

Name: Michael DiPaula

Contact Info:

Location: walking outside to a construction trailer

Heading information:

Account(s):

<http://www.geocities.com/someguyyoudontknow33/witnesses.htm>

"It sounded like a missile," DiPaula recalls. "There were three loud thump, thump, thumps. You could hear the metal cracking and crinkling, and the explosion."

<http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/baltsun/access/169066211.html?dids=169066211:169066211&FMT=ABS&FMTS=ABS:FT&date=Sep+8%2C+2002&author=&pub=The+Sun&desc=A+Rolling+Memorial+>

DiPaula, 41, is a civilian project coordinator who is supervising long-term renovation work at the Pentagon. The morning of Sept. 11, he was at a meeting in the E ring section of the building. An electrician who was supposed to be there didn't show, so DiPaula went to look for him, walking about 60 feet outside to a construction trailer. Suddenly, an airplane roared into view, nearly shearing the roof off the trailer before slamming into the E ring. "It sounded like a missile," DiPaula recalls. "There were three loud thump, thump, thumps. You could hear the metal cracking and crinkling, and the explosion." About a dozen men and women had been sitting in the room he had left moments before. All of them were killed, plus more than 100 others in that wing of the Pentagon. DiPaula, briefly listed by authorities as missing, crawled from the flaming debris and the shroud of black smoke unscathed. He took one day off, then was ordered back to work because of his familiarity with the E ring's office layouts. "I spent a month and a half helping with the recovery of personal items," he says. "I saw body parts I didn't want to see."

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