would be directing the units on the
17 ground here, and there was another colonel, COL
18 Aedelman, A-e-d-e-l-m-a-n, I believe is the XO of the
19 53rd Troop Command, they were going to give out the
20 orders.

21 The 107th said take your orders from them and
22 we will talk to you basically tomorrow.

1 So at that point, I was basically a liaison
2 for the 69th. I think at that point, about 8:00
3 o'clock, colonel Flanigan came into the 69th's Armory.
4 He said that he was --

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** Flanigan is?

6 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** He's a lieutenant colonel in
7 the Troop Command, F-l-a-n-i-g-a-n. Said he was a New
8 York City cop, that his job was to be a liaison officer
9 between the New York City Police Department and the
10 53rd Troop Command, who we, at the 69th, at that point,
11 knew was the higher headquarters.

12 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

13 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So Flanigan said I need
14 somebody to go to One Police Plaza and get a mission,
15 because the police are asking for National Guard troops
16 to seal off Canal Street.

17 So I told colonel Slack, don't send your staff
18 down there, get ready to move, I'm ancillary, I'll go
19 down there.

20 So we, again, SPC Santiago and I jumped in a
21 vehicle, followed colonel Flanigan down to One Police
22 Plaza. We went into the eighth floor, which was the

1 police command post.

2 That's when I found out about their phone
3 situation. They were scrambling to get radio, cell
4 phones, anything they could.

5 At that point, they told Flanigan that the
6 mission had changed. He kind of shrugged and told me
7 go talk to the police chiefs and see what they want.

8 I went over to -- and I even forget who it
9 was. It was inside their command center, and he told
10 me no, that they did want National Guard soldiers to
11 report to the police command post, which was at Pike,
12 P-i-k-e, and South Street.

13 It was in the parking lot of a Pathmark
14 underneath the Manhattan Bridge. I know that I've been
15 there about 400 times. And that was actually
16 Manhattan, the police sector called Manhattan South,
17 which is run by a police three star, who is, I guess, a
18 deputy commissioner.

19 Most of the city is broken up into precincts
20 and the precincts work for these borough commands. So
21 there's Brooklyn North, Brooklyn South, Queens North,
22 Queens South, Bronx, Staten Island, and Manhattan North

1 and Manhattan South.

2 Manhattan South was the only three star
3 command, because not only -- I guess it was from 59th
4 Street south, you had the U.N., as well as all the
5 American financial centers and things like that.

6 So Chief Haehl, H-a-e-h-l, was in charge over
7 there.

8 **MAJ MELNYK:** That's an interesting spelling.

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Interesting spelling, yeah.
10 And very, very nice, very pleasant man. He was at a
11 command post, which is a long like Winnebago kind of
12 thing, with hundreds of radios, in the Pathmark
13 shopping center.

14 I went from One Police Plaza and we drove --
15 Santiago and I drove over to the Pike Street -- Pike
16 and South Street, which, at that point, was also a
17 rally point for cops.

18 So there was about -- must have been 600
19 police waiting to be deployed and then the command
20 post.

21 They had told me, at that point, they wanted
22 National Guardsmen down here to seal Canal Street.

1 Chief Haehl, it actually took about an hour to get
2 that, as Chief Haehl was pulled in eight million
3 directions, kept apologizing to me, and the various
4 police brass, which were one stars, two stars, and
5 Chief Haehl, and a bunch of other people kept calling
6 me sir, and I think they thought -- and this was a
7 theme that continued pretty much up to today, that they
8 all are working for the military, that it was martial
9 law.

10 So they kept calling me sir and I was calling
11 them sir. So finally we just I'm John, I'm Bob, and we
12 started doing that.

13 Now, hopefully, that will hold me in good
14 stead if I have a ticket in Manhattan or something in
15 the future.

16 But after being at One Police Plaza, I'm
17 standing out in the parking lot, on my cell phone, I
18 had called back to the 69th.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** You got through on your cell
20 phone.

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** On my personal cell phone,
22 yeah. Verizon actually came through. And I had just

1 changed over. So nobody that knew me had my new cell
2 phone number. So I kept having to call people on that.

3 I got through on my cell phone and spoke to
4 colonel Slack, who told me that Troop Command had
5 passed down that the 258 was to be bused over to
6 Lexington Avenue Armory.

7 So the 258, commanded by colonel [LTC Frank]
8 Candiano, is an artillery battalion out of Jamaica,
9 Queens, loaded up, and drove over to the 69th's Armory
10 at 25th and Lexington.

11 They also took with them Charlie Company of
12 the 105th Infantry Battalion.

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** It was collocated in their
14 [Jamaica] armory.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** In their armory, right.
16 Inside the 69th's Armory was Bravo Company of the 105th
17 Infantry Battalion, commanded by CPT Purcell.

18 I had spoken to him while I was at the 69th's
19 Armory and his men had assembled and were ready to
20 move.

21 He, I guess, told me he got a call from the
22 27th Brigade to report down to Pike and South, to move

1 out. They got on an MTA transit bus and were driven
2 down there.

3 As I was leaving the --

4 **MAJ MELNYK:** So Bravo Company.

5 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Bravo of the 105th was the
6 first -- I was the first Army guy, I guess, over there,
7 other than colonel Flanigan, at Pike and South.

8 The first unit that showed up was Bravo of the
9 105th, who rolled in about 11:30.

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** Okay.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And, actually, as something
12 that's coming back to me --

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** The 258 had --

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** They were en route from --

15 **MAJ MELNYK:** The 69th Armory.

16 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** -- Jamaica to the 69th's
17 Armory.

18 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

19 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** This is still -- it must still
20 be around 10:00 o'clock, because --

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** The people I spoke to from the
22 258 say that they got downtown before midnight.

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** And I'm wondering what your time
3 frame was.

4 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. Mine -- what I remember
5 happening is after pulling out of the 107th Armory on
6 Park Avenue, and you actually come out, I guess, on --
7 out the back door, we parked inside the armory, and
8 you're on Lexington Avenue going south.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** So this is back when you're --

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. When I was coming
11 back. What I actually -- I forgot about this thing.

12 As we were driving down Lexington Avenue,
13 there was Santiago and myself, we saw a doctor in his
14 surgical scrubs and a medic bag and he had some sort of
15 arm band saying he was emergency surgery or something,
16 was coming from a hospital uptown to down, and he was
17 -- I guess, in a disaster, was supposed to report to
18 St. Vincent's and was running down the street.

19 So we grabbed him and put him in our Humvee
20 and drove him down to St. Vincent's and we pulled up at
21 St. Vincent's Hospital in front and there were -- it
22 was all lit by flood lights.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** This is all before you went to
2 the 69th Armory.

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** This was before I got back to
4 the 69th. This is what the gap in time is leaving the
5 107th at 7:00 o'clock or something and getting back to
6 the 69th about 10:00 o'clock.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** You dropped off this doctor at
8 St. Vincent's, which is located down by Canal Street,
9 isn't it?

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. It's where my dad was
11 born. I should know this. Yeah. I thought it was on
12 Broadway and Canal.

13 The strange thing was we pulled up and there
14 was a lot of spectators, huge flood lights in front,
15 but everybody sitting out on the sidewalk were just
16 doctors, nurses and EMT workers.

17 There were no patients. And I pulled up and
18 let this doctor jump out and two or three people the
19 police led out of the crowd who were National Guard
20 from different units, not the units that had been
21 activated, and said that they were told to report to an
22 EOC at Pier 40.

1 And I told them, well -- they said a deuce and
2 a half was picking them up and they would go over to
3 the pier, and I told them, well, just wait for that,
4 because they were not part of any of the divisional
5 units.

6 At that point, we had chaplains, nurses and
7 EMT workers in the asbestos suits, the moon suits and
8 everything else, come running over to the vehicle and
9 ask if we could drive them down to the site, because
10 they had no transportation.

11 So we loaded all of their gear into the
12 Humvee, filled it up, stacked them in like cord wood.
13 I think there were eight or nine people. And then we
14 drove down and we got all the way down -- I think we
15 went down West Street and we dropped them off.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** West is over there.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** I guess we went -- we wound up
18 going down Broadway.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And we must have dropped them
21 off just north at the corner of -- I think, yeah,
22 between -- somehow we made -- I think we went against

1 traffic. We were on Barclay, between West and Church
2 Street, and we dropped them off.

3 There was an EMT ambulance station there. So
4 we let them off and we drove along and this whole --
5 the whole area was pitch black. There was still --
6 although there was still a lot of fire, it was a lot of
7 smoke, a lot of ash floating around.

8 There were still some -- as we tried to get
9 out of the area, some destroyed emergency vehicles.

10 And then we went back to the 69th Armory. So
11 Santiago and I only. And we must have gotten back
12 there about 10:00 o'clock, and then at that point, this
13 guy Flanigan came in. I went back out the door, went
14 to One Police Plaza, drove over to Pike Street, talked
15 to Chief Haehl, and by the time I had gotten the orders
16 from him to get the National Guard down here, Bravo of
17 the 105th showed up.

18 So they then staged in the parking lot and the
19 MTA bus driver, which is another theme you will hear
20 throughout this, was supposed to wait with them.

21 Instead, as soon as they finished up -- the
22 MTA bus driver dropped off Bravo of the 105th. This is

1 now about 11:15 at night, Tuesday night, or 11:30.

2 Bravo of the 105th, CPT Purcell in charge, and
3 actually there was another captain with them. I'm not
4 sure if the guy's name was Pansa (phonetic) or what,
5 but he had shown up, did not have a uniform and was
6 wearing Purcell's uniform, as well.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** There were two Purcells.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Two Purcells, and they didn't
9 look that much alike to be brothers. So I was standing
10 there. They came in and I went over to them, explained
11 to them who I was, what I was doing, liaisoning with
12 the police, and the police, I had heard, at that point,
13 wanted to deploy them along Canal Street to seal the
14 area south to any sort of traffic at all, at that
15 point.

16 And so the police then took Bravo of the
17 105th, we were waiting for their bus and the bus driver
18 had taken off. So instead of waiting for them, as was
19 the order, the MTA guy just drove away.

20 We then -- I went around and around and
21 around, tried to round up a bus driver, finally got
22 somebody, a police bus driver. They loaded Bravo of

1 the 105th in, it was about 12:05, I think, at that
2 point. For some reason, I remember that time. And
3 they drove away and they went up to put up a cordon
4 line, along with the police, along Canal Street.

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** So 105th went to Canal Street
6 first, as far as you know.

7 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right, as far as I know. That
8 was a cordon line.

9 At that point, Chief Haehl called me back into
10 the police command vehicle and asked what units were
11 available for security of the entire site, and I told
12 him the 69th is ready on Lexington Avenue.

13 The 101 CAV is located on Staten Island, and I
14 said -- and I had gotten their numbers from [MAJ] Joe
15 Obregon before I left.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** Obregon being the executive
17 officer of the 69th.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Correct. And then at that
19 point, I knew from the 69th, I don't know whether it
20 was the XO or the commander, colonel Slack, that the
21 258 was on buses en route to the Lexington Avenue
22 Armory.

1 There was some discussion among the
2 commanders, I'm not sure who, but I then learned that
3 the 258 would continue down and pick up the first night
4 mission on the ground to be relieved about 0600 by the
5 69th and the 101.

6 **MAJ MELNYK:** Actually, it's supposed to be 08.

7 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. The first morning was
8 going to be 0600, because these guys were coming in
9 after being up all day, having stayed up all night. So
10 the transition was going to be at 06 the first day.

11 **MAJ MELNYK:** Okay.

12 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** I then went back to the police
13 van and the command post, explained what we had, and
14 was waiting, went to wait outside, while there was a
15 lot of commotion about different police things.

16 They came back to me, Chief Haehl brought me
17 back in and said "The police were concerned about the
18 ability of the 101 CAV to get in from Staten Island the
19 next day due to traffic and things."

20 And he wanted, instead of the 258 to come
21 down, they were asking could we get the 101 CAV in that
22 night, so they would be in Manhattan at that point.

1 And I told him we could do that and I called
2 sergeant major Burkey (phonetic) and colonel [LTC
3 Mario] Costagliola and left them messages, saying that
4 the police had wanted the 101 CAV to move in that night
5 and I explained that from Staten Island, they probably
6 would not be on the scene to be at Pike and South to be
7 able to be deployed until two in the morning.

8 The police said that they could live with
9 that, but thought it was better to get them in and out.

10 I called colonel Costagliola, SGM Burkey, who
11 is the S-3 OPS sergeant of the CAV, and left those
12 messages; didn't get to talk to anybody.

13 I did speak to their readiness or training
14 officer, a LT Morrissey (phonetic,) a couple of times
15 and told him what was going on.

16 The CAV was getting ready to move. I then
17 went back to the police and I said "If the CAV is going
18 to move, they're going to need an escort, police
19 escort, from the armory on Staten Island to the ferry
20 and get a ferry boat there."

21 The police said they would handle that and
22 while they were making those arrangements, I suggested

1 to COL Haehl that because the 258 was already on
2 Manhattan Island and at the 69th Armory and buses on
3 their way, and, at that point, I had also, I guess,
4 called back to colonel Slack and he told me the 258 was
5 there and deploying and ready to deploy to the site.

6 So I went back to the police and told Chief
7 Haehl and his group that the 258 was en route down here
8 and rather than have the CAV come in the middle of the
9 night, to get here at two in the morning, I suggested
10 that since the police are going to control the traffic
11 tomorrow, that the CAV could get in and out without a
12 great deal of effort.

13 And so the police reconsidered and said that
14 sounds fine, bring the 258 down here, and then I will
15 -- you know, they'll arrange for the CAV in the
16 morning.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** So in this great argument over
18 which units were on the ground first, to the best of
19 your knowledge, Bravo of the 105th was the first ones
20 to get to the Police Plaza. You saw them.

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right.

22 **MAJ MELNYK:** And they, to your knowledge, went

1 to Canal Street.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. They deployed with a
3 couple of police detectives and people who work for
4 Chief Haehl directly.

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** Because some of the soldiers that
6 I've spoken to in the 105th have told me that they
7 deployed straight from that area to the ground zero
8 site and I haven't interviewed any formally, but that's
9 what I've been getting, the impression, out of them.

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** It may have been. The orders
11 that I had was Canal Street, but there was a lot of
12 back and forth.

13 The police chiefs were getting pulled every
14 which way, as OEM and various people, I guess, were
15 calling.

16 And one of the other themes that I seem to
17 have picked up in my travels here and there was that
18 the city, the OEM and the city, the Mayor's office,
19 wanted to make sure that this didn't come across as
20 under siege, where the Army had to come into New York,
21 take over, and all that stuff.

22 The city wanted to remain in control and I

1 know the next morning, when the 101 CAV rolled in, the
2 papers and everybody were screaming, you know, the
3 National Guard's taking over New York was
4 disconcerting, yet somehow reassuring.

5 And so there seemed to be that tension
6 throughout.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That they wanted the military,
9 especially the police and fire wanted the military
10 presence here, but the city wanted it --

11 **MAJ MELNYK:** Low key.

12 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Low key, right. Yeah,
13 discreet.

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** Did you see the 258 arrive?

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** I was here when the 258
16 arrived. That was about --

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** Here is?

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Here was at Pike and South.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** Okay.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The 105th had deployed. I was
21 still on the phone. I had called the CAV back to make
22 sure they knew that they were not coming that night and

1 they'd be up and moving at 05 to get in here at 6:00
2 o'clock in the morning.

3 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

4 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So with that set, I waited for
5 the 258 and they arrived, I guess, a little before 2:00
6 o'clock in the morning.

7 And then there was another liaison, colonel
8 [LTC] Rivera.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Who was another. Have you
11 interviewed him?

12 **MAJ MELNYK:** No. He was with colonel
13 Candiano. I haven't had a chance to talk to him yet.

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Colonel Rivera works for like
15 a joint OPS command that deals with these disasters,
16 weapons of mass destruction, things like that.

17 So if something happens, he comes in and he's
18 a liaison, a facilitator between the military units and
19 the police. That's his normal job.

20 So he was there on the ground at the Police
21 Plaza. At that point, the 258 was there and ready to
22 go. So colonel Rivera had come into the police

1 headquarters and the police chiefs had laid out where
2 they wanted the military.

3 And so colonel Rivera said "I'll take it from
4 here." So he took colonel Candiano and MAJ Kool to go
5 lay out the 258 people.

6 **MAJ MELNYK:** MAJ Kool, K-o-o-l.

7 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Correct. He is the XO of the
8 258.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** Of the 258.

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And then MAJ Bati, B-
11 a-t-i, he's their S-3, but I don't think -- I don't
12 remember seeing him.

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** He might have had a longer
14 commute.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. I don't remember
16 seeing him at that point. So I shook hands. They knew
17 where they were going.

18 They were going to lay their troops out, and
19 the 258 then became, I guess, the 1st of the 42nd
20 Divisional troops out on the ground, and they actually
21 were sent out from Pike and South and they secured all
22 the way along South Street, down the Battery Park area,

1 past the ferry terminal.

2 They went up West Street. They went into
3 Battery Park City, due to the wreckage and what was
4 going on up there, to keep the soldiers -- actually,
5 when I got here in the morning, they were on the --
6 most of their guys were on the west side of West Street
7 and they were running patrols up into Battery Park
8 City.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** Charlie of the 105th came down
10 with the 258, do you know what happened?

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Charlie of the 105th came down
12 with the 258. They got off. I spoke to CPT Heinz.

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** You're not sure what happened
14 then?

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** No, and I don't remember what
16 happened to them at that point, because Heinz
17 introduced himself and, I don't know, I had made some
18 joke or comment.

19 I found out that he was an ADA [Assistant
20 District Attorney] in Manhattan and so at that point, I
21 left them, I left the 258, who was deployed all the way
22 around.

1 They went all the way up West Street, up to
2 Chambers Street. I believe they were across Chambers.
3 That was the original position. And then they snaked
4 down Nassau Street, which is just -- currently the
5 fence line runs up and down Broadway.

6 Nassau Street is the first north-south avenue
7 east of Broadway.

8 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And then --

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** So the Guard deployments that
11 night then are the 105th along Canal Street, Bravo of
12 the 105th along Canal Street, with police support, I
13 guess, as a forward screen.

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right.

15 **MAJ MELNYK:** And then the 258 rolls in behind
16 them.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And secures the entire --

18 **MAJ MELNYK:** The entire sector.

19 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The entire sector. And
20 Charlie of the 105th, who showed up on the 258's buses.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** They might have deployed after
22 that.

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. I'm not sure what
2 happened with them. So they may have actually deployed
3 right up to --

4 **MAJ MELNYK:** To ground zero.

5 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** -- to ground zero, to the
6 site. And then I then returned to the 69th Armory,
7 told colonel Slack and MAJ Obregon what was happening,
8 and then I guess it was about -- it must have been
9 about 4:00 o'clock, at that point, in the morning.

10 I sat down on a couch and went to sleep for an
11 hour and then we were all up at five, ran around. I
12 jumped in a vehicle with colonel Slack, while the unit,
13 the 69th, deployed down to Pike and South.

14 I drove down with colonel Slack to find out
15 what was going on.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** At that point, MAJ Kool and
18 colonel Rivera were at the CP at --

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** Pike and South.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** -- at Pike and South, but we
21 didn't see colonel Candiano. When we spoke with them,
22 they said the troops had deployed around. They did not

1 think there were any sort of major incidents.

2 There were hundreds of people actually inside
3 the military cordon line. So there was -- and
4 everybody was still getting set about what was
5 happening, and the majority of it was actually -- I
6 guess colonel Candiano was walking the line, because
7 the troops were out there and it did look like nuclear
8 winter, I guess as somebody has said, where it was
9 dark, ash was falling all over.

10 I'm pretty sure that the top of the tower, the
11 antenna off the World Trade Center was sitting down at
12 the end of Battery Park. I walked up Rector and West
13 Street.

14 At the corner of West and Rector was the nose
15 wheel and axle of one of the jets.

16 There were body parts. Actually, I didn't
17 know what they were, but there were all cones scattered
18 around in the ash, and the ash was about ankle deep, at
19 that point, going up West Street.

20 And I went over and lifted up a cone and there
21 was a little chunk of flesh with a piece of bloody
22 little sheet over it that somebody had torn off, and

1 that's what they had used to mark the body parts.

2 I guess when either the planes hit or --
3 probably from the planes hitting, and when the
4 buildings collapsed, a great deal of stuff just blew
5 south toward Battery Park and blew out, and this was
6 all sorts of chunks of people.

7 So actually before we got out there, I waited
8 with colonel Slack back at the command post, the police
9 command post, and colonel Candiano was caught up coming
10 back.

11 So at that point, we grabbed colonel Rivera
12 and said, you know, let's go, show us where we're going
13 to.

14 So he drove up with colonel Slack and all the
15 company commanders. It was a leaders recon.

16 So colonel Rivera and I put out the platoon
17 leaders. I was walking with him to get a handle on
18 where everybody was supposed to go, and then the
19 company, the buses finally showed up from the MTA and
20 the 69th was down here, I guess, between like at seven
21 [o'clock], somewhere in there.

22 And they also had loaded their weapons in the

1 back of trucks and, you know, kept them in the racks,
2 to bring down here, since we were at THREATCON Charlie.

3 Of course, we had no ammo. So colonel Slack
4 made the decision to bring them in case they're needed,
5 but not to carry them around, since we couldn't really
6 do anything with them.

7 And they didn't -- the other decision was not
8 to issue bayonets. So that there wasn't any sort of
9 presence.

10 Nobody quite knew what was going to happen.
11 There was a lot of uncertainty about whether there
12 would be a second attack, whether the terrorists had
13 done something smart, beside their technical skill in
14 actually pulling this whole thing off, but if they had
15 done something like cover the area with fire was my
16 analogy.

17 I would have left a bomb in the Liberty Plaza
18 or something like that and, about ten hours into the
19 rescue, toppled that over, and that would have caused
20 real chaos.

21 So the 69th came down. They set up their TOC
22 at the corner of Battery Place and State Street in

1 Broadway, at the tip of --

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right across from the Customs
3 House.

4 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Across from the Customs House,
5 the tip of Battery Park. The 258 units were replaced
6 and they returned back to the 69th Armory.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** They were also replaced by the
8 101 CAV, which had shown up on the scene.

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right.

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** But you weren't with them.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** No. I was not with the 101.

12 I was here. The 69th -- and coordination had occurred
13 after myself, talking with colonel Slack and MAJ
14 Obregon about the sector, coordination had occurred and
15 I think Mike McGurty, the S-3 of the 69th, had laid out
16 a plan where we would divide the area at Church Street,
17 and the 69th would take the west.

18 (Tape change.)

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** Continuing the interview with MAJ
20 Bob Magnanini.

21 You were saying that at this point, the S-3 of
22 the 69th, MAJ McGurty, had devised a plan to split the

1 perimeter with the 101 CAV.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And McGurty's plan
3 covered using Church Street as a dividing line, since
4 it went both north and south of the Trade Center, that
5 the 69th would take the west side of Church and then
6 cover down to the Battery, and then 101 CAV would take
7 the eastern side of Church.

8 The 101 and the 69th commanders spoke about
9 that between themselves, agreed on that, and the next
10 morning, around 7:00 o'clock, the 69th deployed in
11 buses and had convoyed to Battery Park, and the 101 CAV
12 came over on the ferry.

13 I think they came on the ferry, although,
14 actually, no, they used --

15 **MAJ MELNYK:** They came through the tunnel.

16 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The tunnel, the Battery
17 Tunnel.

18 **MAJ MELNYK:** Yes. They came over the bridge
19 and through the tunnel.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Through the tunnel, right.
21 That's right, because we were still debating the ferry
22 business, whether they wanted to use the ferry.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** They had a lot of vehicles, too.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. They brought their
3 vehicles. They had .50 cal's on them. They brought a
4 113 track with a .50 cal.

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** They drove a track over all those
6 highways?

7 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah.

8 **MAJ MELNYK:** Wow.

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And they put the track, the
10 first morning, up outside of city hall. That was
11 disconcerting, yet somewhat reassuring. And this is
12 now Wednesday morning, and they kept filming. CNN
13 filmed it.

14 And that loop kept running and running. So I
15 was actually, later in the day, at the 107th EOC, and
16 that popped up on the screen and they began to freak
17 out and say what the hell is going on, and I guess the
18 OEM in the city was saying the same thing, we shouldn't
19 have all these weapons.

20 So the CAV, responding to THREATCON Charlie,
21 brought their weapons. They then took them down. The
22 soldiers were actually out here with M-16s and

1 bayonets, too, ready, but no ammunition.

2 They put the weapons away and they assumed the
3 east of that perimeter.

4 **MAJ MELNYK:** That film clip kept running for
5 days and they continued to get in trouble for it.

6 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right, because the next day,
7 on Thursday, the OEM or the Mayor's office called down
8 to the 107th while I was there and said "What the hell
9 is wrong with you people, you're still driving around
10 with these weapons," and I told them, without even
11 investigating it, I told them it's not. I said they
12 took the weapons down. That's the film loop for
13 yesterday. I said it's probably going to go for
14 another day or something.

15 But they certainly made an impression.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right. At what point did they
17 shift the boundary to Broadway, because I know that
18 happened later on.

19 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That happened later.

20 **MAJ MELNYK:** Do you know?

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. What happened was the
22 CAV came in and assumed an area from -- because they

1 had closed off everything at Canal, there was no
2 southbound traffic, there were still people who lived
3 here, though a lot of them had been evacuated,
4 especially -- I think they evacuated everybody in
5 Battery Park City.

6 **MAJ MELNYK:** And the power was completely out
7 there.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** There was no power, right.
9 And then the 101 CAV stretched from the other side of
10 the Customs House at White Hall and Bridge Street --
11 actually, from Bowling Green, in front of the Customs
12 House.

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** They stretched, their unit
15 stretched up Beaver Street to Water Street, north on
16 Water, and then cut over on Beakman and went up to the
17 Brooklyn Bridge.

18 They also then had units that went up Spruce
19 Street and around city hall, and then they linked back
20 in with the 69th at Church Street.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** Though city hall, as I understand
22 it, the police -- after the first day, the police took

1 over the area of city hall because of political
2 sensitivity.

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Correct. That's what -- and
4 so the CAV broke down. And the way the units were laid
5 out was starting in Battery Park and going north and
6 starting in the west, the 69th had Echo Company, which
7 is their AT unit, running up through Battery Park and
8 covering the exit of the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, and
9 then running up the park and being up into Battery Park
10 City.

11 Bravo Company picked up at Rector Street in
12 Battery Park City and maintained the outer perimeter
13 north of Barclay Street.

14 Charlie Company had from Barclay up to
15 Chambers, again, on the outer perimeter.

16 Delta Company of the 69th ran along Chambers
17 Street to West Broadway.

18 And then Alpha was in between West Broadway
19 and Church, which they thought would have the most
20 pedestrian traffic.

21 The 101's HHC initially linked in with them,
22 covered city hall.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** Down to the Brooklyn Bridge.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And then Alpha Company
3 ran south to Maiden Lane and then Delta Company ran
4 further south.

5 Bravo and Charlie Companies of the 101 were
6 still up in --

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** They moved (inaudible.)

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right, right.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** They came down that morning.

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That morning, Wednesday
11 morning. Right.

12 So I got a call. I called the division up
13 there and told them what was going on. They told me
14 that Bravo and Charlie were driving down with MAJ Durr
15 [XO of the 101 CAV] in a convoy. They left at 06 and
16 were on their way down.

17 So at that point, this area was set. I walked
18 the perimeter, talked with the commanders. Everybody
19 knew at that point that we were -- I actually don't
20 know if they knew what the rules of engagement were.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** There were none.

22 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. And that's what I'm

1 thinking.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** Certainly nothing written down.

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Nothing was written. There
4 was a whole ton of people behind us and there was a
5 whole slew of people who I didn't know what they were
6 here for.

7 I walked up the perimeter. There were Air
8 Force people, there were SeaBees, there were hundreds
9 of people who had just come into the city and if you
10 were in a uniform, the police just let you through.

11 There were even people who were in the city
12 and one guy had run over to the 69th Armory and pulled
13 a couple of old used uniforms out of a dumpster kind of
14 thing and had black shoes. He had old BDUs, with like
15 a 3rd Infantry patch on them or something, and he had
16 black shoes and he had orange tape around the bottom of
17 the BDUs, and he was up in the World Financial Center,
18 just across the street from the World Trade Center,
19 with a group of SeaBees and Air Force and all these
20 other people from all different units, just a mishmash.

21 Some of the people told me that they were
22 involved with this EOC out at Pier 40. I had actually

1 gotten a call from the 69th the night before at the --
2 while I was at the 69th, from a fellow named CDR Mark
3 Hardy, H-a-r-d-y, and he told me his number was 212-
4 647-6557 and he was running an EOC out of this Pier 40
5 and was assembling all sorts of units down there.

6 He was with the Naval Militia.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** He was New York Naval Militia?

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** No. He's from Washington,
9 D.C. So when I found that out, I asked him -- and
10 colonel Slack spoke with him, as well, later, and said,
11 you know, "Whose authority are you down there under,
12 what orders are you on, who are you working for?" and
13 they were under nobody.

14 They just said we're just setting up and we're
15 getting in all the military people.

16 So they were running this operation and that
17 was the two privates who I had run into outside of St.
18 Vincent's.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Were going there. Apparently,
21 then, they were gathering up all sorts of hangers-on,
22 ash and trash, everybody running around, not to

1 organize units and issuing orders out of this EOC.

2 I later found out that this colonel [LTC]
3 Gilbert Mestler had been kicked out of the 107th's EOC
4 or had left and had deployed down to the 40th Street
5 EOC, where he took over and was issuing orders to
6 various military units, including Marine Reserves,
7 Naval Militia, Coast Guard people, SeaBees, Air Force,
8 everyone and their mother, down here.

9 And there was also some general, two-star New
10 York State Guard guy, general Gold, I think his name
11 was, who was issuing orders, as well as this guy
12 Mestler issuing OP orders, signing himself as
13 commanding.

14 And the civil authorities were happy to have
15 any military presence and any sort of help. So they
16 were turning to them to get missions and this, that,
17 the other thing.

18 And it wasn't til about Thursday morning, I
19 think, that general Klein went down and closed them
20 down, put this general Gold out on the street and
21 kicked out this Gil Mestler, who general Klein said was
22 wanted because he wasn't supposed to be here.

1 It was questionable whether he actually does
2 work for the Special OPS Command or he's just made up
3 this entire thing, and he's somewhat --

4 **MAJ MELNYK:** It's a very impressive business
5 card.

6 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** It is, and he's somewhat --
7 you know, and he's got these patches on, which I had
8 never seen before, and having served in Korea, whether
9 he had made this whole thing up.

10 And then apparently, as a footnote to this,
11 there was some sort of joint intelligence center up at
12 the EOC, with various other government agencies.

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** This is the New York City EOC.

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yes.

15 **MAJ MELNYK:** Located where?

16 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** It's moved.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right. It's now at Pier 92.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Is it Pier 92?

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** Yeah.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. And I think at that
21 point, it was at Stuyvesant [High School], but there was
22 a bunch of national intelligence agencies were up there

1 and this guy Mestler was sitting up in one of these
2 things and had convinced them to let him in.

3 And one of the officers at the 101 CAV said
4 that he had run into a fellow who used to be at the 101
5 CAV, who had seen this fellow Mestler up there, and
6 they had thrown him out of this Intell OPS mission.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** That's amazing.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So, again, this just shows you
9 that if you were in a military uniform, the civilian
10 authorities were so desperate to have somebody there,
11 that -- and the chain of command wasn't clear.

12 One of the things that they really needed was
13 to get somebody, I think, down here on the ground in
14 military uniforms who everybody would report to.

15 The problem was that -- I think it started to
16 surface even early Wednesday morning, was that the
17 units were deployed out on the ground and the 69th's
18 TOC was at the corner of Battery Park and then halfway
19 down Battery Place, between State Street and the
20 Battery Park City and West Street.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** West.

22 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. That's where the 101

1 CAV's TOC was.

2 MAJ MELNYK: Not more than 50 yards away.

3 MAJ MAGNANINI: Right. So the units on the
4 ground were being controlled here. The next higher
5 headquarters was the 107th.

6 MAJ MELNYK: They were being controlled by?

7 MAJ MAGNANINI: The battalion commanders.

8 MAJ MELNYK: Liaison between the commanders,
9 but really no higher.

10 MAJ MAGNANINI: Right. I was actually -- and
11 I started to get into the liaison role, I think, at
12 that point, that I was making sure that the 69th knew
13 what was happening, that the 101 knew what was
14 happening, cross-leveling between them, so each of the
15 battalion commanders could get out with the company
16 commanders and secure that.

17 And then I would go back to the Police Plaza,
18 up to the 107th, back to police -- the command post at
19 Pike and South, I would go up to the dig site, which is
20 where the fire department had command and control.

21 MAJ MELNYK: Down at ground zero.

22 MAJ MAGNANINI: At ground zero, right. And so

1 that's when I fell into my mission on Wednesday,
2 traveling back and forth between the units, and I had
3 traveled back Wednesday afternoon, once everything was
4 set, back to the 107th and told them what was going on
5 on the ground.

6 I gave them the unit locations, the strength
7 of the troops down here, I think some vague vehicle
8 numbers, and that sort of thing.

9 They told me to come back for a BUB that
10 night.

11 **MAJ MELNYK:** Which is a?

12 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** A battlefield update briefing.
13 Sorry about the acronyms.

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** That's okay.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And then I returned and then I
16 had called up to division and I got -- I found out that
17 the division people were coming back in and the first
18 staff people, who had rented, I guess, vehicles on
19 their own personal account, had driven across country
20 from Fort Leavenworth to New York, up to Troy, and had
21 gotten in at about 11:00 o'clock in the morning the
22 next day.

1 They then were able -- they went off to a
2 briefing at state headquarters.

3 The bus with most of the other divisional
4 staff people didn't arrive til about 4:00 o'clock that
5 day.

6 I called up, left a message of what was
7 happening with the EOC, gave all the troop locations.
8 CPT Andre Evans, E-v-a-n-s, and a CPT Gansen, G-a-n-s-
9 e-n, Evans is with the two [42nd Division G-2 section],
10 Gansen with the three [G-3], were up there.

11 So I gave them a lay down, so they knew what
12 was going on.

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** So the Division EOC now had --

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Had the --

15 **MAJ MELNYK:** Was getting established.

16 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And then I got a call
17 from COL Atwood, who said "What the hell are you doing
18 down" --

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** In New York City.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** -- "in New York City. I
21 thought you were supposed to report up here. We're on
22 alert. You're supposed to be up here to brief the

1 general," tada tada tada. And I explained to him, you
2 know, what had happened was when I arrived in New York,
3 I said I figured I'd be in and out, I said, but there
4 was no higher command and control.

5 The 107th was trying to get set. There was
6 nobody to do this coordination, so I just picked it up,
7 and I had said, well, without me, you wouldn't have
8 anything to brief the general, because there was no
9 information.

10 The Division EOC people were expressing
11 frustration that they couldn't get information from
12 STARC, who couldn't get information from Troop Command,
13 from the 107th, et cetera, et cetera.

14 So I was calling into division to keep them
15 apprised of what was going on, and then I was down
16 here.

17 And I guess about 1300 or something, I came
18 back, went over to the Police Plaza, and they had told
19 me -- sorry -- not the Police Plaza -- the Pike and
20 South command post.

21 They had told me that they prefer that we have
22 a much larger presence during the day and we started --

1 I had a discussion with the chiefs about the layout and
2 I told them at that point, the 258 had about 260
3 soldiers on the ground at night, and that between the
4 101 CAV and the 69th, who were still getting soldiers
5 in, it was less than 24 hours after this thing
6 happened, that their numbers were growing and they
7 would have about 600 plus during the day.

8 The police were very happy with that and asked
9 us to cordon the area off, basically try and keep
10 people out, but very soft.

11 So there wasn't even ID checks. They were
12 letting police through, letting fire through, everybody
13 was still trying to get organized.

14 And then --

15 **MAJ MELNYK:** The police also would detail
16 officers to assist.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. What the police would
18 do is grab anyone who was close and say "can you do
19 this, can you do that," and, actually, Wednesday --

20 **MAJ MELNYK:** At what point was it clear with
21 the police -- sorry to interrupt -- that it wasn't
22 martial law, the Guard couldn't arrest people, and the

1 civil authorities were in control?

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Well, actually, on Monday
3 night, I was walking up Broadway and four police
4 officers, patrol cops, just stopped me and said "You
5 guys all got pistols, right?" And said, "No, we have
6 no weapons."

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** This is this last Monday.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** This past Monday, yeah,
9 whatever, the 17th.

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** The 17th.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And there was a lot of
12 confusion initially amongst even the troops. We were
13 told everything was federalized and we were told, no,
14 it's state active duty, and then this and that.

15 It was -- I went up to the 107th and went to
16 their nighttime briefing and -- their BUB, which was at
17 1700. I think I got there about 1730.

18 Basically because I had gone back to the 69th
19 Armory to get some more people down, explain what was
20 going on, talked to colonel Candiano, who had gone back
21 to go to sleep, and then I returned back to the Battery
22 Park area, checked on the status of everything down

1 here, and it was still very -- there was no civilians,
2 although there were people walking around, tee shirts
3 uniforms, police, fire, everybody.

4 They were still trying to route through. West
5 Street was just a mass of destroyed vehicles. There
6 was an EMS truck that was twisted up like a corkscrew.

7 I think colonel Candiano said, at one point, that was
8 actually his cousin's vehicle. I don't know if they
9 ever found his cousin.

10 There was some guy, "doctor-for-dick," it
11 said, D-R, number four, D-K, Mercedes that had been
12 flipped over, and there were mountains of smashed cars,
13 all going down from the World Financial Center down
14 West Street.

15 Everything -- there was about two inches of
16 water from the fire hoses. They had popped holes here,
17 there and everywhere.

18 And actually walking up West Street when it
19 got light, which really didn't happen til about 8:30,
20 because of all the smoke and everything else, you could
21 see that a lot of people would run down there and just
22 lost everything. There were shoes all over, there were

1 eyeglasses, bags.

2 And I guess when the plane hit, it kind of
3 depressurized the building and everything got sucked
4 out.

5 So it looked like a blizzard of paper down
6 here. As far as Battery Park, there was paper
7 everywhere, and that looked to be the only thing that
8 got out of the building.

9 So there was this paper all over the place. I
10 actually then went up --

11 **MAJ MELNYK:** So this really was your first
12 chance to get a good look at it.

13 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah.

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** Your brief on Tuesday night just
15 confirmed that there were no military units --

16 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Down here.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** You didn't really see anything.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Didn't see anything else.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** So it was Wednesday morning
20 around 9:00 o'clock that you first laid eyes on it.

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. We started to see what
22 was -- because we had been here in the dark and this

1 and that, and like I said, you were trying to take in
2 here's the plane, here's the body parts, here's some
3 poor bastard's glasses, you know, if I stumbled on
4 somebody's expense account, check for writing some
5 report, you know.

6 There were papers from all sorts of different
7 things, people's financial portfolios, stuff all over.

8 So you're picking that up and, as a lawyer, I
9 spend hours working on these little briefs, you know,
10 to make everything just so, and that's what kind of
11 struck me, was all these people's thousands of hours of
12 their life have been spent on this and it's all blown
13 to hell.

14 So I walked up and giant cranes were already
15 at work pulling stuff out of the pit. The thing with
16 the World Trade Center, the site was still burning. It
17 was still fairly warm.

18 And then I remember then going back to speak
19 with the police, going back to the 69th's Armory,
20 coming back down, and then being asked during the 1730
21 BUB, always going on, explaining what the units were
22 doing.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** This is the 107th.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** This is at the 107th, saying
3 that there was a good presence, everybody was happy
4 with the Guard, and that safety was being stressed.

5 The 69th soldiers deployed initially with flak
6 vests, not sure whether there was still glass coming
7 down off buildings or stuff like that.

8 They eventually took those off as it got
9 warmer. Everybody was wearing Kevlar. Everybody had
10 gloves. And then we were all issued those little
11 sanding, cheap --

12 **MAJ MELNYK:** Paper.

13 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Paper, year, respirator masks
14 that we were wearing around the first day.

15 So we -- I had toured the site and, actually,
16 before I went up there, I ended up going and some of
17 the troops from the 69th and some from the 101st had
18 gone down by the dig site, which was ground zero, and I
19 think they were actually on Liberty by the second
20 tower, and they had a big sifting brigade.

21 So I got involved in that, making sure the
22 soldiers were not up on the rubble itself, but were out

1 in the street.

2 And then I started yelling to one guy who was
3 standing up on top of this pile of rubble, just
4 standing there, hands on his hips, surveying the scene.

5 The firemen were pulling stuff out. And he
6 had a Kevlar, he was in full uniform, Kevlar and a flak
7 vest, and I was yelling to him and he didn't respond.

8 So one of the firemen kind of gave me a boost
9 up and I got up there and grabbed him and I said, "What
10 the hell are you doing up here," and he looked at me
11 and he said "I don't work for you."

12 And he had Spec-4 rank on his helmet, and I
13 said "You may not work for me, but I'm a major and I'll
14 put you in jail." And I said, "What are you doing up
15 here," and he -- and I said, "You're not a coal miner,
16 are you? You're not a rescue guy, are you?" "No, no."

17 I said, "Well, get your ass down so you don't get
18 killed."

19 And then he climbed down off the pile, and I
20 said "What unit are you in," and he told me the Rhode
21 Island Naval Militia.

22 So at that point, I said just stay out of the

1 area, and I went back and made sure the 42nd's troops,
2 the 69th and 101 were okay and were involved in the
3 sifting.

4 And then I got in the middle of the sifting
5 line and people are passing you beams and this and that
6 and pulling hoses up. And that's when I made my
7 observation.

8 It didn't hit me til the next day, and which
9 actually ended up in a Times article, with CPT Reilly
10 of the 101 mangling my little quote, was I said --

11 **MAJ MELNYK:** You're still bitter about this.

12 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** I said -- I am. I said it
13 came off pretty good the first time, but, Reilly, there
14 ain't no this, there ain't no that.

15 **MAJ MELNYK:** Give the quote for the tape.

16 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Okay.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** Because this is a New York Times
18 article that came out on -- was it Wednesday?

19 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** I think it was Monday. It was
20 in the Monday --

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** You're right. Monday. So it was
22 one week, almost one week after the attack.

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** And they quoted CPT Reilly, who I
3 interviewed, who is the S-3 Air, the 101st Cavalry, and
4 CPT Reilly said the thing that struck you, when you
5 look at the World Trade Center site, is?

6 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. The quote was "There
7 ain't no computers, there ain't no ceiling tiles, there
8 ain't no floors." And I said that when I was up there
9 sifting, I actually, on, I guess this was Wednesday, I
10 actually saw one computer come out and basically it was
11 a CPU.

12 The cover was off. It was smashed and bent up
13 in a U-shape. And that's when -- all that I passed
14 out, other than that computer, was just metal, the
15 aluminum, the pieces of things, but I didn't see any
16 wood, no ceiling tile, no rugs, no walls, no office
17 furniture, none of the normal things you'd see in an
18 office.

19 So at that point, on Wednesday afternoon, I
20 had walked over to the fire department and I saw the
21 105th Infantry dealing with the fire chief.

22 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And they were -- they were on
2 a -- over by One Liberty Plaza, which was between -- it
3 was --

4 **MAJ MELNYK:** The southeast corner.

5 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. They were actually in
6 between Four World Trade Center and Five World Trade
7 Center, on Church Street, guarding that entryway to the
8 dig site.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** Pretty much the whole east side
10 of the World Trade Center, they had 105th.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right.

12 **MAJ MELNYK:** On the west side, you had the
13 69th securing and the 101 was --

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Was on the east side.

15 **MAJ MELNYK:** Outer side.

16 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. Anyway, on Thursday,
17 it kind of struck me that of all -- because I had been
18 back Thursday morning at the dig site, checking on
19 soldiers again, and, again, sifting things out and
20 passing buckets and stuff, and it's, again, hit me how
21 any of the stuff you see in any office just was
22 completely absent.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** Except for paper.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. The paper and that had
3 all blown out. And, actually, if you look on the fire
4 escapes of buildings around that area, in the first
5 couple of days, it looked like the paper was blown out
6 of a cannon. It was wedged in everywhere, I mean,
7 really, with a ton of force, all the fire escapes, in
8 every sort of crevice.

9 And so I had -- when I was talking with,
10 behind the 105th soldiers, the fire chief and one of
11 the engineers there, I asked them how hot was it in the
12 building, and the engineer said to me, he said "It's
13 probably 2,400 degrees or so, because of all the jet
14 fuel that had spilled down," and that was the first
15 time that I heard that they said if you didn't have the
16 heat, the buildings probably would have stood, that
17 they would have withstood the impact of the plane, but
18 the heat got so hot, it superheated the steel and made
19 it like a noodle.

20 So the steel swayed and the building
21 collapsed. And I asked them, I said, "Well, I assume
22 that's why I'm not seeing a lot of office debris, that

1 everything was incinerated," and the engineer said,
2 "Yeah, that's basically," he said, "between the height,
3 it was like a giant flue, a chimney, sucking up the
4 air."

5 And I said, "I would guess then that most of
6 the people who were in there were also incinerated."
7 It was hotter than a crematorium. And the guy, he
8 nodded, and the fire chief, you know, put up his hand.

9 And I don't know, nobody is -- I'm not sure if
10 somebody is going to, I guess, make that announcement.

11 But most of the ash that blew out of the
12 building, I assume, was pulverized concrete dust. They
13 keep saying asbestos, but I'm also pretty sure it was
14 the computers, the office furniture, and the people
15 that were in the building. So that's what came out.

16 And, of course, that's what we were walking
17 around in and breathing up and everything else.

18 **MAJ MELNYK:** I actually read in the paper that
19 they discontinued use of asbestos in the construction
20 after about the 40th floor, because it was just about
21 the time they were discovering --

22 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** When they were discovering

1 that there were problems with it.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right. So there's not -- there
3 is some asbestos, but not as much as potentially there
4 could have been.

5 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Well, that's what -- I think
6 Thursday afternoon, we then -- the units then fell into
7 a pattern down here.

8 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** After that first BUB, I came
10 back and then -- actually, maybe -- you know what I
11 think also happened on Wednesday, was there an issue --
12 an issue came up with the police needing a tasking and
13 needing National Guard members to do something over at
14 the command post at Pike and South, and then there was
15 another Army guy there named CPT Tully, who showed up
16 from somewhere, who was a -- I guess he's under
17 counter-drug stuff and is a full-time guy.

18 And he came up and he was there at Pike and
19 South giving out -- or trying to get instruction from
20 police, trying to coordinate things.

21 So he said -- he started -- there was a lot of
22 concern about asbestos, a lot of unknowns, and we went

1 up, I grabbed this CPT Tully and colonel Rivera and I
2 went up to the 107, because the police had come in and
3 said, you know, "We needed you guys for a mission, but
4 we didn't get any response."

5 And I said, "Well, you know, you have my cell
6 phone numbers written up there, but nobody called me."

7 And so they said that the police told me that they had
8 called the unit, the unit had told them, you know,
9 we're working for the 107 Troop Command, you've got to
10 get the mission tasking through them.

11 **MAJ MELNYK:** The Support Group.

12 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. The 107th Support
13 Group, correct. And then somewhere within the police
14 chain or the Army chain, somebody had then called over
15 to the 107 liaison at One Police Plaza, which was
16 colonel Flanigan and then COL Andy Leider, and I don't
17 know if they never got it or what happened to it, but
18 when we went to the 107th that afternoon, myself,
19 colonel Rivera and this CPT Tully, they didn't -- you
20 know, the 107th guys didn't have it.

21 So I spoke with colonel Marchi, M-a-r-c-h-i,
22 who is the OPS guy for the 107th, and explained that

1 the police were concerned about getting missions done,
2 that they were calling the units, but they needed some
3 sort of instantaneous response and it wasn't happening.

4 And CPT Tully actually said the police are
5 unhappy with the National Guard. That got colonel
6 Marchi perked up and he questioned CPT Tully to make
7 sure that that was not a statement by the police, but
8 it was Tully's impression.

9 And everybody involved in this, there's some
10 sort of quasi police-military, the Army guys want to be
11 cops, the cops want to be Army guys. So everybody
12 knows what the other guy wants, I think.

13 So we explained a couple of issues to this
14 colonel Marchi. And the biggest one I said was you
15 need to get somebody down here to be able to exert some
16 command and control on the ground, to be able to
17 instantaneously get a mission from the cops and then
18 relay it to the units. You need a decision-maker, I
19 told them.

20 And I said probably the best thing you'd do is
21 break off some of your EOC and move them to where the
22 troops are be a TAC, a forward command post, to command

1 the battle.

2 They listened to that. I spoke then with
3 colonel Hyer, H-y-e-r, explained stuff to him. He said
4 that was sensible. They spoke to --

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** Colonel Hyer, what was his role?

6 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** He's some other -- I never did
7 get his position at the 107th.

8 **MAJ MELNYK:** Okay.

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And I think is name was
10 colonel Donnelly, who is the XO, about the 107th, about
11 this. They went in, they wanted -- we wanted to speak
12 with general Klein. He wasn't available.

13 So I relayed the stuff to them and then they
14 went in and spoke to COL Sieter, S-i-e-t-e-r, who is
15 the 107th commander, and Sieter said that's a good
16 idea.

17 But what they came out with, they said we're
18 not going to put the whole TAC down there. We'll put
19 in two liaison officers. So they tasked the 101 CAV to
20 send an Expandovan up to Pathmark to set up, which they
21 did on Wednesday.

22 And then there was no liaison officer that

1 showed up on Wednesday. So what happened with the
2 Expandovan was the 258 showed up and occupied that and
3 used that as their CP.

4 **MAJ MELNYK:** That night.

5 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That night, that Wednesday
6 night. Right. And then they had told us that LTC Pete
7 Pietrowski, who I knew as the S-3 of the 107th Brigade,
8 was supposed to be down there and another major named
9 Gym, I think G-y-m is his name. He's actually a
10 command sergeant major up at Camp Smith and when they
11 go active for the weekends, and he's got a major's
12 slot.

13 So Gym was over at Stuyvesant High School,
14 because there was an EOC over there. Pietrowski was at
15 the fire command post.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** Pietrowski is P-i-e-t-r-o-w-s-k-
17 i.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** I used to work for him.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So -- he hasn't changed. So
21 Pietrowski was at the fire command post.

22 **MAJ MELNYK:** The fire command post?

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Was a couple of blocks, I
2 think on Liberty. It was the southern CP. There's now
3 five fire CPs around the dig site, one basically at
4 each corner.

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** So neither one of the designated
6 liaison officers went to Pike and South.

7 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Correct, on Wednesday. So
8 what happened, I had to keep running over there with a
9 driver.

10 I think on Wednesday afternoon, too, when we
11 had gotten back to the 69th's Armory, SPC Santiago had
12 been driving for 24 hours and we pulled up in front of
13 the armory and I -- he couldn't really get out of the
14 vehicle.

15 So I got him out of the vehicle and said
16 you've got to lie down, and I grabbed a SPC Lynch,
17 because at that point, during most of my civilian job,
18 I sit on my ass.

19 I come into work, I walk around, talk to
20 everybody, make sure I know what's going on, make sure
21 people are doing what they're supposed to, I go to my
22 desk.

1 I then answer about 30 phone calls a day, I
2 get about 20 e-mails, 30 e-mails, a pile of
3 correspondence, I have to read, I have to write.

4 So I'm basically just sitting there. And for
5 the last two days, I had been running around. I had
6 not re-tied my boots. I forgot how to survive in the
7 field. So I had blisters all over the front, sides and
8 back of my feet.

9 I had been wearing boxer shorts, which had
10 been soaked through with sweat, and I didn't actually
11 button the inside button on my damn pants. So my pants
12 were riding down, and I had chaffed the hell out of my
13 scrotum and down my legs.

14 So I'm limping around, looking like a freaking
15 cowboy that had just ridden across the country.

16 And then Santiago is falling over. So I
17 dropped him off, got this other driver Lynch.

18 We went up to the 107th to get some command
19 decisions. They told us that they would --

20 **MAJ MELNYK:** Now, this brings us, again, to
21 the evening BUB on that first day.

22 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** On that first day, right. I

1 gave them the update.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** We keep going in circles here.

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And then we never --
4 yeah. There was nobody from the 107th. The 101 CAV
5 tells me that they're going to pull their people out if
6 nobody shows up to take the CP.

7 Instead, the 258 came in and they got set up
8 there. The transitions were always difficult. The 101
9 CAV would load up and get on the ferry, I'm pretty
10 sure, at this point, and go back to Staten Island. The
11 69th would stand on line until their last soldier was
12 replaced, which -- with the difficulty of the MTA
13 buses, was usually between like 10:30 and 11:30.

14 So they would get back to the armory starting
15 between -- it gradually was working itself down from
16 midnight, to eleven, to ten, to nine.

17 Meanwhile, I guess the 258 had been kicked out
18 of the Lexington Avenue Armory, when the decision was
19 made --

20 **MAJ MELNYK:** To make it a --

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The missing persons bureau,
22 right. So they were woken up, after not a great deal

1 of sleep, and told they had two hours to move out, to
2 go up to the armory up in Harlem, the 369 Armory.

3 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

4 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Which is another 110 blocks
5 north. They were loaded out, they went up there. So
6 the first night, I don't think their troops hit the
7 ground, their first troops, until about 9:30, quarter
8 to ten in the evening on Wednesday.

9 We still didn't have a lot of guidance from
10 the 107th or from the Troop Command. From what I was
11 understanding, we were working for the police.

12 The police and the fire department still
13 seemed to be under the impression that they were
14 working for us, that this was some type of martial law.

15 **MAJ MELNYK:** Some of the -- you were still
16 getting taskings from the police.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** From the police. We kept
18 asking them what can we do to help you and they would
19 say can you do this, can you do that.

20 And so we had another handoff set up the next
21 day. None of the handoffs were quite smooth, because
22 the battalion commanders were gone, the company

1 commanders were gone, the vehicles would arrive, the
2 buses would come in in a fragmented fashion, people
3 wanted to get the hell out of here.

4 So there was never really a smooth transition
5 between any of the units during the first week.

6 And like I said, the 107th decision not to put
7 their TOC, but to put two liaisons down at the police
8 headquarters at Pike and South didn't come to fruition
9 until Thursday.

10 So Thursday came. I, again, rode down with
11 colonel Slack from the 69th's Armory, stopped in there.
12 colonel Candiano was out on the perimeter. No.
13 colonel Candiano was in the Expandovan.

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And I walked in and colonel
16 Pietrowski was there. Pietrowski held a quick meeting.
17 The XO and S-3 and commander at 258 voiced their
18 concern with some of the confusion, lack of command and
19 control, this, that and the other thing.

20 Colonel Slack did the same. Colonel
21 Pietrowski listened to it and then he -- his big issue
22 that morning was somebody was dropping off 11,000

1 sandwiches up at the corner of Chambers Street, where
2 Delta Company was, and he wanted somebody to do
3 something with these 11,000 sandwiches.

4 And that issue literally he raised four times
5 during this meeting, about people trying to orchestrate
6 command and control.

7 Pietrowski then said that his mission was
8 simply to be an LNO, and I said that's not what the
9 107th had told me. They said that they would have
10 somebody who could make a command decision, that the
11 police would say this is a mission and you would turn
12 around and say great, we can do it, 101, you react with
13 16 people, 69th, you do this with ten people.

14 Pietrowski did not understand that as his
15 role. And so there was still confusion about that,
16 until I think Thursday afternoon, when general Klein
17 came down to the battalion about 10:30, came down to
18 where the 69th battalion CP was.

19 There was actually a three dimensional map of
20 lower Manhattan here that the units were using.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** It's part of the Battery Park.

22 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The Battery Park, right.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** Display, yeah.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. It's a black metal
3 thing with a little history blurb on top and then a
4 three dimensional view.

5 The units then briefed general Klein that
6 morning at 10:30.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** Were all three units present or
8 had the 258 left?

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** No. The 258 had left.

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** So the 69th and the 101 briefed
11 general Klein, Troop Commander.

12 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right, about the mission.
13 And, actually, before, as I was leaving to come down to
14 Battery Park to check on what was going on here,
15 colonel Costagliola showed up at Pike and South.

16 So then he went in to talk to colonel
17 Pietrowski and also explain some of the frustration you
18 may have heard about from them.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** Yes.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So then general Klein came
21 down, looked around, listened to what the commanders
22 were doing, and said "You guys are doing a great job on

1 the ground. I'm not going to interfere. I'll back you
2 in whatever you need."

3 **MAJ MELNYK:** This is Thursday.

4 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Thursday, it's about 11:30,
5 12:00 o'clock. So the commanders then said --

6 **MAJ MELNYK:** That seemed to be a key event for
7 those battalion commanders to hear that.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. Because up until then,
9 the only higher, I think, they had really spoken to was
10 me, running from place to place to place.

11 And then Thursday night, general Klein had a
12 commander's meeting, too, which was at 1730, before
13 their BUB, the battlefield update briefing was at 1830.

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** So this was held where?

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** This was held in the Park
16 Avenue Armory.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** And a commander's meeting means
18 that colonel Slack and colonel Costagliola and colonel
19 Candiano.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** Were all up there.

22 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And Tom Boskey

1 (phonetic,) the 642 commander, showed up, too.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** What is the 642's role? Where
3 did they show up and when did they get on the ground,
4 to the best of your recollection?

5 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** I guess Thursday they decided
6 that they need to start to supplement the 258 at night.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** Okay.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And the 642 enlisted as a --

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** Division Aviation Support
10 Battalion.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. DASB is what they call
12 them, I guess Area Support Battalion for the Aviation
13 Brigade.

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** They came on board with 120
16 people. The Air National Guard, I understand, had
17 activated two units that had come down from Syracuse,
18 and I don't know if they're like their airport
19 permanent or security people or what they were.

20 But they ended up showing up with a 120
21 people. So those two units were then attached, were
22 OPCON'd to the 258.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** Okay. The 642 and the Air Guard.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The Air Guard was attached to
3 the 258, starting Thursday, I guess, September 13.

4 So there was a commander's meeting. I drove
5 up, actually I had been driving around in the 69th's
6 vehicles.

7 I had driven up somewhere with colonel Slack
8 and then the 101 CAV, on Thursday, I guess it had been
9 raining down here.

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** Yes. Thursday it rained.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And I had forgot my damn
12 poncho back there and I forgot my -- at the armory,
13 left my Gortex in my front closet, got soaking wet, and
14 spent most of Thursday, til about 2:00 o'clock,
15 shivering.

16 The CAV came off, saw it was pouring rain,
17 turned around, drove back to the Coast Guard terminal
18 over there, where the Staten Island Ferry is.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** The Staten Island Ferry terminal.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And they were inside.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** Well, they had to put soldiers on
22 the street.

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. The troops out on the
2 street were getting wet.

3 **MAJ MELNYK:** But the CP was inside.

4 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The CP, right, and that's
5 where their staging area was, also.

6 I guess Wednesday night, I had gone up for the
7 -- when I was up front there, there was a lot of
8 concern about buildings falling around the dig site.

9 So they would blast an air horn three times
10 and you would just run. Generally, that's what I kept
11 doing and most of the people were doing, was asking the
12 soldiers, if you hear the air horn, where are you going
13 to run.

14 You would generally run away from the ground
15 zero sector.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** That's a good idea.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The one thing that had come up
18 and caused a lot of concern was One Liberty Plaza,
19 which was the Merrill Lynch Building, was across the
20 street on the east side of the World Trade Center, the
21 whole bottom had been blown out of it, but the building
22 stood.

1 But it looked like the back of it had bowed.
2 It turned out later that the engineers said it was
3 actually built, it's 60 stories, and it was built to
4 sway. And so what happened was with this thing, the
5 Brooks Brothers store, which was in the base of One
6 Liberty, along Church Street, was actually being used
7 as the morgue.

8 And so there was concern at this point that
9 the -- actually, I guess I screwed up.

10 The initial line with the 101 CAV ran HHC from
11 Church Street around city hall to Spruce Street. Alpha
12 Company ran on Spruce Street down Nassau to Maiden Lane
13 there, and then Delta Company ran down Nassau to
14 Beaver.

15
16 The reason that the line actually shifted
17 further west over to Water Street was there was concern
18 that the One Liberty Plaza, the Merrill Lynch Building,
19 which is a black building, was going to collapse.

20 **MAJ MELNYK:** So the line didn't shift until --

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Until the fear that it would
22 drop came up.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** A couple days later.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And actually maybe on Thursday
3 it did. So it was actually bowed back and they moved
4 the troops. They wanted you to be six blocks away,
5 since there were 60 stories, in case it collapsed.

6 **MAJ MELNYK:** We'll pause here to put in a
7 fresh tape.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Okay.

9 (Tape change.)

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** This is MAJ Les' Melnyk, Army
11 National Guard Historian, National Guard Bureau,
12 continuing my interview with MAJ Bob Magnanini. This
13 is the second tape. Interview taking place on
14 September 21, in Battery Park, New York City.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** I'll just fill in a few quick
16 things. On Tuesday the 11th, the OPCON units of Troop
17 Command were the Aviation Brigade, the 342 Forward
18 Support Battalion, 101 CAV, 258th Field Artillery, the
19 69th, and then we also understood that the HHC of the
20 42nd Division, the 642 DASB was standing -- was still
21 standing up, that they were going to stand down the
22 rest of the activated units, and that the units, HHC

1 and the 69th, and then I've got MI, but it was actually
2 642 Aviation Support Battalion were going to come into
3 New York, while HHC of the 42nd Division loaded water
4 buffalos and generators and transported those to Camp
5 Smith.

6 **MAJ MELNYK:** So the two companies of the 105th
7 did not come OPCON under Troop Command.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. They weren't on my
9 list. This was just 42nd Division units I had asked
10 for, and the 105th guys are actually part of 27th
11 Brigade.

12 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

13 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So that wasn't my initial --

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** So they had no higher authority
15 or when were they placed OPCON to the 258?

16 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Actually, what happened --

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** It's a very confusing situation.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. What happened was at
19 the commander's meeting on Thursday with general Klein,
20 that came up and they said that they would -- in order
21 to plus up the 258 to get them up to an equal strength
22 that the 101 and the 69th had on the ground during the

1 day, that they would OPCON Bravo and Charlie Companies
2 of the 105th, the 642 Aviation Battalion, and the Air
3 National Guard to the 258.

4 By OPCON'ing all those units, it was about an
5 equal number of night and day troops.

6 So that was done --

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** Thursday.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** -- on Thursday, right. And I
9 asked on Thursday, you know, who would be -- what
10 divisional units were running around down here, and
11 there was the 101 CAV, the 258, the 642 Aviation, the
12 342 FSB, which I have seen bits and pieces of, but
13 never seen as a whole unit, Charlie Company, the FSB,
14 which was a detachment, and the 152 Engineer Battalion.

15 I understood that they came down into the
16 city, turned around and were sent home.

17 And then the 204th Engineers actually showed
18 up in New York on Thursday. They were trying to stage
19 the at Randall's Island.

20 This is one thing I know the 107 Corps Support
21 Group was trying to do was nobody understood the
22 magnitude of the situation.

1 So the 107th was dealing with trying to get a
2 tent city for 3,500 soldiers erected out on Randall's
3 Island. So that was going on, and they tried to push
4 the 204th out there, but with heavy equipment and
5 everything and these big cranes and stuff, they were
6 jamming the streets up.

7 So they actually spun the 204th around and
8 sent them back up to Camp Smith and they positioned
9 them at Camp Smith.

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** So they first tried to get down
11 on Thursday and then --

12 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. The did get in the
13 city on Thursday, because I remember being at the
14 69th's Armory --

15 **MAJ MELNYK:** Which was also on that troop list
16 or should be on that troop list.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Should be on that -- yeah.
18 The 69th's Armory, and they had the 152 Engineers were
19 there, and then the 204th. Everybody was staging at
20 the 69th's Armory.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** How could they do that, since the
22 whole armory was filled with grieving families?

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** They still hadn't opened it up
2 for the people. They were running in and out. The
3 Mayor's office and some FEMA people were in there, and
4 they were laying in cable, phones.

5 They carpeted the entire drill shed floor of
6 the armory, which you've seen, which is a huge area. I
7 was telling people measure out your rooms and cut some
8 up when you go out the door.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** That is the nicest the drill
10 floor has looked in my 13 years.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** You have association. That's
12 what I said. It's amazing. But they were in there.
13 They were kicking out the -- and all these other units
14 were flooding into the 69th's Armory.

15 So then they started pushing them out and
16 getting the engineers out.

17 The 152 went away. I never heard what
18 happened to them. Then actually here's the two guys, I
19 guess, CPT Panzer, P-a-n-z-e-r, and CPT Purcell. Those
20 were the two command --

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** P-u-r.

22 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** P-u-r-c-e-l-l.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** They were the two commanders
3 or Purcell is a commander. Panzer was with him, of --

4 **MAJ MELNYK:** Charlie.

5 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Of Bravo Company.

6 **MAJ MELNYK:** Bravo.

7 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The Bravo Company. CPT Heinz
8 is the Charlie.

9 And then when I had called -- this is actually
10 my notes, sorry about this, from Tuesday night, I
11 called colonel Costagliola and he had told me that the
12 CAV had 232 people ready to deploy at 2130 and that
13 they had already sent 12 medics, two Hummers, and two
14 deuce and a halves over there to do medical support
15 triage, and there was another group of 12 medics ready
16 to go, and they had reacted at the request of the
17 police and fire departments.

18 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right. colonel Costagliola has
19 told me about that, yes.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Good. And here's my -- just
21 some notes about the 101 to come in, 258 back and forth
22 going to Pike.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The 169 would replace in the
3 morning, the police CP numbers, and this is my
4 Wednesday morning, notes, where the 69th has got 331
5 people, ten Hummers, 12 deuce and a halves, and four
6 water buffalos, and they were deploying 261 onto that
7 ground that morning, at a staff meeting.

8 This was actually a call while I was back at
9 the 69th's Armory, Wednesday afternoon, from a CPT
10 Killian, from the 107th, trying to get a hold of the
11 204th assets and figure out what they had, was calling
12 me.

13 I couldn't help him, sent him back. After our
14 meeting up there at the brigade, they told me here is
15 MAJ Gym's number, G-y-m.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** He was supposed to be the
17 liaison.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** He was the night liaison.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** This is Wednesday afternoon.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right, meeting. And then one
21 of the more bizarre things that went on in that
22 afternoon I remember was I walked in and CPT Tully was

1 saying to the 107th that there was concern with the
2 NYPD about asbestos in the air.

3 So the NYPD had wanted us to set up two tents
4 over at Pathmark, one for some -- for widows, families
5 of cops who were missing, so they wouldn't have to sit
6 in buses, they could sit in the tent, and the other one
7 was for a decon site, that they were going to
8 voluntarily decon people.

9 And the question came up, and this guy CPT
10 Tully told us the people at the 107th who said, well,
11 maybe we should make the Army people get decon'd.

12 And I said, well, what -- and I stepped in and
13 I said, "Well, what are you going to do that for," and
14 I said, "What's the threat? Does anybody actually know
15 what the air" -- well, there was asbestos, there was
16 this, there was that.

17 I said, well, I know there are supposedly all
18 these things, but somebody needs to monitor the air.
19 EPA is certainly qualified to do that, OSHA, any of
20 these people.

21 And I said before you make our guys get
22 decon'd, and from what I understood from the police,

1 the decon consisted of them shooting you with a fire
2 hose, and I said that may be fine for the cops who are
3 going home every night, but the Army guys are stuck
4 here with maybe one or maybe two uniforms that they
5 raced in in.

6 So I said the idea that you're going to soak
7 them wet, then let them go over to go to sleep for four
8 hours and come back, that's stupid.

9 And then actually the 107th, some of the
10 people in the EOC, they began a discussion about
11 whether we would be, the National Guard would be in
12 violation of OSHA regulations by exposing people to
13 unknown levels of asbestos, because if we were
14 federalized, we wouldn't be required to follow OSHA.

15 But if you are under state active duty, there
16 may be OSHA violations.

17 So that was a little too surreal for me. I
18 actually piped up and said, listen, I'm a freaking
19 trial lawyer and I said I've done asbestos cases. I
20 said the people who get this stuff smoke three packs a
21 day, they use it all the time, and that's why it seers
22 into their lungs, causes the lung cancer.

1 If it's floating around, you know, I think it
2 was hot enough, this stuff would have actually
3 incinerated and broken down and then I said the idea
4 that people are going to be dying out here or we're
5 violating OSHA, I said "This is fucked up," because
6 there's a thing called a Ferins Doctrine.

7 You go to Vietnam and get shot, you cannot sue
8 the government for getting shot. Your job in the Army
9 was to go shoot and be shot at.

10 So if you get hurt while on military duty, you
11 can't sue the government. That's the Ferins. I said
12 the idea that there was OSHA regulation -- but this was
13 some of the stuff that was spinning up at the 107.

14 Then like I said, we left, and they also had
15 promised us 25 Port-a-Potties or 35 down in Battery
16 Park, which actually we never got, and there were a
17 couple of other issues.

18 The biggest one we emphasized was command and
19 control. Now that I've dragged you back to Wednesday
20 -- back to Thursday.

21 We came back -- yeah. Here was the Wednesday
22 meeting with the police. They wanted a TOC at Pike and

1 South with a radio, so that they could issue orders.
2 And then they said from the West Side Highway over to
3 Nassau and from Chambers down to Battery, the police
4 wanted to seal this triangle off.

5 So at that point on Wednesday, they told us
6 seal, close everything. Questions of meals and toilets
7 had come up. I told you about the tents.

8 The 101 did station a water buffalo in front
9 of the Pike Street for the cops. And then they -- the
10 police, at that point, were saying they wanted to
11 increase the National Guard involvement on the ground
12 to relieve the police forces, and then here was the
13 various decon rubbish and things like that.

14 So we went up to the commander's meeting. I
15 actually rode up with colonel Costagliola on a
16 Thursday. Commanders listened to general Klein, who
17 said he was generally happy. Governor Pataki had been
18 in the EOC that day.

19 There was a lot of talk about how well
20 everything was going, how smooth, how this, how that.
21 The commanders then brought up a bunch of points.

22 Let me see if I can get this right. The 101

1 wanted maps. The 258 wanted cell phones and the 69th
2 wanted cots.

3 And so the issue of toilets came up. They
4 said that would be solved. The commanders all wanted
5 Chem lights, different things like that, and they said
6 why can't we just get contracts, the government
7 contracts all this, and we can just simply go and buy
8 what we need and do that.

9 COL Sieter said you'll get that, let me get
10 the S-4 down here. So they were told it would be a
11 simple process of they would give them a bunch of
12 contracts. They'd write down what they want. They'd
13 call the S-4, explain what they were doing, he would
14 approve it, give them a number, and then they would be
15 set.

16 That I don't think ever worked. From what I
17 heard from LT McCoy, who was the S-4 of the 69th, and
18 colonel Costagliola, from colonel Candiano, they said
19 they never got anything.

20 There was always questions, what about this,
21 what about that, have you checked with different
22 vendors, have you done this, have you done that.

1 That led to some of the on the ground
2 frustration, because people said what the hell is going
3 on.

4 We're down here in what is basically the war
5 zone. There's no freaking shopping going on and the
6 idea that I would go from vendor to vendor.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** Price comparison.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And then the maps
9 issue came up and that wasn't resolved either really
10 until Saturday when the Aviation Brigade came in.

11 What happened were there a lot of work arounds
12 going on. You'd go to the police, they'd have stuff,
13 they'd give you copies, you'd give it to the troops.

14 As you can see, I have all these photocopy
15 maps that I got from the police from different days,
16 where the units were.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** You know, phone lists. And
19 this is what we kept doing, was running from place to
20 place to place.

21 And then on Thursday, you know, things were
22 supposed to be going smoother, but I think what

1 happened, too, was general Klein, after he left the
2 commander's meeting, had to go back and talk to COL
3 Pietrowski, because Pietrowski wasn't making any
4 decisions.

5 He thought he was simply there as a liaison.
6 general Klein said obviously you didn't understand my
7 guidance. He's supposed to be able to get a mission
8 request, make a decision, send it to somebody, and then
9 report back to us.

10 So there was still some disjointedness between
11 police, you know, getting a rapid response to their
12 request.

13 In the meantime, with all this stuff going on
14 here, the majority of the Army units reported -- well,
15 the National Guard units and the 42nd Division, let me
16 say that, reported to the police, because we were doing
17 the perimeter security, which was the police's
18 bailiwick.

19 The fire department, however, ran the area
20 around the World Trade Center, the dig site, ground
21 zero, whatever you want to call it.

22 The 105th units were up there, so they were

1 working directly with the fire department.

2 So this led to kind of a breakdown. On
3 Thursday, they never actually reported to the 258.

4 **MAJ MELNYK:** The 105th didn't.

5 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The 105th didn't, right.

6 Apparently, from what I understand --

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** They had been chopped OPCON to
8 them in the commander's meeting the night before.

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Actually, yeah. I think the
10 decision was made Thursday morning or maybe even on
11 Wednesday to OPCON them to the 258.

12 There was some question in everybody's mind
13 about who actually had control of them.

14 At the Thursday commander's meeting, general
15 Klein made it clear that they would work for -- they
16 were OPCON to the 258.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** When did that meeting take place?

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That was -- the clarification
19 was Thursday at the 1730 meeting. From what I
20 understood, the 107th Corps Support Group was saying
21 that they had issued those orders on Wednesday and the
22 105th was supposed to be under the 258, again, to

1 balance out the number of forces day and night.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** We came -- at the commander's
4 meeting, colonel Candiano and colonel Slack, who were
5 there earlier, said they were there with the company
6 commanders for the 105th, and I think also their
7 battalion XO, MAJ Markey, I think it's M-a-r-k-e-y,
8 they went down, but when the -- for some reason, the
9 commander's meeting was up in the EOC.

10 At that point, I'll tell you what happened.
11 Because of this decontamination business and the
12 asbestos, when I road up the armory with colonel
13 Costagliola and SGM Gilmore, G-i-l-m-o-r-e.

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** The sergeant major of the 101.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Of the 101 CAV, right. They
16 made a stop to decon our boots. Costagliola said I got
17 to get into this meeting. I stepped up and I said
18 fine, the sergeant major and I will do the decon, you
19 run in there.

20 So we had to go around the back of the Park
21 Avenue Armory, where they took out a hose and just
22 sprayed ash and stuff off our boots, shot me in the

1 leg, so I was all wet, and then we went in there.

2 Now, we got to the base of the stairs and from
3 the second floor, all the commanders were pouring
4 downstairs, and then -- actually, when we walked in the
5 armory, they were coming downstairs.

6 So they went and sat down in the room and
7 Gilmore and I did the decon.

8 So we had to find where they were. We walked
9 in. general Klein said, you know, don't be late again,
10 and we sat down in the back.

11 At the commander's meeting, I think the
12 battalion commanders were expecting the company
13 commanders of the 105th to be there, and this is what
14 happened.

15 The 105th, I think, played this kind of cute,
16 because they kept saying, well, you know, we're just
17 company commanders, why would we be at a battalion
18 commander's meeting.

19 And with Markey there, the company commanders
20 were reporting to him as the XO.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

22 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And not to the battalions.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** And Markey was at the meeting or
2 no?

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** No, he wasn't. He was up at
4 the 107th for the 1730 meeting, but neither he nor CPT
5 Heinz nor CPT Purcell went to the meeting. They left.

6 So the 258 commanders now tell colonel
7 Candiano, he's told you've got operational control of
8 the 105th, and -- but they're not there.

9 So I then ride down with Candiano and I say
10 let me go down to the police. I stopped in at the
11 police and I say let me go get the 105th commanders.

12 And so I go down to where they were staying,
13 the 105th was sleeping, both Bravo and Charlie, in 180
14 Maiden Lane, which is a building right on the corner of
15 South Street, big bronze, rods all over the place. But
16 they were living in the lobby there.

17 So I went down and I saw MSG McLean from Bravo
18 Company and I said to him, "You know, where is your
19 commander," and he said, "Well, CPT Purcell is with CPT
20 Heinz and MAJ Markey. They're up at the police CP on
21 Pike and South."

22 And I told him, well, I had just been there, I

1 hadn't seen them, but I said "You guys have been
2 OPCON'd to the 258, you need to get up there and
3 report," because the 258 has told me their plan, which
4 is to include you in the outer perimeter line.

5 What the 258 was going to do was put the
6 majority of their troops, I guess, where the 101 -- I'm
7 sorry -- where the 69 was. So from Battery Park, they
8 would run them up the west side down Chambers, and what
9 they wanted to do was have the 642 Aviation fill in
10 from behind city hall and then have the 105th fill in
11 Water Street down to, say, Broad Street, and then the
12 Air National Guard at the back.

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** And who would have covered ground
14 zero?

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Nobody would have at that
16 point. Now, what I had mentioned to the 258 commanders
17 were that the 105th was there at ground zero and they
18 were the only National Guard troops providing direct
19 support to the fire department.

20 So before you pull them out, you need to go
21 coordinate with the fire department and get somebody in
22 there to replace them. Otherwise, the concern was the

1 fire department would complain there was no National
2 Guard support.

3 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

4 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And so I drove down to Maiden
5 Lane, talked to SGT McLean. The company commanders
6 were out, never had a radio. He wasn't able to get in
7 touch.

8 I drove back up. We went back around where
9 Pike and South was looking for the commanders and MAJ
10 Markey. They were not anywhere to be found.

11 So I went and told colonel Candiano that I had
12 tried to locate them. They had orders to call the TOC.
13 They had the numbers. They knew where they were
14 located, and I assumed that the 105th would show up.

15 This is on Thursday. Come Friday morning, the
16 258 tells me -- and I don't know what else I did
17 Thursday. I did some more coordination with police,
18 went around the units to make sure, because that
19 transition was delayed extensively by the buses.

20 So the 69th I don't think got out of here til
21 11:30. I got to make sure the 642 got in, this, that,
22 the other thing. So I don't think I got back to the

1 69th's Armory til 2:00 o'clock or something.

2 When I was back here, at six on Friday
3 morning, colonel Candiano says he never heard from the
4 105th. So he was -- he had to plug the line with the
5 Air Force guys. So he said since they're not reporting
6 to me, I'm not interested in having them OPCON'd to me.

7 And what the 258 certainly felt was that the
8 glory of this thing was right at the dig site.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** Yeah.

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That's who were in the middle
11 of everything. And that the 105th deliberately, they
12 said, didn't report to them, because they didn't want
13 to pull this outer security and wanted to stay in
14 there.

15 The next day, at about 9:00 o'clock, I guess
16 it was, or 10:00 o'clock, CPT Purcell and CPT Heinz
17 showed up at the 69th's TOC, because actually on
18 Thursday morning, when we had met with COL Pietrowski,
19 Pietrowski was adamant that the 258, that the 105th was
20 OPCON'd to the 258.

21 Actually, this is some of the -- was that
22 colonel Warnike had been down here.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** Who is that?

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Colonel Warnike, W-a-r-n-i-k-
3 e. He's a state employee who is the 105th Battalion
4 Commander. So he had been down on site and was told
5 you're deactivated, go back. And the only units who
6 were supposed to have remained on active status was the
7 Bravo and Charlie of the 105th, the units in New York
8 City.

9 But colonel Warnike had been down here, MAJ
10 Markey was down here, he stayed pretty much through the
11 whole operation, and a MAJ Cleveland, who was their S-
12 3.

13 So what you had was actually the 105th's
14 battalion chain of command here, and somebody should
15 have made a decision higher up, either just activate
16 them, so the 105th would have that or somebody clear
17 them out, so the companies had to report.

18 Instead, the companies didn't report and
19 colonel Warnike had come over on that Wednesday before
20 he left and asked colonel Slack "Could you assume
21 control of these two infantry units."

22 colonel Slack said he would do that and during

1 the Thursday morning meeting with COL Pietrowski,
2 Pietrowski said no, he was adamant. The 107th could
3 cut an order. They were OPCON'd to the 258. They were
4 not OPCON'd to the 69th.

5 Actually, all day Wednesday, Les', the 258
6 thought they belonged to the 69th. The 69th thought
7 they belonged to the -- I mean, the 105th was supposed
8 to report to the 258.

9 So that was clarified Thursday morning that,
10 no, it was the 258.

11 **MAJ MELNYK:** Clarified by COL Pietrowski.

12 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Pietrowski.

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** And then reaffirmed at the
14 Thursday afternoon BUB.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The BUB, right. And not at
16 the BUB, the Thursday afternoon commander's meeting.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** Commander's meeting.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** With general Klein.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** Which is somehow different from
20 the BUB.

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The BUB, right. The
22 commander's meeting is the general, COL Sieter, and

1 all the commanders on the ground at 1730. The BUB is a
2 staff update to the commanders at 1830.

3 So the commanders would go, say they've wasted
4 enough time leave, I'd say I'll stay for the BUB and
5 I'll come back and tell you what's going on. So that
6 was my higher headquarters liaison function.

7 But, see, what happened then was the 105th was
8 up there, there getting mission from the fire
9 department, you know, and then by Friday, they came
10 down for a meeting at the 69 and the 69 said, you know,
11 you guys are OPCON'd to the 258, you've got to deal
12 with them.

13 And the 105th guys were saying, well, listen,
14 you know, as everybody does, they got the attitude,
15 look, we're the only ones fighting the war.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** You people are sitting around,
18 dicking around here, we're up on ground zero, they're
19 pulling out -- there were no more body parts around
20 here. There was no more this, that, the other thing,
21 the burning, the death. Everything was up in the
22 middle where the 105th was.

1 So they're saying these fuckers down here
2 don't know what's going on, they want us to do this
3 bullshit, we're the only ones fighting the war, we're
4 doing this, we're doing that.

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

6 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And I told MAJ Markey, colonel
7 Warnike, and a bunch of them, I said you've got to call
8 the 258, you need to make contact with them so they
9 know what they're doing.

10 They wanted to put you on the perimeter line.
11 Nobody contacted them, you know, you better do
12 something.

13 Markey says, "Well, screw them, they have my
14 cell phone number, they could do this." So at some
15 point, I think on Friday, at the commander's meeting,
16 colonel Candiano says "I don't want to have the 258
17 OPCON'd to me. They're not -- they don't report, they
18 don't do anything for us. They want to stay up there.
19 They're freelancing."

20 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And like I said, it seemed to
22 me that one of the big issues from the battalion

1 commander complaints were because MAJ Markey,
2 Cleveland, Warnike, I don't know how long they were
3 there for, but because that battalion staff was out
4 there, those commanders were reporting to them and they
5 thought, they said, you know, we got a good gig going.

6 They also thought they were doing the most
7 contribution. They wanted to stay there.

8 So this think devolved into the 258 not
9 wanting them, the 101 CAV had some incident with them,
10 with their troops trying to guard, because the south of
11 Liberty, the 101 CAV was sent in there to seal Broadway
12 and Liberty.

13 There was concern -- on Wednesday night, Seven
14 World Trade Center had collapsed onto the pile, and
15 then there was still concern that this Merrill Lynch
16 Building was going to collapse and fall backwards east
17 across Broadway, fall over towards the East River.

18 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

19 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And so with all the work going
20 on here, the 101 CAV was tasked on Thursday to bring up
21 48 people and seal off along Broadway and down Cedar
22 Street to allow cranes and things to move back and

1 forth, because they were trying to pull out chunks of
2 Number Two World Trade Center.

3 The 105th apparently told them you couldn't
4 cross into their area. There became some disputes
5 going on down there and there was an incident, I guess,
6 with some ESU emergency services units where the 105th
7 tried to arrest them and they thought they were in the
8 buildings they shouldn't be in.

9 The emergency service units said we were
10 looking for 14 of our missing people. We have high
11 tech fiber optic cable cameras, this, that, the other
12 thing. There were allegations back and forth and --

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** How did you learn about this?

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** This was speaking with colonel
15 Rivera, who told me that the 105th had gotten into some
16 disputes with the New York City Police, with a couple
17 of other agencies, that they hadn't reported to the --
18 colonel Rivera was very tied in with the 258.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** Yes.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So I think he was echoing
21 their impression that these guys were out there by
22 themselves, kind of renegades, as they called them, and

1 not reporting to anybody, and now getting into trouble.

2 So what they were saying, that they were very
3 close to having, I guess, yanking the 105th guys and
4 sitting them down.

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** Who? Who would have made that
6 order?

7 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The 107th.

8 **MAJ MELNYK:** The Support Group.

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The Support Group, right.
10 colonel Rivera had said -- and I guess what happened
11 was colonel Slack had said that the 69th, they would
12 OPCON the 105th to the 69th.

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** Did that ever happen?

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That did happen on Saturday.

15 **MAJ MELNYK:** Okay.

16 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** But then the 69th pulled out
17 on Sunday.

18 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

19 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So that led to some more
20 confusion, because then on Sunday and Monday, the
21 question came up who has the 105th. And COL Meskill
22 raised, in the Aviation Brigade's battlefield update

1 brief, who has got the 105th, it's the 258.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** So they got it back.

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** No. They said we don't have
4 them and major -- and I said no, sir. If you look at
5 your original OP order or whatever MAJ Betore
6 (phonetic) had that they gave out again, it says that
7 the 105th, because they are in now the 204th Engineers
8 sector, would replace the 69th. They are OPCON'd to
9 the 204th.

10 So that finally clarified the command
11 relationship.

12 **MAJ MELNYK:** I know when I was down at the
13 perimeter, I believe it was Tuesday, a week later, the
14 204th attempted to come in and assume part of that
15 inner security mission.

16 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** And the 105th soldiers I spoke
18 to, and I spoke to quite a few, were very bitter about
19 that, felt that everybody was trying to take their job,
20 and that they were the only ones who could perform that
21 job adequately, because they had been there working
22 with the fire and police, they knew how to check IDs

1 and keep people off the site.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And they knew people,
3 and that's why I said, this was the mentality that
4 happened.

5 They went there and then a similar kind of
6 complaint was heard from the troops out here, saying,
7 you know, we've got this job, it's not as glorious and
8 glamorous as that.

9 We could certainly do their job, why the hell
10 aren't they out here. The only reason is that they're
11 not -- nobody -- they won't report to any command.

12 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

13 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And the command's had so much
14 to do, that nobody -- it wasn't worth anybody's time to
15 go in --

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** Nobody from higher headquarters
17 is willing to come down on site and take control of the
18 situation.

19 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. So what -- and like I
20 say, I went up and spoke to them a couple times and the
21 soldiers were doing a great job and the fire chief was
22 very happy, although at one point, on Thursday, I think

1 it was, because MAJ Goldenberg, who is the PAO for the
2 42nd, was up there, came down, took a look around in
3 the security sector, talked to a few troops, got some
4 pictures, and then spent the whole rest of the day up
5 at the dig site.

6 **MAJ MELNYK:** Yeah.

7 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Which was the normal kind of
8 human curiosity.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** And it's natural. Yeah, the
10 105th felt they were important. I know I'm
11 interviewing you, but [that was] my observation as
12 well. And the battalion commanders, some of them had
13 expressed the desire to be able to bring their troops
14 back to ground zero almost as sort of a cathartic
15 thing.

16 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** That they could then participate
18 there and maybe it would help --

19 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** It would help, yeah.

20 **MAJ MELNYK:** Help them get over their images
21 of being helpless out on the perimeter, and the 105th
22 companies did not want to give up that job.

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. They --

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** And managed to avoid the chain of
3 command.

4 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Exactly. And that's -- and
5 what you got, I was up there and I'll tell you, it
6 didn't just extend to the military troops, because we
7 had instances -- there were very few, I only remember
8 hearing about two of them, but one of the 105th
9 soldiers tried to stop a police officer from going in
10 the site.

11 The cop put his hand on his gun and said, "Get
12 out of my way or I'll kill you."

13 And then we had one other issue down at
14 Bowling Green, where they insisted on looking at police
15 IDs, as well. If you're in uniform, you have to show
16 an ID, as well, because you can buy these uniforms
17 anywhere.

18 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

19 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And a cop put his hand on his
20 pistol and said "Here's my ID." He said, "If we fight
21 about this, who do you think is going to lose."

22 And the Guard soldiers were instructed no

1 altercations, no nothing, said simply take their badge
2 number and pass it on to a police captain, and they're
3 obviously under stress, they'll yank them from the
4 line, they shouldn't be out here with a weapon.

5 But when I was up at the site on Thursday,
6 talking with the guys from the 105th, a fire chief came
7 over and grabbed me, because I had the major's leaf on,
8 said "you're in charge of this," and I said, "what do
9 you need."

10 He said, "What's with the fucking Army?" He
11 says, "You fucking people." He said, "I told this
12 soldier not to let this fucking guy in and the soldier
13 said you can't come here and whoever it was," -- I
14 think it was a cop -- said "fuck you, pushed him out of
15 the way, and went in anyway. What the fuck is wrong
16 with you people? It's a goddamn Army."

17 And I said, "Chief," I said, "Look at me." I
18 said, "How many guns do I have?"

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** I said, "We have none." I
21 said, "It's not martial law." And I told him, I said,
22 "If this was martial law, we would have shot the first

1 three people who disobeyed." I said, "Everybody else
2 would have done what we said." But I said, "But we
3 don't have that authority. We have no weapons. We're
4 here, we're a different uniform, we've got some moral
5 authority."

6 I said, "If you want, I'll get a squad, you
7 point him out, they'll go beat the shit out of the
8 guy." And the fire chief, at that point, relented and
9 he said, "No, no, no," and I said, "Tell me, is it a
10 cop or a fireman?" He said, "It's a cop."

11 I said, "All right. Fine." I said, "The
12 soldiers got his badge number. We'll get a police
13 captain in and they'll yank the guy out."

14 But a lot of people here felt that
15 helplessness, that saw this all happen. The people you
16 knew, you worked with were killed in there, could still
17 be alive. Thursday is only two days after. Why is it
18 so slow? Why is nothing happening?

19 There were all these people streaming into the
20 hole, and so everybody had that same thought process, I
21 think, that unless you're digging, you're not doing
22 anything of no worth or value.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And that was something that
3 was reinforced in the press. I know, because I called
4 my job to try and keep my case load afloat and people
5 kept saying, "Are you digging, are you digging."

6 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

7 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And I said, "Well, yeah, I got
8 up and I sifted some stuff and I did that for all of
9 about an hour." But that's all anybody thinks I've
10 done here and all this other stuff.

11 So anybody who wasn't up there actively
12 involved --

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** Isn't a hero.

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And isn't
15 participating in a meaningful way.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So that was leading to a
18 dichotomy and some of the frustration between the
19 units. And what happened was on Thursday, I think, and
20 Friday, the decisions were made we've got to clear
21 everybody out of this area.

22 And the police actually had told Pietrowski

1 they were thinking about having the military sweep
2 south from Chambers Street, pick up all these quasi-
3 military and military people, who were doing things out
4 of the goodness of their heart, but weren't on any
5 orders, weren't organized, but were just responding as
6 need be.

7 And one of those instances, on Thursday, I was
8 talking with the guys from the 105th, a lieutenant, I
9 think -- I'll butcher his name, I think it was Corsos,
10 C-o-r-s-o-s, who was a platoon leader, and while I was
11 there, the fire chief came over and says "What are you
12 guys doing? I need you to help out the coroner."

13 Well, I --

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** The coroner.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The coroner, right. So I
16 grabbed Corsos, I said "Do you have any men to do
17 this?" I said, "How are you guys responding to
18 mission?" He said basically as stuff comes up, they
19 run around and do it.

20 I said let me come over and see how this
21 works. So I accompanied him over to the Brooks
22 Brothers store in One Liberty Plaza, across the street

1 from the dig site, which still had the wooden shelves
2 lined full of the Brooks Brothers Polo shirts, covered
3 in dust.

4 In the back of it, where the fitting rooms
5 were, was the morgue. And the coroner said that the
6 day before or that morning, while he was trying to open
7 a body bag, he saw flash bulbs popping.

8 Some press had sneaked in in DOT or something
9 suits and were taking pictures. So they wanted to move
10 the morgue somewhere else.

11 I said all right, fine, and he wanted us to
12 provide security, and they chose to move the morgue
13 across the street to where the Burger King is.

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** Oh, really.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** I just looked at him, didn't
16 say anything.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** Bad idea.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And I said I hope they don't
19 -- this doesn't get out. And he said if there's
20 refrigeration, a huge refrigerator.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** They had been feeding people out
22 of that Burger King.

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. The front was being
2 used for food. There was all sorts of supplies
3 upstairs, and what they were going to do was move the
4 morgue over there, put it on the second floor for the
5 coroner, and then bring the bodies downstairs to the
6 freezer.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And so we got over there and
9 there was a Marine captain and two Marine sergeants who
10 had been working like fiends, manual labor, clearing
11 all the crap out of the freezer, and everything else,
12 to put the bodies in.

13 There were two union electricians who were
14 there, saying we're here to help. They were going to
15 rig up power on a generator to power the freezer of the
16 Burger King.

17 Cursos and his -- I'm not sure if he was a
18 squad leader, he was an E-6, I think, and the sergeant
19 or the radio operator were there. And so I told them,
20 I said "This is how we need to do security."

21 If you got two or three guys, you seal the
22 base of the steps so that nobody can get up where the

1 coroner is, and then you seal the back door here by the
2 freezer and you lock -- you have them lock the doors
3 inside.

4 So we're standing out on the back of the
5 Burger King, the Burger King is on Greenwich there, and
6 all of a sudden you hear the three air horn blast, and
7 they're screaming that One Liberty is going to topple.

8 This is a 60 story building. It's not like
9 the World Trade Center, where it burned. It's full of
10 crap.

11 And I said that was the only moment of really
12 just sheer terror that I had here. I stood on the
13 street and the horns blew and everybody went running by
14 me, running south, and I was trying for maybe three or
15 four seconds to assess the situation and see where we
16 should run, why we were even running, and when you
17 should stop running.

18 And then everybody just bolted past me and you
19 get this -- it's like the lemming feeling.

20 And I looked behind me, and the lieutenant and
21 the radio operator are like three blocks ahead of me.
22 So I said -- and actually, one of the fireman was like

1 sitting in a window and just jumped through the goddamn
2 window, glass exploded, he hits the street, I picked
3 him up, this cop was running with a jacket tied around
4 her waist. She fell twice, I stopped to pick her up.

5 People running, and we ran like five blocks
6 down. And I said where the hell are we running to,
7 nobody knows. Why are we stopping? I don't know. How
8 long do you wait here? I don't know.

9 So we stood there for a while, talked to a
10 bunch of people. There were rescue workers from
11 Riverside, California, K-9 units, coal miners from
12 Pennsylvania, search and rescue guys from
13 Massachusetts, all over the place.

14 So we talked to this whole huge mass and then
15 we gradually walked back to the dig site.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** No all clear sign.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** No, they don't. People just
18 kind of go back to work.

19 And then the -- so the 105th stayed up there
20 and then like I said, on Friday, the discussion was the
21 258 didn't want them there.

22 Whatever incident happened, colonel Rivera

1 told me that they were within an inch of being pulled
2 from the line and completely replaced.

3 Then I said, well, if you're going to do that
4 and you're unhappy with your command and control,
5 somebody needs to make sure that you've got somebody up
6 there to support the fire department, because, again,
7 the majority of the National Guard forces were focused
8 on the police department.

9 But nobody got pulled out and then --

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** Let's pull it forward now.
11 Things -- you want to describe the incidents
12 surrounding the establishment of Aviation Brigade
13 control on the ground that Saturday, right?

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. Saturday was -- I had
15 called up. I had been given division updates on what
16 was going on.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** So you were calling up to Troy.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Up to Troy, right. And I had
19 gotten COL Luthringer a couple of times, colonel Rasika
20 (phonetic,) the G-2, my boss, COL Hefner, the chief of
21 staff.

22 Told them what was going on on the ground,

1 what the troops were doing, and they had the same
2 complaints. They weren't getting anything from Troop
3 Command.

4 Nobody seemed to know what was going on with
5 the 107th. And the 107th was dealing with a lot of its
6 own troops. The 204th, they were setting up, they were
7 standing units down, and I think on Friday the division
8 told me that they were standing their EOC down as of
9 5:00 o'clock.

10 And COL Luthringer gave me his beeper and COL
11 Hefner gave me his cell phone, said call me if anything
12 comes up.

13 And we had heard, I guess, on Thursday or
14 Friday morning, I guess it was Friday morning, that
15 they would be bringing down an O-6 command and from
16 what I have heard from the different circles,
17 initially, it was going to be the division staff under
18 COL Hefner.

19 That, however, I guess, would look like they
20 had to replace the 107th. And so they -- and they
21 didn't want to put down the current division staff,
22 because [brigadier] general Taluto and general Klein

1 are the same rank.

2 So it had to be an 0-6 and they wanted a TAC
3 command down here. I guess the 107th couldn't staff
4 it.

5 So then what happened was they were going to
6 put down the 3rd Brigade Headquarters and then it came
7 up that, you know, for whatever political reason, they
8 didn't want to do that.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** Address that point, if you can.
10 Why not the brigade that all these battalions were
11 organic to? [1-69 Inf, 1-258 FA and 1-101 Cav were all
12 New York City elements of 3rd Bde, 42nd Inf Div. The
13 brigade headquarters is located in Buffalo, NY]

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That's what I had asked. I
15 originally had called up and I thought the division
16 staff was coming down, and it sounded to me, from
17 talking with COL Rasika, like 8:00 o'clock Friday
18 morning that they were coming down.

19 And then I think what came up is they didn't
20 want to put the division staff in because it would look
21 like the 107th staff hadn't done a good job, because
22 they replaced the 107th with the division staff and

1 general Klein would lose his organic staff and be
2 replaced with somebody else.

3 So that got rid of the division staff.

4 **MAJ MELNYK:** General Klein is [53rd] Troop
5 Command.

6 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Troop command, right. But he
7 was using the Troop Command and the 107th. So then
8 what they said was we'll put in an 0-6 command to
9 replace the 107th and still have Troop Command above
10 it.

11 **MAJ MELNYK:** Okay.

12 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So I said --

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** So they were going to swap out
14 the 107th and put in --

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. A combat command. And
16 what they said was -- I assume they were going to put
17 in COL Soeder and the 3rd Brigade, because these units
18 belonged to them.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** Yes. That's COL Soeder, not to
20 be confused with COL Sieter of the 107th. This is S-o-
21 e-d-e-r.

22 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Correct. First name Arnold.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right. Commander of 3rd Brigade
2 from Buffalo.

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. Out of Buffalo, roger.

4 **MAJ MELNYK:** Correct.

5 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So instead of -- so we thought
6 COL Soeder and company would come down and then there
7 was some issue in there. I understood that it was some
8 sort of political football about bringing in the
9 organic command all the way from Buffalo, when you had
10 the Aviation Brigade downstate right here in Patchogue,
11 would again show that that maybe the way the state had
12 divided up the areas, which was anything south of
13 Westchester, the Troop Command is responsible for, and
14 north was division.

15 **MAJ MELNYK:** In a civil emergency.

16 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right, a civil emergency.
17 Bringing down a unit from Buffalo when you had the
18 Aviation at Patchogue would be like a slap in the face
19 or send the wrong kind of message.

20 So that they decided not to bring in the
21 organic headquarters for these units, but bring in the
22 Aviation Brigade.

1 So they actually showed up Saturday afternoon,
2 I guess, and then COL Meskill drove in, colonel Coyne.

3 **MAJ MELNYK:** Meskill is the commander.

4 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right.

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** M-e-s-k-i-l-l.

6 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. Later, on a bus, COL
7 Doyle, the oncoming commander as of October 1, and then
8 most of the Aviation staff showed up.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** Because actually two O-6's are on
10 the ground, Meskill and Doyle.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. The eagle two-headed
12 O-6. Do this, do that, do this, do that, no, yes, no.

13 And then colonel Coyne, who is the G-4, C-o-y-
14 n-e, he led down two Expandovans in a convoy down from
15 Troy.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** So Aviation Brigade was
17 supplemented by men like colonel Coyne, LTC Coyne, the
18 G-4.

19 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The division G-4 section came
20 down.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

22 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Because at that point, you had

1 the troops on the ground, you really didn't need the S-
2 1 [G-1] presence from the division. What they still
3 needed was supplies. At that point, they were still
4 complaining about maps, about cell phones, about cots.

5 And actually I'm pretty sure that two in the
6 morning, Friday morning, Simon Hu, H-u, who is the S-4
7 of the 107th, called the 69th, woke me up, and LT McCoy
8 got on the phone and MAJ Hu said we got 400 cots for
9 you.

10 And this was Friday night going into Saturday,
11 although the 69th is like, great, we're getting them as
12 we're standing down.

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And then the Aviation Brigade
15 showed up. They had cell phones for the 258, which
16 answered their problems.

17 They had a bunch of maps, which are actually
18 kind of funny. They are these large Wakefield &
19 Cushman building management maps that -- they gave one
20 to me and I opened it up at a meeting at the police
21 chief's office.

22 And the thing is about four feet wide and

1 about eight feet high. And so the entire police chiefs
2 just burst out cackling like mad, and I'm like, yes,
3 these are the small pocket maps that the Army ordered
4 Wednesday after the disaster, so our troops who were
5 not from here could navigate.

6 And they're looking at it, what do you do with
7 this, I said I guess we could parasail, we could float
8 down the river.

9 (Tape change.)

10 When the Aviation Brigade came in, I spoke
11 with John Betor, B-e-t-o-r. He is the S-3. Briefed
12 him, briefed COL Doyle, he was the MI Battalion
13 commander when I was a G-2 guy, and I did, again, most
14 of the briefings during the war fighter.

15 I knew COL Meskill from the war fighters. I
16 briefed the commanders, briefed colonel Coyne, told him
17 that we had ordered toilets on Wednesday, these Port-a-
18 Potties, still hadn't seen a thing. Troops were having
19 to go -- they were letting us use the Customs House,
20 the offices around here.

21 Told colonel Coyne that the majority of the G-
22 4 stuff was being taken care of, since the food support

1 had been tremendous. Not only the Outback [Steakhouse
2 donations] got a lot of press, but McDonald's had an
3 MKT, a Mobile Kitchen [Trailer].

4 The first day that we actually got food, that
5 was these nasty white pieces of bread, really thin,
6 stuck to real thick government rawhide-like covered
7 bologna, and they gave you a little spoodgie of mayo
8 with it.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** Every Army soldier has experience
10 with those sandwiches.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Well, this was worse than
12 usual. So after I took a bite, I said, damn, this is
13 really going to be a lousy deal. Not only did we have
14 all this dead, we're sucking up this crap, we're stuck
15 down here, but we got to eat crap.

16 And I said somebody go check the box, I said
17 what caterer is this from, and they came back and told
18 me it was the Midland Penitentiary System.

19 So we were actually getting prisoner meals.
20 So I threw away the bologna, ran around most of that
21 day, which was Wednesday, and when I came back
22 complaining of being starving, since none of us were

1 really sleeping more than three, four hours a night, we
2 just kept eating.

3 They actually -- Tavern on the Green had sent
4 catering down here. On Thursday, we had Katz's Deli,
5 big thick, hot pastrami and brisket sandwiches, the
6 cheeseburgers, pan pizzas were showing up from Pizza
7 Hut, people were bringing in food.

8 **MAJ MELNYK:** They had the Outback Steakhouse
9 that said --

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The steakhouse actually
11 started -- I think the first steakhouse meal I had was
12 on Sunday.

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** They were good.

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. And that was much
15 appreciated. I said you want to talk about morale
16 collapsing, on the eastern sector four and five, they
17 moved the damn Outback kitchen from under the FDR and,
18 man, I thought most of those guys were going home.

19 I think they moved the majority --

20 **MAJ MELNYK:** The whole 258 Field Artillery is
21 ready to --

22 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** There's three guys left, still

1 looking for the Outback. Everybody else has gone home.

2 The cops are saying we're not coming.

3 Most of the food stuff they moved up north,
4 but I was explaining to colonel Coyne that the majority
5 of the stuff you had, and actually I said it was almost
6 surreal.

7 Walking around in a disaster site, they never
8 had -- they never did have the military sweep anybody
9 out, because there were so many volunteers, it was like
10 being at a baseball game, but never paying for
11 anything.

12 You would be standing there and people are
13 walking by with baskets chucking out granola bars,
14 power bars, you know, fitness bars, hundreds of -- I
15 never saw so much Snapple, Gatorade, we were drowning
16 in freaking water.

17 And so the supply system food-wise was
18 straight. Any of this, the other stuff, the cell
19 phones were replaced by the Aviation Brigade.

20 **MAJ MELNYK:** Maps.

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Maps, that sort of stuff.

22 I then took COL Meskill over to Command Post

1 2. I think, and you're going to have to check this,
2 but I think on Friday night or Saturday morning, they
3 made the decision that instead of having the whole area
4 controlled by what was Manhattan South, which was at
5 Pike and South Street, the borough, they would split
6 the area up into actually seven zones.

7 Zone is the area where the fire department is.

8 **MAJ MELNYK:** I have the map and everybody has
9 spoken to it. Yes.

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** You have all the zones. Okay.
11 You've got that. Well, that I think all happened
12 Saturday morning. So what happened was down by Battery
13 Park is Zone 2, it's Queens South.

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Which has got Kennedy Airport
16 and stuff like that. So I took COL Meskill over to
17 meet Chief Lawless, believe it or not.

18 **MAJ MELNYK:** Bad name for a police officer.

19 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** For a cop, yeah. L-a-w-l-e-s-
20 s. And he sat down, COL Meskill --

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** And its CP is right there in
22 front of the Customs House.

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. Right at Bowling
2 Green, right.

3 **MAJ MELNYK:** Bowling Green.

4 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And it's a big mobile command.

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** So it's not more than a hundred
6 yards from where the --

7 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The Aviation.

8 **MAJ MELNYK:** -- Aviation Brigade is set up.

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Correct.

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So COL Meskill went in,
12 learned about the zones, and said, well, it looks like
13 we've got five zones here.

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And we said actually there's
16 seven, sir, but, I said Zone 1 and 7 are basically the
17 same thing. Seven is a perimeter of one [Ground Zero].
18 They don't want any Guard members north of Chambers,
19 which is Zone 6. So you can alleviate that.

20 So you really just have five. And Meskill
21 said, well, that's good, because I have the 69th, the
22 101, the 258, the 642, and then the 204th was coming

1 in.

2 So he said we've got sufficient assets to
3 cover this stuff. So they broke down each zone by
4 battalion command and they said you'll run that zone 24
5 hours.

6 **MAJ MELNYK:** So they went from a shift,
7 putting a night shift and a day shift, and they left
8 the battalion, a geographic sector and said it's yours,
9 you figure out your shift.

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And that happened with
11 the 69th rotating out Sunday night.

12 **MAJ MELNYK:** And who replaced the 69th and the
13 204th in their sector, but what extra units came in to
14 replace that manpower?

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** What they ended up doing on
16 Sunday night, and the transition was supposed to
17 conclude by 1600. I think it actually finished at
18 about 22, 2300.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** About 23, because I went back
20 with the 69th commander [that night].

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The 69th, yeah. Their last
22 guys were actually there, Echo Company in Battery Park

1 City.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And they got replaced. What
4 happened with the new sectors was they gave the 204th
5 basically the east side that the 69th had been
6 occupying.

7 On Friday, and, actually, the cordon zone was
8 still out on that, had been moved over to Williams
9 Street, moved from Water Street east one block to
10 Williams, so they could get passage for vehicles on
11 Water.

12 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right. Right.

13 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** It was still out here because
14 of the collapse fear. Engineers determined that that
15 building was built to sway, that it just needed a new
16 facade.

17 They had lasers that they focused in on points
18 on the building and if it ever moved, the lasers would
19 pop and people -- you'd run away.

20 But that hadn't happened, so they ended up
21 then saying we don't need you out on William, shift
22 back to Nassau, and now they've eventually moved the

1 fence line on Broadway.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** That happened on Monday morning
3 or Sunday night in order to open up the financial
4 district.

5 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** District, right. What
6 happened Saturday into Sunday was they contacted and
7 then contracted with some guy out in New Jersey, whose
8 got millions of feet of fence, and so he came in and
9 fenced all along Chambers Street from the Water east to
10 Broadway, south on Broadway to Rector Street, Rector
11 Street back to West Street, and West Street down to the
12 corner of Battery Park.

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So that fence was in the works
15 and while that was going on, COL Meskill decided that
16 he would extend what was sector two, which was Battery
17 Park City up to Rector, and over to Broad Street, he
18 would extend that into Battery Park City, because what
19 Meskill realized was he had five battalions, but six
20 sectors, I guess.

21 No, sorry, four battalions and six sectors.
22 So what he did was what was sector Zone 3.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Sector three, he cut it in
3 half at Rector Street. So the 204th assumed a square
4 that went from the Water across Chambers Street, to
5 Broadway, which was the 69th's area, down Broadway,
6 which had become the border between the 101 at 69th to
7 Rector, and then Rector back over through Battery Park
8 City into Water.

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** In the center of that -- well, a
10 square.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The square, was the World
12 Trade Center, and that's sector one and --

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** And still the 105th company is in
14 there.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right on that site.

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And that's -- and the 105th
18 remained in there. And then the 101 CAV, who had the
19 entire eastern side, shifted over to sector two. So
20 their sector picked up from the Coast Guard pier, up
21 Broad, over to Rector, to Battery Park City, and the
22 whole southern tip of Manhattan.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** All the ferry terminals and
2 battery park.

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. The 258, who was
4 trying to get some sleep, they had -- the plan was
5 discussed Saturday and implemented Sunday night.

6 So they had broken their people up. They had
7 the sector five, which went from Broad Street up along
8 the East River to Maiden Lane, and over to Broadway,
9 and then back down.

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** South. Right.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And then the 642 Aviation
12 [Support Battalion]--

13 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

14 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** -- they got the north sector,
15 which was Maiden Lane north and over, and that's how
16 you ended up splitting up seven sectors into four
17 battalions.

18 Nobody in six, seven in one, three cut in
19 half.

20 **MAJ MELNYK:** How have things changed since
21 Sunday up through today, which is Friday of the
22 following week?

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The following week, the 204th
2 took over and, also, let me fill this in. What was
3 happening mission-wise was missions would come into the
4 units or go to COL Pietrowski or up to the 107th. They
5 were called in all different ways.

6 Sometimes they'd come from the police
7 department headquarters at One Police Plaza and they
8 would talk to COL Leider or COL Flanigan.

9 Other times, they would come up from the units
10 on the ground, the chiefs, or come up from the sectors,
11 and what would happen was calls would come in -- I'll
12 give you an example.

13 A call comes to the Aviation Brigade, we need
14 48 people to guard a building, call Inspector Gianelli
15 (phonetic.)

16 This had come in on Sunday when they first got
17 here. So Monday, nobody can find this Gianelli.
18 Tuesday they ask me can you track him down. I go to
19 the police. We get on the city-wide band. We find
20 Gianelli, who is a Bronx narcotics cop, who is now
21 working the organized crime bureau, who is in charge of
22 searching and sealing off buildings, and turning them

1 over to the rightful owner.

2 So the 48 people he wanted was not go guard
3 one building, but was to guard buildings throughout all
4 sectors. And then that tasking had come in and they
5 hadn't gotten a response from the Aviation Brigade an
6 the military here, the mission tasking was assumed by
7 Troop Command.

8 Troop Command tasked it's organized units, its
9 MP battalion, which consisted of 105th MP Company, the
10 107th MP Company, the 442nd MP Company. There's also a
11 smattering of MPs out of the 27th Brigade.

12 So there's about 400 guys under a captain's
13 command down here, and they told them, you need to go
14 out and secure buildings.

15 So scattered amongst the 204th, the 101, the
16 258, and the 642, these individuals from the 105th, the
17 107th, the 442, and they're guarding individual
18 buildings, waiting around for people to come in and --

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** And claim them.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And claim them, right. You
21 also had, at one point, the 101 CAV, I believe this was
22 Friday night, was guarding them from Broadway here to

1 Rector.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** South of the Trade Center.

4 They didn't get relieved by the 258, because they were
5 stretched out around here.

6 I think the 258, at that point, was trying to
7 find the 105th. So what happened was Troop Command
8 sent down the units to relieve them and Saturday
9 morning I show up and there's the 143rd Maintenance
10 Company out of Peekskill, and they're on line guarding
11 here.

12 **MAJ MELNYK:** Guarding those two streets.

13 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right, Broadway to Rector.

14 And then the 101 CAV replaced them. Meanwhile, the
15 105th is inside. The 107th and 105th MPs are scattered
16 around, and I think on Sunday, I had driven up and gone
17 up to Chambers and gone north to see the check point.

18 And at the check point are 105th --

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** This is the main checkpoint
20 coming south.

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Coming south from -- yeah, I
22 think it's on Varick.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** So most of the traffic coming
2 south on Manhattan Island is going to come down
3 Broadway to that checkpoint.

4 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. If you want to get
5 into the hot zone, to the dig zone. All the trucks,
6 the Verizon vans, the AT&T.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** ConEd, right.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** They're all coming through --
9 ConEd. Everybody's coming in here.

10 So I get up there --

11 **MAJ MELNYK:** Chambers and Broadway.

12 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** It's actually -- yeah, but
13 it's West Broadway, so it's actually --

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** Sorry. West Broadway.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. It becomes Greenwich.
16 It's kind of a confusing thing down here.

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right. Right. West Broadway.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And so at that check point, I
19 see all these four different MP commands. The 69th
20 units are inside the wire. There's cops checking the
21 vehicles. There's troops stopping them here. The MPs
22 are issuing badges.

1 They looked at me, see, I'm a major, I find
2 out what's going on, I can give a coherent discussion
3 of what's happening, who's doing what to whom. They
4 don't want me -- they don't want to give me a badge,
5 because they don't have that many.

6 They tell me just go in there. And I said who
7 are you guys working for. They're working for Troop
8 Command battalion and their company commander is up
9 there, but that's never been coordinated with the
10 people on the ground.

11 So that's still a unity of command issue.

12 **MAJ MELNYK:** And that still exists.

13 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That exists currently, yeah.
14 Because what I've been doing the last two days, every
15 time I see soldier, I said where are you from and what
16 are you doing. And when I get that, I said who told
17 you to do this, and they're -- most of the MPs are from
18 the company, who is getting tasked by Troop Command
19 directly, but not coordinating with any of the units in
20 here.

21 Actually, I had a bizarre thing the other day,
22 when I stumbled in. I had engineers guarding MPs who

1 were guarding the infantry. And I said this is --

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** A little reversal.

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. I said the world is
4 turned upside down here.

5 So what's happened since then is on Monday,
6 actually, down in -- the majority of activity, besides
7 the construction workers down here, they had sealed
8 this whole area off.

9 So they were letting people come back in who
10 lived here and so if you lived here or you had a
11 business, you could come in at the end of last week.
12 Not a lot of people did.

13 On Friday -- actually, even on Wednesday, a
14 lot of people from Battery Park City were evacuated.
15 Actually, I can tell you, one of the guys I work with
16 was sent to the Princeton Marriott, at a cost of \$285
17 dollars a night that he was expected to bear.

18 So after one night, he took what little he had
19 and went to Williamsburg, where his father lives, and
20 people were coming in here, I guess, starting Wednesday
21 and Thursday. We would wait for them. They'd run up,
22 get their stuff, get their cat, whatever, their

1 medication, contacts, and get them out of there.

2 On Thursday and Friday, they told us that
3 Battery Park City was closed because there was
4 questions about the structural stability of the
5 buildings.

6 Battery Park City is actually an old landfill.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** It's built on a landfill.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. And so they were
9 concerned about that. They said when the buildings,
10 the Trade Centers collapsed, it was equal to a 2.8 --

11 **MAJ MELNYK:** Earthquake.

12 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** -- earthquake on the Richter
13 scale. Yeah. So they were concerned about that.

14 So on Saturday, the 69th had set up a
15 checkpoint by the Bowling Green subway station.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** I've spoken to those who ran that
17 operation.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** You got that. Okay. Good.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** You should focus on what your
20 activities were since that point. You were continuing
21 to provide liaison primarily at Pike and South or now
22 where?

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Actually, now, work with the
2 PD over in sector two, because I would go back to Pike
3 and South, but the majority of the chiefs, initially
4 all of the police chiefs were over there.

5 But come Saturday, I think that's when they
6 broke it up into sectors.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So the majority of the command
9 and control left Pike and South and what they were
10 doing out of there was staffing the duty details.

11 So there were lieutenants who were dealing
12 with rosters of cops, how many you got, where's Joe
13 Blow, you go here, you go there, this is what you're
14 going to do.

15 So Saturday, like I said, once COL Meskill got
16 on the ground and came up with his plan of dividing the
17 place up, the units put that into operation and were
18 done Sunday night, and then at that point, I told
19 colonel Slack, because I had been attached to the 69th,
20 that I would stay back here and I would work with the
21 brigade to make sure everybody got on the ground,
22 everybody got set up, everybody knew who to talk to.

1 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

2 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And then I said I'll come back
3 to the armory on Monday, because they were all being
4 released.

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

6 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** What happened was after I gave
7 all the briefings, they set up a bunch of LNOs [Liaison
8 Officers] and they told me they needed me to stay here
9 as the senior LNO, and then COL Doyle would take the
10 meetings -- the police were having meetings at One
11 Police Plaza with all the police chiefs.

12 COL Doyle would take care of those and then
13 what he would do is he would get information, pass it
14 out to the LNOs, and he wanted us to coordinate with
15 the battalion commanders to make sure that the
16 battalions were responding to what the police chiefs
17 wanted.

18 We had a few meetings and the usual glitches
19 occur and during the meeting, COL Doyle started
20 yelling, "Well, who's doing Zone 6 and why don't you
21 have an LNO for Zone 6." And I explained, "Well,
22 nobody has ever done Zone 6. The Mayor doesn't want

1 the military up that far. We got to stay back." And
2 that took care of that.

3 So they started working out the kinks, but
4 what I think COL Doyle wanted us to do was actually
5 coordinate the activities of the battalions between the
6 zones, which, to me, was an S-3 operation and somebody
7 had to make a command decision about the plan.

8 But the way the Aviation Brigade or at least
9 COL Doyle wanted to use the LNOs was not just to get
10 information, but to pass information to commanders to
11 coordinate with the adjacent units, develop a plan, and
12 come back and tell him what the plan was.

13 So it seemed like an odd way of -- you know,
14 it's not staff management like they teach you at CGSC
15 or anything like that.

16 So anyway, I got stuck here Monday and then
17 they told me, oh, you can't go home, but we'll get you
18 a replacement as soon as you can, since you've been
19 here, and the 69th had stood down.

20 And like I said, at that point, I'm still
21 running around the whole area on foot mostly. If I
22 could get a vehicle, I'd ride. And I did -- I had

1 gotten some Gold's medicated powder for my legs, my
2 balls, my feet, and I had actually on Thursday lanced
3 all these blisters on my feet so I could walk around.
4 And they did give use like padded heel and toe socks.

5 So I threw out the Army socks and I've been
6 wearing a pair of those a day. And then the LNOs are
7 MAJ Mark Redgate, R-e-d-g-a-t-e. He's an aviator.
8 He's got Zone 4. Rich Dikeman --

9 **MAJ MELNYK:** Which is the 642 now.

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The 642. Rich Dikeman, D-i-k-
11 e-m-a-n, is an artillery major, who was the fire
12 support officer for the Aviation Brigade for JRTC, had
13 been reassigned to division, got reattached for this
14 exercise, and he's the LNO for the 258 Field Artillery.

15 So again, you've got LNOs who speak the same
16 language. The 101 CAV guys had gotten used to me being
17 here. So I ended up as the LNO for Zone 2, and I deal
18 with them.

19 LT McKnight, who is the S-2 of the Aviation
20 Brigade, he's the LNO for Zone 3.

21 **MAJ MELNYK:** Battery Park City.

22 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Battery Park City. So he

1 gives his -- he coordinates with both the 204th
2 Engineers, who are in the northern part of Battery Park
3 City, and then the 101 CAV in the southern part of
4 Battery Park City, and then MAJ George Chin, C-h-i-n,
5 is the LNO for Zone 1.

6 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

7 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** So he's with the 204th
8 Engineers. So all the L&Os know all the various police
9 intimately. There's usually two chiefs, a bunch of --
10 some inspectors who are O-6s, Army rank colonels. The
11 majors are their deputy inspectors, and there's a slew
12 of captains, lieutenants and patrol officers.

13 So working with the police has been very easy,
14 very good communications. They tell you what they
15 need. We supply troops.

16 And what's happened in the sector since Sunday
17 is the city is focused on getting the area back to
18 normal. There was a big push to get electricity and
19 power into the eastern sectors, Zones 4 and 5, and make
20 that much softer, get people in there.

21 On Monday morning, they were still running a
22 checkpoint at Bowling Green and they were -- the 101

1 CAV Monday and Tuesday were escorting people from
2 Bowling Green up through the southern part of the
3 financial center, which was east of West Street, south
4 of Rector, and then east of Broad Street, into
5 buildings.

6 Because what had happened, a lot of people had
7 fled and they said there were a lot of places down
8 here have vaults and the vaults were left open, the
9 power was shut off, and what they wanted to make sure
10 was not that people didn't steal something, because
11 there was no way to stop that, you couldn't sit with
12 each individual person, but they wanted to make sure
13 that if you were going to One Broadway, the Army would
14 walk you up there, escort you, you would walk into One
15 Broadway, and the businessmen, we were told, were
16 allowed to stay as long as they wanted.

17 The residents of either south of Rector, east
18 to west, or of Battery Park City, which was on the west
19 side of West, were allowed to go in. We asked them to
20 stay ten minutes.

21 One of the things that came up Saturday night,
22 I went over at about 1830, and there was a line of

1 people at One Battery Park Place, which is the big
2 building right -- that we're looking, Les', with the
3 big satellite TV thing, and they said people had been
4 in their apartments for an hour and a half and the
5 building management would let people up til people came
6 down.

7 At that point, I told them, look, at 1900, it
8 gets -- it's starting to get dark here. We're under
9 orders to get people out of here, you'll get arrested,
10 and they let everybody run in and everybody ran out,
11 and we cleared out.

12 And the escorted missions usually ran from
13 about 08 to 1800, and they continued Saturday, Sunday,
14 Monday, into Tuesday, and then they started -- on
15 Tuesday, they decided that you didn't need to escort
16 people in Zone 2 south of Rector, but they would retain
17 the escorts in Zone 3.

18 Now, come Wednesday afternoon, they decided
19 they didn't need that anymore. What I understand has
20 happened is in sector four, where the 642 is, there's
21 only 16 police officers. They've scaled their numbers
22 back to about 33 National Guardsmen. The majority of

1 -- it's wide open, it's got power. People are working
2 there.

3 They just want the military presence out on
4 the --

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** For comfort.

6 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** For comfort, right. The same
7 with Zone 5. Actually, Monday -- or Tuesday and
8 Wednesday this week were the Jewish holiday of Rosh
9 Hashana.

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Which is their New Year's. It
12 starts at sundown and that command a police captain or
13 chief for Zone 5 told MAJ Dikeman that the 258 could
14 actually stand down for two days, that they were not
15 necessary during Rosh Hashana, because they didn't
16 anticipate really any traffic.

17 And what actually happened was on Monday, the
18 traffic was very light, but it picked up Tuesday and
19 Wednesday it picked up, even with the Jewish holidays.

20 I guess a lot of people waited to see if the
21 idiots who came in Monday made it home alive and once
22 they did, they sent in more people.

1 But what they told me has happened was that a
2 lot of the buildings, while they have power, because
3 they have large generator trucks and things like that,
4 they don't have telephone service.

5 So the people came in, kind of restructured,
6 did what they could, but without any way to phone or
7 internet or any of that sort of stuff, there was no way
8 for them to function. So yesterday, at 11:00 o'clock,
9 a lot of the people who streamed in were streaming out.

10 So what the expectation is from the police
11 chiefs, and, of course, this will change 30 times
12 before today is over, is that by the middle of the next
13 week, they may be rid of Zone 4 and 5, just collapse
14 those down.

15 And then Battery Park north of Albany, which
16 is where there's a lot of storage of crushed material
17 and things up there, they're going to fence off and
18 they'll get rid of the Zone 3 then.

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

20 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And then Zone 2, once they
21 have power, they tell me by the weekend, they're
22 supposed to have power to smaller buildings, and, by

1 the middle of next week, to the larger buildings, they
2 get rid of Zone 2, and then you just have a larger
3 police presence.

4 And we're not sure quite yet what they want,
5 continued National Guard presence.

6 **MAJ MELNYK:** The goal ultimately is then you
7 just have a Zone 1 and a piece of Zone 3 that's
8 immediately adjacent to the World Trade Center.

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That would be sealed, right.
10 You would fence it off north of Albany and West Street,
11 and you would have people then limited from Chambers
12 south to Rector and from Broadway to the water, would
13 be the zone that they're working.

14 They are going through -- the DDC is going
15 through.

16 **MAJ MELNYK:** DDC is?

17 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That's the Edison -- I don't
18 actually know what the hell it stands for. Department
19 of Building Structural Safety is what they are.

20 **MAJ MELNYK:** But it's DDC.

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** DDC, they said. I may be
22 screwed up and it's like DBC, the Department of

1 Building Code.

2 They actually gave us an OP order saying these
3 are the -- anybody on this list of acronyms you can let
4 into the site, and it's literally like three pages of
5 acronyms, none of which we know.

6 But I actually got a call on Wednesday from a
7 MAJ Johnson at the EOC, at the Office of Emergency
8 Management, Emergency Operations Center, and he told me
9 that -- I think I gave the OP order to the 101.

10 He told me that there were some National
11 Guardsmen stopping New York City officials from taking
12 pictures and that they needed to let these guys take
13 pictures, because they're with the Department of
14 Buildings, and they want to assure that the buildings
15 inside the sector are stable.

16 So I called up and I passed that down to the
17 Aviation and I also then told MAJ Johnson you better --
18 you have to call the 53rd Troop Command, because there
19 are units in here who report to them and not to
20 Aviation Brigade, to make sure that's been done.

21 And overall, I think that the vast majority of
22 the mission has been pretty successful. You walk

1 around now, it's amazing to see how different it was
2 from when we got here.

3 **MAJ MELNYK:** Sure. Would you slip to an
4 overall assessment?

5 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah. Actually, I was going
6 to have -- I'll tell you, some of the other things, I
7 don't know that anybody talked about, but Saturday and
8 Sunday, the 69th Scouts got tasked to go out with the
9 police and they were up clearing roofs and things like
10 that.

11 **MAJ MELNYK:** I interviewed a scout.

12 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Good. Because that was the
13 last body part found down here, outside of the dig
14 site. Somebody found an ear and a piece of scalp on
15 Saturday.

16 Sunday, they went out. Overall, it seems to
17 have gone very well. We've only had, like I said, I
18 think there were two incidents with the police kind of
19 threatening people. Most of those guys are just strung
20 out.

21 There hasn't seemed to be any sort of fighting
22 with the fire department, although if you listen to the

1 cops and the firemen, I guess on a regular basis,
2 there's territorial disputes between the two
3 departments about who is in charge of a scene if there
4 is a fire or break-in.

5 So both the fire and the police seem very
6 happy that the military is here. We're kind of the
7 honest broker, the third --

8 **MAJ MELNYK:** You're not the first one to say
9 that.

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** The third party.

11 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

12 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That's something I've heard
13 continuously. A lot of the citizens are very thankful,
14 I guess, that the military was here. When the 101 CAV
15 came off with those machine guns, and, like I said, it
16 made CNN, we had people coming down saying thank God,
17 thank God the Army is here. Somebody said "I finally
18 feel safe."

19 **MAJ MELNYK:** That was not the reaction,
20 though, of the civilian authorities.

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** No. The civilian authorities,
22 like I said, they clearly saw this as under siege. We

1 got the lunatic Bruce Willis general out here torturing
2 people and they never wanted to give that authority
3 [Reference to the 1998 movie "The Siege"]. They wanted
4 -- the city is in control, and that's exactly what you
5 want to do. You don't want to have the government
6 overreact to a terrorist act, shut down, and have the
7 populous see that not only the government is powerless
8 to protect you, but they're a bunch of idiots, as well.

9 So the city has done, I think, a great job in
10 that way, organizing this massive effort, because
11 normally, I guess, you would have the SEMA, the State
12 Emergency Management, and FEMA, the federal guys, but
13 it definitely seems to me that the city is controlling
14 it.

15 There's been a lot of questions about chain of
16 command. There's so many different organizations, so
17 many different entities.

18 I think on Saturday, we actually -- or
19 Thursday, when it was raining, we got a call that the
20 city OEM was setting up a joint emergency OPS center at
21 115 Broadway and that they would issue new orders and
22 they wanted to realign the National Guard units and

1 change our mission and do this and that, and after
2 three hours of planning, they got ready to go.

3 They called it the joint OPS center and was
4 told by OEM that the joint OPS center was causing too
5 much confusion, that they had closed them down and
6 rescinded all their orders. So there was that.

7 There was also, like I said, a lot of other
8 military guys running around. General Klein had to
9 close down these --

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** CDR Hardy.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah, CDR Hardy and Gil
12 Mestler and these other guys who were just running
13 around. Now, maybe they're trying to do good, but
14 we're not in the chain of command and were causing
15 questions.

16 Then, of course, the concern comes up that if
17 somebody, one of these guys does something stupid or
18 bad, everybody's going to -- you know, they think we're
19 all the same entity.

20 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

21 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** You're all the National Guard.
22 But to the average citizen, people are calling me --

1 often, they were calling my wife. I live in Westfield
2 [NJ], which is a nice enough town, and a lot of people
3 were financial or attorneys here, and have called up
4 and said "Oh, we see the Army out there, you know,
5 they're the only presence that makes you feel safe."

6 And the Battery Park people, on Saturday, said
7 that to me a couple times. They said, "You know,
8 there's 30,000 people that live south of Rector in
9 Battery Park City," and they said, "we understand this
10 is horrible, it's terrible, you can't imagine it," but
11 they said, "nobody said anything about us."

12 They said "We were evacuated, we're homeless."

13 One guy I tried to make a joke to, I said, "Well, at
14 least you're getting a discount on the rent," and he
15 said, "Jesus, man," he goes, "I just bought my place
16 for a million-eight." And I said, "Oh, sorry."

17 **MAJ MELNYK:** Property value just plummeted.

18 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** But, you know, these people
19 were saying that they were here and the city has not
20 done anything, the state hasn't done anything, and the
21 only people who did anything to help them were the
22 Army.

1 The 69th did a great job at that checkpoint.
2 They set it up. They had water there. They had masks.
3 They escorted people. They waited for them. They
4 carried stuff if it was too much.

5 We had one crazy woman over there. Did you
6 hear about that one?

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** Yeah, yeah. They told me about
8 it.

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Kate Bernstein.

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** She accused the guard of looting.

11 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. Of sleeping in their
12 apartments and looting, and that's why it took so long
13 to get people in there, because we had to wake our
14 soldiers up, figure out what to take, and then get out
15 there.

16 And what they did was they actually -- they
17 stopped the escort mission and said they had to get rid
18 of her because she was creating a disturbance. And
19 when they stopped the escort mission and they explained
20 that to the other 300 people, they started screaming at
21 her.

22 So the police had to come and get her out of

1 there. I told the people, it was kind of a joke, but I
2 said to somebody, I said, actually, maybe to general
3 Garrett, who was here on Monday, I said, "Sir, you want
4 to solve recruiting problems, put a freaking sign-up
5 sheet over there."

6 Most of the people down here have never had
7 any reason to deal with the military and they don't
8 know what they do or what they can do.

9 So I said overall, it seems -- and the cops,
10 despite some little hiccups here and there, we have a
11 couple of over-zealous troops not letting the cops
12 through.

13 We had one report of a soldier from one of the
14 MP units, I believe it was the 105th, who wasn't
15 briefed on the rules of engagement and they said a
16 couple of people came up to the wire, the fence, to
17 take pictures, which they can do, and this guy jumped
18 over a barricade chasing a woman down, smashed her
19 camera, and tore the film out of it.

20 That was done in a few, very few instances.
21 They talked to them, they yanked these troops off the
22 line. The 101 CAV reported that stuff. So they've got

1 a writeup on that, if you need it.

2 But overall, it's been pretty amazing. The
3 cops can't say enough good about us. The firemen, you
4 know, were amazingly pleased with what the 105th did.
5 Not everything that the firemen told them to do they
6 should have done.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

8 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** As you see in that Times
9 article, if they're under those buildings that could
10 collapse.

11 **MAJ MELNYK:** Yeah. They've been instructed
12 not go into those buildings and they have.

13 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. And, actually, on
14 Sunday --

15 **MAJ MELNYK:** This is reference to a New York
16 Times article published in today's paper, the 21st of
17 September, about looting that's gone on underneath the
18 World Trade Center, and it was National Guard soldiers
19 of the 105th who discovered it.

20 What is not revealed in the article is that
21 they did not belong down there looking around. They
22 had been specifically instructed not to go there.

1 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** To stay out. Right.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** It's a dangerous place.

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** We were told actually on
4 Sunday, and actually to eliminate any possibility that
5 the National Guard would be looting, like that crazy
6 woman had said, on Sunday, they had told us keep our
7 soldiers out of the buildings, which was another kind
8 of funny thing, because the scouts for the 69th,
9 they're in fairly good shape, and they were able to,
10 not easily, but able to run up and down 50 flights of
11 stairs, and they said, you know, now, the new orders
12 came in Sunday, they are not go in the building, they
13 are to secure the exterior and the cops were to run up
14 and down.

15 And the scouts came back to me said, "Sir, you
16 know, we'll do what you order, but you're going to have
17 30 dead cops as a result of this."

18 So there's been a lot of cooperation, a lot of
19 support. And as I say, even within the first couple
20 days, when we would drive back to the 69th's Armory, I
21 would drive up to the [107th Support Group's] Park
22 Avenue Armory, the average person on the street is out

1 there, they want the military, they want -- it's now
2 like "go kill them [terrorists]", do this, do that.

3 As late as Monday, people -- police officers
4 on the street were saying, you know, this martial law
5 is going pretty well, and I would explain it wasn't
6 martial law, had a couple of patrol officers ask me, I
7 think, even Tuesday morning, are we all carrying
8 pistols, since they don't see our rifles out.

9 And I said, actually, no, we don't have any,
10 but what did stick in their heads was the CNN loop and
11 the weapons.

12 So they all think we're armed. They all think
13 -- the police really think, especially still at some of
14 the lower levels, that they report to us. It seemed
15 when we showed up, people thought that we would just
16 take over.

17 That hasn't been the way it worked and it
18 seems to work amazingly smooth compared to, I guess,
19 other things I've seen, and with this amazingly complex
20 -- there's got to be 800 different agencies,
21 departments here.

22 So overall, you've got to be kind of impressed

1 with it, that it's worked, that the city is back to
2 normal. All of the good food is drying up, it looks
3 like.

4 **MAJ MELNYK:** One week into it and people have
5 already started to get back to normal, and that means
6 not sending donations to all the rescue workers.

7 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** What they did was they took
8 all the food that was all around the periphery and
9 they've centrally located it up by the dig site, and
10 I'll tell you, on Thursday night, I was coming back
11 from the 107 Corps Support Group and Giuliani had gone
12 on the radio saying he wanted to get the city back to
13 normal.

14 And I said I'm in a Humvee moving south on
15 Park Avenue, with a green light, and some guy comes in
16 a suit, walks out in the middle of the street, head
17 down, talking on the cell phone, sticks his hand up,
18 like I'm just going to stop.

19 So we actually slam on the brakes. He looked
20 up and then ran across the street. But I said, you
21 know, at that point, the city was back to normal on
22 Thursday.

1 Once you got out of Chambers Street, which was
2 another odd thing, as some of the troops were saying.
3 Once you got out of the sector, it was all lights, the
4 movies are on, this, that, the other thing.

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** Right.

6 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And, of course, what was
7 happening if you were down here, you're standing for 18
8 hours a day. There wasn't really any relief until the
9 101 CAV would pull out, drive to Staten Island, and
10 drive back the next day.

11 But I said you've got to be impressed with the
12 operations. All these people came in, didn't wait for
13 notification, showed up.

14 They had three battalions who basically ran
15 this thing for three days, with a little help from me
16 running around. They've had a new brigade come in that
17 changed the whole plan on them, added more units.

18 There hasn't been any sort of major hiccups.
19 There hasn't been the other things they were worried
20 about, the follow-on terrorist attack, riots, mass
21 looting, any of that stuff.

22 None of that has occurred. So you've got to

1 be -- I'm actually impressed with New York most of all.

2 But I don't know. That seems to be what I got, Les'.

3 It's basically now settled into a pattern.

4 You go talk to the police in the morning, drop in on
5 them during the day, talk to the troops. The number of
6 positions has diminished. There's no more escort
7 missions.

8 **MAJ MELNYK:** It's winding down.

9 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** It's winding down.

10 **MAJ MELNYK:** The plans are now that it will go
11 on for who knows how many more rotations of Air Guard
12 and even Naval Militia troops.

13 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Yeah.

14 **MAJ MELNYK:** But the presence is winding down.

15 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** Right. I say this is funny,
16 that they ramped up, then they stood it down because
17 they said they didn't want the big military presence.

18 I said I really think it comes back to this
19 view at certain levels that it's disconcerting, yet
20 somehow reassuring.

21 And I'll tell you, the guys on the ground want
22 to keep it disconcerting. So we would be out of here,

1 go home, pick up our lives, our jobs, all that sort of
2 stuff, and, unfortunately, I think it's kind of shifted
3 into the somewhat reassuring mode.

4 **MAJ MELNYK:** Reassuring mode.

5 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And that's why we're still
6 here.

7 **MAJ MELNYK:** It's going to take months and
8 months to clean up the World Trade Center. I'm sure
9 these guys don't want to be here months and months.

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That's what the police were
11 saying, actually, if it's up to them, they're going to
12 want the military to stay and the fire department has
13 said the same thing, and they said if it continues as a
14 rescue operation, with all the sifting and stuff like
15 that, looking for bodies, it's going to take six or
16 eight months.

17 They said if it goes to a recovery operation,
18 they think it's like a two to four month time frame.

19 The police, though, are saying that they
20 expect that details down here, fence guard and all that
21 for the next six to eight months, and that they would
22 like the military to be here because of the way things

1 are.

2 **MAJ MELNYK:** And on that note.

3 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** That's what I got. If you
4 need something, I got my card.

5 **MAJ MELNYK:** I sure do.

6 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** And if I think a hundred other
7 wonderful things, I'll let you know.

8 **MAJ MELNYK:** Thank you very much for spending
9 all the time.

10 **MAJ MAGNANINI:** No problem, Les'.

11 (The interview was concluded.)

12 * * * * *