

**Summary of Evidence  
For Establishing Dates on which Cleanup  
of the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania Sites  
of the Terrorist-Related Aircraft Crashes of  
September 11, 2001, Concluded**

Prepared for the Administrator, World Trade Center Health Program  
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# Objectives

- Section 3311(a)(2)(C) of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 (Zadroga Act) requires the WTCHP Administrator to:
  - Determine the dates on which cleanup of the Pentagon and Shanksville sites of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001, concluded.
  - Determine eligibility criteria related to an increased risk of developing a WTC-related health condition as a result of exposure to airborne toxins, other hazards, or adverse conditions resulting from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.



# Pentagon – Fire Departments

- Arlington County FD served as the incident commander.
- Many volunteer FDs responded directly to the Pentagon or backfilled other stations according to mutual aid agreements.
- On September 21, 2001, the ACFD transferred control to the FBI.
  - One fire fighter company, a technical rescue team, and paramedics remained at the site until the site was turned over to DOD.
- FBI transferred control to DOD on September 26 or 28, 2001.
- Available literature does not indicate what period of time FD personnel were onsite from the end of September until the completion of demolition/cleanup on November 19, 2001.

# Pentagon – Police Departments

- Lead law enforcement – Arlington County PD, DPS (federal law enforcement with Pentagon jurisdiction), and FBI.
- Northern Virginia Law Enforcement and the Northern Virginia Sheriffs Mutual Aid Agreements – other area PDs.
- The available literature indicates PDs had a presence at the Pentagon until the site was turned over to DOD.
- The literature suggests during DOD control, services typically provided by PDs were handled onsite by military police or by DPS personnel.
- Available literature does not indicate what period of time PD personnel were onsite from the end of September until the completion of demolition/cleanup on November 19, 2001.

# Pentagon – Recovery or Cleanup Contractor

- Cleanup contractors began onsite on September 12, 2001.
  - Cleaning areas of the Pentagon outside of the impact location.
- Demolition of the impacted areas began on October 18, 2001.
- Recovery or cleanup contractors were onsite until November 19, 2001, which is the date demolition activities concluded.



# Pentagon – Volunteers

- The available information does not provide a complete listing of all volunteers onsite, or the timeframes of their participation.
- The American Red Cross and Salvation Army were contributors, and many other volunteers played a role throughout the response.
- Reasonable to conclude that at least some volunteers were onsite through September 26 or 28, 2001.
- Available information does not indicate whether volunteers were onsite during the demolition and cleanup phase of the response.





# Pentagon – Limitations

- The available information has uncertainties as to when each of the responding groups ceased increased risk activities at the Pentagon site.

# Pentagon Recommended Concluding Date

- **Pentagon site concluding date: November 19, 2001.**
- To ensure that each of the groups that did respond are provided adequate opportunity for medical monitoring and treatment benefits, WTCHP eligibility is recommended for the period covering September 11, 2001 through November 19, 2001.
- Documented air and wipe sample monitoring through September 28, 2001 indicated no exposures of concern. No information is available on exposures during the demolition of directly affected areas.



# Shanksville -- Fire Departments

- Most of the fire department personnel left the site after the FBI turned the site over to the Somerset County coroner on September 24, 2001.
- Fire department presence was limited at the Shanksville site until the conclusion of the final sweep of the crash site for aircraft parts and potential human remains on September 29–30, 2001.
- The available information does not indicate whether fire department personnel were onsite during the site restoration activities from October 1–3, 2001.



# Shanksville – Police Departments

- Most of the police department personnel left the site after the FBI turned the site over to the Somerset County coroner on September 24, 2001.
- Police department presence was limited at the Shanksville site until the conclusion of the final sweep of the crash site for aircraft parts and potential human remains on September 29–30, 2001.
- The available information does not indicate whether police department personnel were onsite during the site restoration activities from October 1–3, 2001.
- Available information suggests that law enforcement personnel remained at the site to provide security for a number of years.

# Shanksville – Recovery or Cleanup Contractor

- Environmental restoration contractors restored the site close to its original appearance from October 1–3, 2001.
  - The site was restored as close as possible to its original appearance.
  - 4–6 inches of topsoil was added on top of the crater and through the forest area.
  - The area was seeded with flowers and grasses.

# Shanksville – Volunteers

- The available information does not provide a complete listing of all volunteers onsite, or the timeframes of their participation.
- Most of the volunteers left the site after the FBI turned the site over to the Somerset County coroner on September 24, 2001.
- Volunteer activity was limited at the Shanksville site until the conclusion of the final sweep of the crash site for aircraft parts and potential human remains on September 29–30, 2001.
- The available information does not indicate whether volunteers were onsite during the site restoration activities from October 1–3, 2001.



# Shanksville – Limitations

- The available information has uncertainties as to when each of the responding groups ceased increased risk activities at the Shanksville site.

# Shanksville

## Recommended Concluding Date

- **Shanksville site concluding date: October 3, 2001.**
- To ensure that those who did respond are provided adequate opportunity for medical monitoring and treatment benefits, WTCHP eligibility is recommended for the period covering September 11, 2001 through October 3, 2001.
- Surface soils, subsurface soils, and ground water did not exceed Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection health standards. Remediation not required. No indication of surface water contamination attributable to the crash.

# Pentagon Responder – Proposed Eligibility Criteria

- **Status** – member of a fire or police department (whether fire or emergency, active or retired) or worked for a recovery or cleanup contractor, or was a volunteer.
- **Activity** – performed rescue, recovery, demolition, debris cleanup or other related services.
- **Location** – at the Pentagon site of the terrorist-related aircraft crash of September 11, 2001.
- **Time** – for at least one day during the period beginning September 11, 2001, and ending on November 19, 2001.

# Shanksville Responder – Proposed Eligibility Criteria

- **Status** – member of a fire or police department (whether fire or emergency, active or retired) or worked for a recovery or cleanup contractor, or was a volunteer.
- **Activity** – performed rescue, recovery, demolition, debris cleanup or other related services.
- **Location** – at the Shanksville, Pennsylvania site of the terrorist-related aircraft crash of September 11, 2001.
- **Time** – for at least one day during the period beginning September 11, 2001, and ending on October 3, 2001.



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