



## REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11



By Elizabeth Campos Rajs

NEWSLINE STAFF WRITER

September 11 is one of those life-changing events that people, no matter where they were, will never forget. For many, it is comparable to the day John F. Kennedy was killed: They can tell you exactly where they were when they first heard the news and how they reacted.

But for Americans who were traveling overseas, the event had a surreal quality. They experienced the event, but because of their distance, there was a bit of emotional detachment.

One year ago today, 336 employees were away from the Lab on business travel. Of those, 266 were traveling domestically and 58 were on international travel, including many of the Lab's top management. Director Michael Anastasio was in Italy on vacation, then-Director Bruce Tarter was in Japan at an international conference and Lab Executive Officer Ron Cochran was in Russia.

Anastasio and his wife arrived in Italy Sept. 10

for a long-awaited and much anticipated vacation.

They had completed a day of sightseeing and an enjoyable dinner, when Anastasio received a phone call at the hotel where they were staying.

Anastasio, who does not provide phone numbers, hotel names or even specific destinations for his staff when he leaves on vacation, was initially perturbed at the interruption. Within moments, his emotions ranged from concern about why his assistant, Carol Boyd, was calling, incredulity that she was able to find him, and finally, stunned disbelief at the news she was delivering.

"We hadn't seen television at all. We immediately turned it on and they were doing a replay," Anastasio said. "It was very bizarre. I wanted to do something, but there was nothing I could do from there."

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—Michael Anastasio

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He and his wife had planned to vacation in Italy for 10 days. Since they couldn't get a flight out anyway, they decided to continue with their itinerary.

"Traveling around Italy, it was heart-warming to see people's reactions. In Florence, they had signs up in shop windows expressing sympathy. There was a sense of connectivity and a real outpouring of emotion," Anastasio recalled. "We were in Pisa visiting the tower when they, and many others across Europe, stopped everything for three minutes of silence at noon. That was very moving."

When the Anastasios returned to the United States more than a week later, they realized the force of emotions most Americans had experienced on that fateful day.

"When I got home, all of my friends at home and at work wanted to talk about the day. I realized I had a very different emotional experience than they did," Anastasio said. "I felt less personally involved and more detached emotionally than everyone here. I feel like I missed a big part of the experience that everyone here felt."

Tarter and about 25 Lab employees, including NIF Program Manager Ed Moses, were in Japan at an international conference on inertial fusion sciences. They completed the first full day of the conference and were in their hotel rooms when the news broke.

"I had just gone to sleep when the phone rang. It was (former AD) Mike Campbell, who was one of the principal organizers of the conference, and he was screaming at me, 'We're being attacked. We're being attacked,'" Tarter said.

It took a few minutes for the enormity of what Campbell was yelling into the phone to sink in and for Tarter to find CNN on the hotel TV.

"I sat for the next couple of hours watching TV. Our real decision was whether to continue the conference," Tarter said.

In the morning, Tarter, Campbell and the Japanese and French organizers discussed the situation and decided to continue the conference.

"Everyone was in a strange state," Tarter said. "We were emotionally connected, but it hadn't consumed us like the people here. At every break, all the Americans would watch TV, so we only got

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Ron Cochran

## Special thanks for those who organized tribute

Special thanks go to the organizing committee behind the Laboratory's September 11 tribute.

They include: Randy Bradley, Lab Fire Department; Steve Cochran, NAI; Kathy Cromwell and Roger Cuning, Director's Office; Susan Houghton, Public Affairs; Gloria Kwei, Administration & Human Resources; Monya Lane, Engineering; Cynthia Rose,

LLESA; Lynda Seaver, Public Affairs; John Smalls, Protective Force; and Kirsten Sprott, Public Affairs.

Thanks also go to those participants during the tribute, including the members of the specially assembled choir, the Protective Force color guard, and guest speakers Tom Rosenbury and Michael Carter.

## Newsline

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## The attack from different perspectives

### TRAVEL

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an hour or two a day. It was like being on the moon.”

Tarter attended the conference in the morning and would take the local train to interesting destinations around Kyoto in the afternoon.

“I had three different worlds going on for a week. It was surreal. We would gather for breakfast every morning and compare notes. Then we would go to the conference and it would feel like a conference. The third thing I would do was go into Kyoto a lot and it was like nothing had happened,” Tarter recalled.

People who wanted to leave, couldn’t. The first plane that finally left Osaka was on Saturday and Tarter took his scheduled flight on Sunday.

“It’s like the Kennedy assassination where people remember where they were when they heard the news. I will never forget Mike’s screaming phone call,” Tarter said.

Cochran and his wife, Ann Heywood, were in England attending the funeral for her brother when they received word of the crash.

“We turned on CNN and caught events just before the crash into the second tower,” Cochran said.

They were scheduled to go to Moscow, and after checking with the Lab to discover they couldn’t return to the United States anyway, they continued on to Russia for the planned meeting.

“It was an emotional roller coaster, coming right after the funeral,” Cochran said. “The Russians were very distressed, sympathetic and supportive.”

Heywood added, “Moscow was highly charged. Strangers heard us speaking English and hugged us on the streets. We went to our meeting, completed negotiations and signed our joint venture. I told the meeting that we could not let terrorists disrupt business and our way of life.”

The Lab contingent, which included Jim Trebes, was in Moscow when President Putin declared a moment of silence at 11 a.m. to honor the U.S. dead. “The whole thing was surreal,” Heywood said.

“Everything in Moscow stopped,” Cochran recalled. “The Russians sent tons of flowers to the U.S. Embassy and they lined up around the block to sign a book expressing sympathy. They were exceptionally emotional.”

Heywood said it also was very emotional when they were finally able to return home.

“My daughter from New York had been working until late August in the World Trade

“We were 12 people in a daze, driving in stunned silence to a very nice restaurant where we had reservations for dinner. As we walked in with solemn stares, a French woman said gravely ‘I’m so sorry for your country,’” Lane said. “That turned out to be a nearly unanimous and strongly supportive reaction from the French people everywhere we went — including the cab drivers.



*“I had three different worlds going on for a week. It was surreal.*

*—C. Bruce Tarter*



Center and lost a whole floor of 200 colleagues, including an eight-month pregnant girlfriend. She spent this past year going to memorial services. It seemed that my brother’s funeral was just the beginning for us,” Heywood said.

Monya Lane, Engineering operations manager, and Bob Bryant, Electronics Engineering, had just finished a tour in the Burgundy region of France. Lane had been trying to call into the Lab, but couldn’t get through. As her group climbed into the tour van, the guide turned on the radio for the first time and everyone sat in stunned disbelief, Lane said.

“The French have experienced terrorism where they live and so were outraged and were our allies right away. This support was very welcome since it felt so strange to be far away from home, and without access to much television in the small rural town where we were staying,” she said.

She and her traveling companions “devoured” every newspaper account they could get their hands on and were finally able to travel home on Sept. 16.

“I thought maybe I’d be nervous flying, but the positive sense of heading home overshadowed that tendency,” Lane said.

### TRIBUTE

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of a special Lab color guard and bagpipe performance. Anastasio will then introduce members of the Lab’s Protective Force, who will put together a special “Table of Remembrance” ceremony to honor firefighters, police officers and other rescue workers who were killed fol-

lowing the collapse of the World Trade Center towers.

Also included in the ceremony will be a 12-minute slide show recalling the attacks and the rescue and recovery efforts; recollections from Lab employees who were deployed to New York, Washington and other areas; and the unveiling of a special quilt to commemorate Sept. 11.

During the ceremony, Anastasio will take time to honor various groups of

employees, including those who were deployed to assist in homeland security and counterterrorism work; support teams at the Lab; protective force officers and other emergency responders charged with safeguarding the Lab; and employees who were called to military service to fight the war on terrorism.

The ceremony will conclude with performances by a specially assembled choir made from members of the Lab’s various employee groups.