

The Varying "Official" Notification Times - Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] to North American Aerospace Defense Command [NORAD]

Preliminary note:

On Sept. 13, 2001 the acting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (on September 11, 2001), Richard Myers, testified to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

A portion of the transcript of the hearing reads:

Senator Levin: Was that order [to scramble fighter aircraft] that you just described given before or after the Pentagon was struck? Do you know?

General Myers: That order, to the best of my knowledge, was after the Pentagon was struck.

On September 14, 2001 CBS Evening News reported that five fighter jets had scrambled before the Pentagon was hit.

On September 15, 2001 the Boston Globe reported, "A spokesman [Col. Mike Snyder] for NORAD, the North American Air (sic) Defense Command, which is charged with protecting US airspace, said the fighters were not scrambled for more than an hour after the first hijacking was reported, by which time the three buildings were struck and a fourth plane was over Pennsylvania on a course toward Washington."

On September 18, 2001 NORAD issued a news release entitled "NORAD's Response Times, Sept. 11, 2001," which states that four fighter jets were scrambled before the Pentagon was struck. This NORAD news release contains the first official notification times. Specific notification times are given for AA 11, UA 175, AA 77, but none is given for UA 93.

[Re AA 11 -- Just before 08:14 the pilot failed to respond to an instruction from the FAA air controller; at 08:21 the transponder was turned off, then the aircraft deviated from its authorized course; at 08:24 the air controller heard a hijacker issuing a threat to the passengers]

- AA 11 1 - 08:34 Testimony of FAA Administrator, Jane Garvey, to the National Commission, May 22, 2003.
2 - 08:38 National Commission Staff Statement #17, June 17, 2004; The 9/11 Commission Report, July 2004.
3 - 08:40 NORAD News Release, September 18, 2001; Testimony of NORAD representative USAF Col. W. Alan Scott to the National Commission, May 23, 2003.
4 - 09:21 [Second report, AA11 still air-borne] National Commission Staff Statement #17, June 17, 2004; The 9/11 Commission Report, July 2004. [35 minutes after AA 11 had crashed; unexplained by the National Commission].
- UA 175 1 - 08:43 NORAD News Release, September 18, 2001.
2 - 09:03 National Commission Staff Statement #17, June 17, 2004.
3 - 09:05 Testimony of NORAD representative USAF Col. W. Alan Scott to the National Commission, May 23, 2003 [22 minutes later than earlier reported; this change is unacknowledged in The 9/11 Commission Report].
4 - 09:15 The 9/11 Commission Report, July 2004.
- AA 77 1 - (08:51-8:56) "The FAA shared real-time information" -- FAA document read into the record by Commissioner Richard Ben-Veniste, May 23, 2003:
. . . we were provided a statement which comes from FAA, which I'd like to read into the record, Mr. Chairman. And it is, I am told, authored by two individuals, high level individuals at FAA, Ms. [Lynne A.] Osmus and Ms. [Linda] Schuessler. And it's entitled FAA Communications with NORAD on September 11th, 2001. "Within minutes after the first aircraft hit the World Trade Center, the FAA immediately established several phone bridges that included FAA field facilities, the FAA command center, FAA headquarters, DoD [Department of Defense], the Secret Service and other government agencies. The U.S. Air Force liaison to the FAA immediately joined the FAA headquarters phone bridge and established contact with NORAD on a separate line. The FAA shared real-time information on the phone bridges about the unfolding events, including information about loss of communication with aircraft, loss of transponder signals, unauthorized changes in course, and other actions being taken by all the flights of interest, including Flight 77. Other parties on the phone bridges in turn shared information about actions they were taking. NORAD logs indicate that the FAA made formal notification about American Flight 77 at 9:24 a.m. But information about the flight was conveyed continuously during the phone bridges before the formal notification."
2 - 09:24 NORAD News Release, September 18, 2001; Testimony of NORAD representative USAF Col. W. Alan Scott to the National Commission, May 23, 2003.
3 - 09:34 "is missing" National Commission Staff Statement #17, June 17, 2004; The 9/11 Commission Report, July 2004.
- UA 93 1 - 09:16 Testimony of NORAD representative USAF Col. W. Alan Scott to the National Commission, May 23, 2003.
2 - 10:07 National Commission Staff Statement #17, June 17, 2004; The 9/11 Commission Report, July 2004 [51 minutes later than Col. Scott had testified].

