

THE DEA MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES

February 23, 2011

RANDY SAYLES

00:00:00 Sean Fearn: Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. On behalf of all of us here at the DEA Museum staff, let me welcome you here this morning. My name is Sean Fearn. I'm going to offer a special welcome to those who are joining us live on the Internet. The museum is webcasting this lecture this morning -- our first webcast and we hope that we fed the hamster and the wheel will spin and everything will work. All future lecture programs will be live webcast as well.

This morning we have a very interesting program for you, whether you're part of DEA currently, retired DEA or perhaps just interested in learning more about our operations overseas. DEA is very much an international organization with agents, intelligence analysts and support staff assigned all over the world.

00:00:46 This morning we're going to step back in time and learn about an incident that occurred in 1979. Our guest this morning is retired Special Agent Randy Sayles. Randy is a former Marine, began his law enforcement career as a Denver police officer in June of 1969. He actually rose up through the ranks to detective before joining DEA as a special agent in 1974. He's recruited and assigned to work specifically undercover. If we had all the time in the world, I'm sure there are some amazing undercover stories from here in the US, Randy.

00:01:22 He also served -- in addition to Denver, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City. He has done undercover work as well as diplomatic and liaison assignments in Pakistan, which is the reason for today's program -- as well as Brazil in the 1980s. He was also promoted to multiple supervisory and executive staff positions, both here at DEA

headquarters as well as our DEA training academy at Quantico, FBI headquarters, DEA offices in New Orleans, Chicago, Panama and Peru.

00:01:55

In December of 2001, the DEA Administrator promoted Special Agent Sayles to become Deputy Assistant Administrator for the intelligence program, managing over 900 employees. It was from that position that he retired from DEA in December of 2003.

I should note that Special Agent Sayles' involvement in the incidents that we're going to hear about today in Pakistan earned him a very special honor. The attorney general presented him the Medal of Heroism, Extraordinary Bravery and Valor. I'm sure we will hear more about that today.

00:02:28

Please join me in welcoming Special Agent Randy Sayles. I will ask you to please hold your questions until the end and we'll have an opportunity for that. I only ask you to please wait for the microphone before asking your question.

Ladies and gentlemen, Special Agent Randy Sayles.

Randy Sayles:

Welcome, ladies and gentlemen. I want to welcome all of my colleagues.

00:03:07

First of all, I want to thank Sean. I want to thank you for your visionary approach to running the DEA Museum. I want to thank Catie Drew, wherever she is, for helping me put together this presentation. I also want to thank Mary Cooper, who's a special agent. She's a chief of Congressional and Public Affairs who reviewed and recommended for approval this presentation. I want to thank the DEA Administrator, Michele Leonhart, who's the first special agent and female to rise through the ranks to become the head of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

00:03:47 The person's name is not up there, but I'd like for him to stand -- Tommy Harrigan, who has just recently -- please stand, Tommy. Tommy Harrigan has just been nominated by President Obama to become the Deputy Administrator. He's now serving as a chief of operation. If you check, he has his gun on his leg.

I want to thank all my colleagues from DEA, from my Saturday breakfast club, from [NAMNA, from AFNA] and all of the other professional law enforcement agencies who are supporting DEA and supporting me with regards to this presentation.

00:04:27 I want to thank my friends, neighbors, some of whom -- one of whom -- came all the way from Fairfax County Club Rec Center, where I work out with him and some of the others who came in this morning at 4:30 in the morning. I want to thank -- I have several neighbors from my Creekside Community.

There are two people I want to thank particularly by name. One is Jerry Kennedy from the Denver police department. He's a retired deputy chief who recruited me into law enforcement and gave me -- I believe -- a good solid foundation on which to build in working with DEA and all of the other law enforcement and professional agencies that I work with.

00:05:10 And finally, I want to thank my niece, [Sharae Crosdale.] Please stand up. [Sharae Crosdale] is my wife's niece. She's here representing the huge [Crosdale] family. My wife did not want to be here. It's a little emotional for her, but [Sharae] represents the huge [Crosdale] family that's in New York, northern Jersey and Panama -- for accepting me into this world here in New York.

00:05:48 We're going to be talking about our heroes. Our heroes listed up here on the screen. Stephen J. Crowley, corporal, United States Marine Corps, Nazeer Hussain, Foreign Service National -- Pakistan -- who was an

employee in the embassy. Brian Ellis, warrant officer, United States Army. Sharaft Ahmed, Foreign Service National -- Pakistan. These employees lost their life on that day in the interests of the United States government as well as the Pakistani government, working collaboratively in the initiatives that we were pursuing.

00:06:23

Our other heroes are Loyd G. Miller, master gunnery sergeant -- Marine Corps -- who was in charge of the Marine detachment that day. David C. Fields, who was a counselor for administration -- State Department employee, who was a senior official, who was calling the shots as best he could in the embassy that day, and finally, his wife, Fran C. Fields. She was a nurse -- State Department employee -- all of whom were in the embassy that day.

I also want to talk just briefly about the Drug Enforcement Administration. Drug Enforcement Administration pushes philosophy -- and this philosophy factored in prominently in what myself and my boss, Country Attaché Claude Powers, who was over at the embassy with me that day.

00:07:11

The Drug Enforcement Administration is a small agency among a number of mammoth agencies. However, because of the employees that you see listed here -- special agents, intelligence research specialists, diversion investigators, chemists, secretaries, special assistants, those who work in the office of Human Services and Administration -- we are known for being very vocal with regards to our issues. We will disagree with you very strongly, but at the end of the day, what is most important to Drug Enforcement Administration agents, employees, all who are listed here -- we pull together, supporting one another, realizing it's a team that'll get this to the end -- that allow us to play on the field with the other bigger agencies, do as well -- and in most instances, do better.

00:08:02 It was November 4th, 1979 in Tehran, Iran. There was a demonstration that apparently started out peacefully with regards to the deposed Shah of Iran who was in Manhattan being treated for cancer. The demonstrators wanted to put pressure on the United States government to have the Shah be returned to Iran to face whatever opposition they had to him and his running of the country.

00:08:32 That pressure was in the form of marching on the embassy and it got out of hand. They got into the embassy, they took hostages. Initially it was 60 hostages. There were some hostages that were released. There were some hostages that escaped, but ultimately there were a number of hostages that was held for 444 days. That's about 13 months. Now we presume they were held in the country of Iran -- and the reason why we presume is we don't know where they were. The United States government and all its colleagues could not find those hostages.

00:09:07 November 21th 1979, with the provocation from Khomeini over in Iran -- there was a rumor that was put out that Americans had disrespected a mosque. As a result, there was a demonstration and there were a number of people who marched on the United States embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Now I put this slide up here to say initially this -- many of the photographs that you're going to see today are the photographs that I've had in my possession for 32 years. No one has ever seen them until yesterday, when the DEA Museum people saw them. I brought them in. These photographs were taken the day after the siege and they was given to me and I never really told anybody. Nobody knew I had them except for my wife and I've never disclosed them in public until today.

00:10:02 I put this photograph up here. Even though this photograph was taken the day afterwards and it shows some sign of the destruction, it will not give

you a clear sense until we go on further. But I wanted to put this photograph up here to give you a sense what the compound looked like.

Now on November 21st 1979, I was at the Marine Corps house waiting to get a haircut because the ambassador had invited those single people -- and I was single because Frances, my girlfriend/wife, was back in New York -- those single people along with the Marines, who were all single to Thanksgiving dinner the next day. I was there, former Marine, interacting with them, waiting to get a haircut when about 12:30 or so the ambassador -- who had left with some other senior officials from the embassy going down a long road leaving the embassy -- saw a large contingent of people going toward the embassy.

00:11:02

Seeing as how the embassy was the only complex at that end of the road, the ambassador called back to the Marine house and indicated that they should be alert, that there's a large number of people coming that direction. The Marines told me that they needed to man their posts so I decided, okay, is there anything I need to do, et cetera? They say, no, we have these demonstrations all the time. Don't worry about it.

So I start walking down this road. Now mind you, all these pictures that you're going to see now are pictures that are taken after the fact, the next day, but it gives you a sense of -- I was walking down this road from this end of the complex going toward the cafeteria and I really didn't think too much about it because the Marines didn't appear to be too upset, just doing what they normally do.

00:11:54

I was going toward the cafeteria and going down that road toward the cafeteria, there was bricks that began to come over the fence. So I figured, well, maybe this is not what the Marines are saying. Maybe there should be a little bit more anxiety than what I have.

So I went into the cafeteria and I said to the people in the cafeteria -- I explained what had happened -- the ambassador's call, the Marines reporting to their stations and basically the people in the cafeteria said, you're new. Don't worry about it. Demonstrations all the time. It's okay.

00:12:35

So I was going to have lunch, but I just -- something wasn't sitting well with me so I decided go up to our office. Now our office -- I don't know if you can see that well here, but the building -- this is all blackened. It's all black from the fire and our office was up on the second floor. So I go up into our office, the DEA office. This is County Attaché Powers' office. This is what it looked like afterwards.

00:13:12

Then I go up to the office. I tell Country Attaché Powers basically what's going on. He basically said what they had said in the cafeteria -- you're new. Don't worry about it. Demonstrations all the time. The Marines are on top of it. I hear gunfire. I know that's gunfire. I'm a policeman. I'm a DEA agent. It's gunfire.

So I decided to go down to Post One and coming back -- going down to Post One -- I'm just showing -- here's another room of the office -- what it looked like afterwards. I go down to Post One. This was my office. To give you the sense of this office, all of you know in government buildings, we had these huge desks -- not this modular furniture when you're overseas -- huge desks with the thick glass on it. The fire burned so intensely, unabated, that it turned the huge desks to ashes. The only thing that you can see here is the frame of the desk. The glass that was on the desk is rolled up in a ball. That's how intense the fire was.

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So I go down -- another shot of our office -- I go down to Post One. That was our front office where we had people come and wait. I go down to Post One and down at Post One, Master Gunnery Sergeant Loyd indicated that we were under attack. He told that he had [Crowley] out on the ledge, over the front of the embassy. You could kind of look through here -- and

it was similar -- this is not the actual photo, but there was an opening like this where you could look out and if [Crowley] was out there, you could see him out there.

00:15:11

So [Crowley] was supposed to be out there. The other two Marines that was on that lobby at Post One, they were at their posts. The gunny had given the word for people to start evacuating up to the vault. So I go back up to my office. This is a slide -- this is an actual bullet hole into the embassy here.

I go back up to my office and I told Powers what's going on. So Powers and I, we both go to the safe. We get our DEA weapons -- and I just have to throw this in -- the weapon that I got out of the safe was a little .38 model ten. That's what they issue us, but that was not the weapon that I normally carried. What had been approved for me to carry was a Browning high-powered nine millimeter 13 shot, but that weapon was in my luggage in my airfreight and sea freight, which all had just arrived. So that was in my apartment waiting to be unpacked.

00:16:21

So anyway, I got this .38. Powers and I, we go down to Post One. We get down to Post One. There's a lot of activity, but it's orderly. People moving quickly. They're going up to the vault. We asked the gunny -- County Attaché Powers and myself ask the gunny what assistance could we provide. Powers was directed to help the people get back up into the vault and provide security up at the vault. I was supposed to help the gunny and the three agents that were down at Post One.

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Well, I go and look for [Crowley] and I look -- I don't see [Crowley]. When I look closer, [Crowley] is down. He's down on his back and so I told the gunny, I say, hey, Crowley is down on his back. So I go out through that little opening I showed you earlier in that slide. I go out and I try to grab [Crowley] and his throat by the collar to pull him in. When I pull him up, I could see that he had a head wound in the side of his head

that didn't appear to be too bad. Once I pulled him up, I could see at the back portion of his head, he had a very, very serious head wound. So I put him back down. I come back in. I tell the gunny what I saw and that we need something to try to get around his head.

00:18:00

The gunny -- and I can't remember particularly what it was, but the gunny got something and then the gunny went out, took care of his head, pulled him in, put him in a fireman's carry and took him up to the vault.

Now the vault in that building I showed you earlier -- I showed you that DEA was up on the second floor. The vault was up on the third floor, on the back side where there's no windows. This is not one of the photos that I took, but this is a diagram from Time Magazine, November or December of 1979 that is pretty accurate with regards to the vault. Here is the vault where the majority of the people were in. The majority of us were here. There was another vault over here that I didn't know about until later on in the siege where there were a small number of people. As you can see indicated, there were a very, very small number of people in this vault. [Crowley] was taken up here, into this vault and was taken and put over in care of Fran Fields, the embassy nurse.

00:19:07

I'm down at Post One. At Post One, you have two Marines. You have gunny and [Crowley] up in the vault. You have Powers -- Country Attaché Powers -- and all of the staff that we thought in the embassy that was in the vault, but we found out later that there was two staff that were not in the vault. We'll talk about that later.

So I'm down with the two Marines and the Marines are at -- there's an entrance into a lobby and then before you can actually get into an embassy, you got to go through another door. This particular door that you have to go to, to actually get into the main portion of the embassy, there's a cylinder and that's where you have Post One. You have the one

Marine who's in that cylinder. He has a little opening where he can take your identification, he can clear you and guide you through the door.

00:20:01

This Marine was in that cylinder and the other Marine, he was outside the cylinder here. The demonstrators were banging on the door and I thought correctly that they was going to get through that door. So I leave Post One. I go back upstairs and I ask the counsel for administration, Mr. Fields, who was the senior person in the embassy at the time -- you know what? I asked the gunny, but it was Mr. Fields who answered because back then -- that's since been changed -- back then, in those situations -- any type of situation -- the direction doesn't come from the military person or the security person. It came from the senior State Department official, who in this instance was the counsel for administration.

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I asked, can we use force? Can we shoot? No, you cannot use force. You cannot shoot. So I looked to the gunny and the gunny -- I mean, his indication was clear -- that we had to do what Mr. Fields said.

So I go back to Post One to see what's going on and when I got back down there, they had gotten -- the demonstrators had come through that front door. They're now in the lobby and they're trying to get through the last remaining door to get inside the embassy.

00:21:30

I go back upstairs and I tell him -- this is not good. We got to be able to do something. We have to be able to shoot these people because if they get in, we're going to get in trouble. We're going to get caught up here. So the counsel for administration said, the only thing that you can do is use gas. You cannot shoot. Under no circumstances can you shoot. You can use gas.

So I go back down. I tell the Marines, we can't shoot, but you can use gas. So the two Marines -- one in the cylinder, the other one down here -- he's taking the gas. He's handing it up under to this Marine. He's taking

it. He's opening the door. He's throwing it out. He's shutting the door. He's reaching for another one.

00:22:12

Now in the process of doing that, the gas canister explodes. The people in the lobby -- I mean, they went berserk. That gas hit them -- and as all of you know, when the gas hits you, it starts stinging, you can't see, your face starts blistering. They start hitting that cylinder and you could see that we were going to have a real problem.

In the process of them hitting that cylinder and then trying to hit that door, trying to get through that door, the Marines got off track and get the gas, but the door's not opened. He throws the cylinder, it hits the closed window, it bounces back and explodes. So the gas goes up and it comes down and the Marine who's inside, now he has the gas on his skin. He's blistering up. He can't see.

00:23:04

So the second Marine, he heads towards the vault to let the gunny and everyone know what's going on. I get the Marine to come out of the cylinder because I know what he has to do immediately -- you have to get water on it to try to flush it, to get it off his face so that he'll be able to see. So I take him across the hallway to the bathroom and I tried to put his head up under the face basin, but I can't get his head under the face basin because it's too big and he's struggling a bit.

So I turned around. I opened up the commode. I put his head down in the commode. I flushed -- but the water was clean. The water was clean. I put his head in the commode. I flushed the commode. That was sufficient enough to get the residue off of his eyes at least, to keep him from rubbing his eyes so that he could see. Got his composure. Now his face had blistered all up so he heads up. We go back up to the vault. We get into this vault here.

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Now we have to determine -- the gunny has to determine -- what are we going to do? When I went back up to the vault this time, I saw that the nurse had [Crowley] -- over in the corner she had oxygen on him. So his heart is beating, but I didn't think that his situation was good. His heart was still beating.

Now from noon until 3:20 PM, the gunny, myself, a couple of Marines and at one point, Country Attaché Powers -- we kept leaving the vault. We were trying to find -- is there a way out? We were doing recon, trying to determine, where are the demonstrators? That goes a couple of times and we go back after about two or three times and we get back to the vault. Now it's the gunny and I. We're going to go out.

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The gunny wanted Powers to stay in the vault for main security. Two of the Marines had become a little overcome with the smoke and gas because, as you understand, we had gas masks on, but the gas masks are not effective against smoke from a fire. So you had these Marines -- the two younger Marines -- they had kind of become overcome and at one point, the gunny, the two Marines and I, we went out, we're doing the recon and we come back down this long hallway to go to the vault. That's dark down there. There're no windows.

00:35:38

We get back. We knock. We get in. The gunny goes in, I go in, but the two Marines are not there. Where are they? So now the gunny and I, we have to go back to find out where they are and on the way down, they had kind of passed out a little bit. So we get them in the vault.

So at this point, the gunny decided that, Randy, you and I -- we'll go. Powers, you stay on top of this. So this is the destruction that you're seeing that occurred between noon and 3:20 PM. Not so fast. Back up. Back up, please. Back up.

00:26:23

These photos -- I think you can see, the situation was not good. This is the apartment complex. Now up here -- you can't see, but it's all blackened and at 3:20, we're in the vault and I see Fran Fields, the nurse, the wife of the counsel for administration, I see her going over to her husband and she's whispering. Then the husband calls the gunny and myself over. Corporal [Crowley] -- it was at this point that Corporal [Crowley] was pronounced dead because the oxygen had run out and when the oxygen run out, his heart stopped beating.

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The nurse and Mr. Fields didn't want the rest of the people in the vault to know this because the nurse and Mr. Fields was doing their damndest to try to keep everybody calm so that we could all hold together and we could all stick together to get out.

Here's more photos showing you the intensity. Now you see -- I moved it from noon to 5:20 PM. Back up one. You had cars -- now these cars that you see down here -- these cars were originally up on a hill. What the demonstrators did, they took the cars and they tried to run them into the compound here with the gasoline in the cars and setting them on fire to further fuel these buildings that had already been set on fire. You can see here -- you can see all the destruction that occurred.

00:28:22

Now you can see better here how blackened this building is here. These are marble and concrete buildings. To be blackened like this -- you understand the intensity of the fire. You can see here that it's fire and what they couldn't burn, they attempted to destroy. You can see here.

Here is where my bedrooms -- I had a three bedroom apartment because I tried being so smart. Tommy Harrigan and them will tell you, hey, he wants to go this way when we're going this way. They had a house -- DEA had a nice house for me -- a huge house, but I didn't want to live in the house by myself so I came back to DEA and they negotiated with the

embassy to get me onto the compound in an apartment. This was one of my bedrooms.

00:29:19

Now mind, you there was a bed in here. There was furniture in here. There was my airfreight and sea freight on top of the bed. The day after, this is what it looked like. Next slide. This is my second bedroom. Next slide. Now this bedroom -- this wasn't mine, but this was another bedroom in one of the apartments. As you can see, everything was reduced to ashes. Next slide.

Up here was where my apartment was, up on this floor. You can't see it that well now, but that's all blackened. Next slide. Here -- I don't know if you could see this, but this is a stove. This is a stove in my apartment. Look how intense the fire was. Next slide. Next slide.

00:30:16

About 5:40 PM, the embassy nurse, Fran Fields -- she goes over to her husband. Her husband signals for the gunnery sergeant. The gunnery sergeant signals for me to come over. Powers -- and she says, we only have 15 minutes more of air. Now the situation that we had is that we're in this vault. Remember, we went up into that vault around about 12:30 or one o'clock. Fire -- during our recon, we actually saw demonstrators with cans of gasoline in their hands going from room to room. I wanted to just shoot them. The gunny said we couldn't because we didn't have the permission.

00:31:07

I was a little confused so I argued, but we didn't get through that. The reason why I was confused -- my position was, they had announced their intentions once they shot [Crowley]. So to me, all holds off. Secondly, I came from the Denver police department. If we roll up on an arson call and we saw the person with a match, we didn't have to wait. I don't know about anyplace else, but in the Denver police department, we didn't have to wait for them to light. We saw them with a match, we could shoot them. My position was, not only have we seen them with matches, we've

seen them with gasoline. Their place is on fire. They're going from room to room. So why can't we shoot them?

00:31:51

The vault became so hot that there were things on the wall like this -- burned right off the wall. The carpet on the floor burned. The glue that was holding the tile melted and the tile was moving around.

Fran Fields had people getting up on top of furniture because the floor was too hot to stand on. The floor was too hot to walk on. She had been monitoring the air. Her husband had initially been in communication with the ambassador at another location. The ambassador was in contact with, obviously, Washington DC, was in contact with the president of Pakistan. He was in contact with everyone he could to try to get help to come. The ambassador was being told that help was en route. The help was there, but we were able to tell them that there is no help here. The only banging that we heard on the doors was the banging of the demonstrators. We heard the demonstrators firing down the airshaft. We saw the demonstrators. There was no help.

00:33:10

So Fran Fields told her husband, we only have 15 minutes more of air. If we don't get out of here in 15 minutes, we're not going to make it. So the gunny says to me, I know a way out. I said, okay, fine. So the gunny and I go out. Powers stays back to make sure nobody comes back in, stays back with the Marines. The gunny and I, we come down -- there's a hallway here. We go down here and then -- this doesn't show, but there was a hallway that came to -- there's a door. It's not here, but it was really over here. Not this door -- there's another door over here.

00:33:57

He knocked on the door and I heard a voice. I said, who is that? He said, the spooks. I'm saying, this guy has a great sense of humor in this situation. What's wrong with you? I asked him again. He said, the spooks. Then it dawns on me who he's talking about. The door cracks, but they don't want to let us in. They're telling the gunny that we can't come in for

whatever reasons -- it wasn't important to me. My position was, I'm DEA. We going to get the job done. I went around the gunny, pushed in. The gunny came in. We shut the door.

00:34:38 There's a different situation in there. Because of what was in there, it had to be nice and cool. The air was good. They had water. They had C-rations. They had an escape hatch right here that went up to the ceiling. So the gunny, his idea was that he was going to go up the escape hatch, he was going to unlatch it. I had a shotgun. He was going to get it unlatched and then it was my responsibility to go up and to do whatever I needed to do with whatever I encountered once I got through the escape hatch.

00:35:15 But in attempting to get the escape hatch open -- he couldn't get it open. The reason why he couldn't get it open is because the demonstrators had come to that same escape hatch on the outside and had damaged it so it wouldn't open. So the gunny and I thought that over on this side, there's a pen. If we could move this pen, we could open it the opposite way.

When the gunny came down, then we realized that we only had 15 minutes more of air. We don't know where to get something to move this and that. So we go back to the vault. The gunny says to me and he says to Powers, we're going to have to take the roof. We're going to have to go up on the roof. So the gunny -- it's the gunny, two Marines, myself. Powers stays back to make sure nobody gets in the vault.

00:36:12 We go to -- there was some stairs that -- the vault that I showed you. We went to the right to go to the other vault. If we go to the left, there's some stairs that lead up to the roof. So the gunny indicated that he was going to go first and he was going to go to the left. He was going to cover everything from six o'clock imaginarily around to 10 o'clock.

The second person was a Marine. He was going to go to the right. He was going to cover everything from two o'clock around to six o'clock. I was

third. I was going to go straight. I was going to cover everything from 10 o'clock to two o'clock. The last Marine who's going to come through the door, he's not going to let anybody come back through -- not unless it's us. That was our job.

00:37:03

I know from being a former Marine, I know from being a Denver police officer and I know from being a DEA agent that we have to carry out our assigned responsibility. We could not fail because if we fail, then it was going to put undue burden on the other team members. We had to do it. We had to make this happen.

We go up through the vault. Everybody does what they're supposed to do. I take off running. Let me back up. I have to talk about this gunny. This guy was unbelievable. Just before we go, he says, everybody ready? We're ready -- I mean, been ready to get out of here. He goes in his pocket and this guy's -- I mean, just like on the TV -- he has a little cigar that's about like this. This guy puts this in his mouth. I mean, let's go. Okay, let's go.

00:37:56

As I'm running across the roof, I see some hands. It's over on this side over here. I see some hands. So I run. This guy, he doesn't have a uniform on or anything so my thing is, he's a demonstrator. So I pointed the gun at his head and I'm pulling the trigger and I'm pulling the trigger -- and it's not firing. So naturally -- you know what this guy does. He freezes for a minute and then he sees that I don't have my stuff together so he drops and now I'm going crazy, yelling and screaming.

00:38:31

Gunny comes up. "Randy, Randy, Randy, Randy, you're still okay. We're okay." Well, you know what happened? I'm third in line. I want to make sure that that gun doesn't misfire. I had my finger on the trigger guard. I forget to take it off the trigger guard and put it on the trigger. So when I had this thing on his head and I'm pulling the trigger guard, it's not going to move.

Anyway, so I stay. Gunny leaves me up on the roof with the other two Marines. Gunny goes back down in. He meets up with Powers and they move the employees from here. They don't come out this door here like we did to go around. All kind of crazy stuff that I know about. They had another door that led -- they could go right across the hallway immediately to that door where we knocked at and they said -- the spooks, this and that.

00:39:34

So they go in, move everybody over here, one by one, up the ladder, onto the roof, come over here on this side and there was a ladder that the demonstrators -- presumably, because we didn't get any help so it couldn't have been people who was helping us. It had to be the demonstrators who put the ladder there. So we came down the ladder one by one, down to the ground.

Now there was the British Embassy that was at a distance and there was a US Marine going back and forth between the British Embassy and a US building that was monitoring. So when they see us come up -- by the way, when we get on the roof, we secure the roof. There's a few demonstrators down there. We see a contingent of people over here -- about 40 or so. They look like they were either Pakistani military, farming or whatever -- but they was just standing there.

00:40:30

But when they see us, they went into action. We come down. The first thing they did is they ran up on the US Marines and tried to disarm them, tried to disarm me. Well, we had been in for seven hours and we had hung together. We weren't going to give up now so they didn't get any weapons. That was not in the game plan that day. Matter of fact, they had no cooperation from us. We would not let them help us.

We walked off the United States embassy compound with our heads up high and met the Brits and the ambassador and the other Americans who

were waiting outside. We lost that day hero [Stephen J. Crowley], corporal, US Marine.

00:41:36

Here's a sad commentary. We had two Pakistani heroes. If you do your research, you will not find any -- I couldn't find anything that mentioned these people by name. [Nazeer Hussain] -- she was a female Pakistani employee who stayed at her station, working the phones trying to get assistance. We found her the next day -- she was at that workstation, gasoline had been poured on her and she was dead.

00:42:07

Next slide. The other hero was [Sharaf Ahmed], Pakistani employee. Now we believe that he was directing, helping people get up to the vault and then he got caught up in and couldn't make it and he either -- we believe that he went up under his desk to hide because the ashes from his desk was around him the next day in his office.

The next hero is Brian Ellis, warrant officer, United States Army. He was initially in the chancery, but he left the chancery to go back to the apartment complex to try to make sure that everyone's okay. He couldn't make it back to the chancery. We found him in the apartment; face down on the floor by the door. We figured that he had got there and couldn't get out so he went face down to try to get as much oxygen as he could. He was there.

00:43:02

Our next hero, who's still alive and I believe is living down in Fredericksburg, Virginia, is Loyd G. Miller, master gunnery sergeant, United States Marine Corps.

Our next hero is David C. Fields, counsel for administration, State Department.

Our next hero is Fran Fields, hero, nurse, keeping [Crowley] alive, interacting with her husband to keep everybody calm.

Please stand for a moment of silence.

00:43:43

Thank you.

Our next slide. Now according to DEA philosophy I told about, that all those employees that I put up here, how we worked together, how we may have our disagreements and et cetera and we can be very vocal, but at the end of the day, we pulled together and we get the job done. That's what Country Attaché Claude Powers and I did -- and as a result of doing that, the attorney general of the United States recognized Country Attaché Claude Powers and myself. Here's a picture of me. That is me, with hair.

00:44:16

Next slide. He gave Country Attaché Powers and myself this medal -- not this medal. He gave each one of us a medal, hung it around our necks. What I did is I asked them to take that medal -- next slide -- and put it on a plaque and inscribed on the plaque is the words -- the citation from the program. The Marine Corps gave us this plaque, with the Marine Corps emblem and appreciation.

00:44:49

And the ambassador, he gave all of us who were either in the compound or on the compound complex an award that was significant to remind us -- for me to remind you -- no matter how good you are, you can't do it by yourself. You got to make sure that you leverage the expertise, the abilities of everyone with whom you're working, get past the drama and the quiriness of people and find a way to work together -- and when you do that, then you get an award like this, which says, to honor the 155 Pakistanis and Americans who were trapped on the American embassy compound on November 21st, 1979. It goes on, but all exhibited a standard of professionalism, of dedication, of discipline and of valor in the face of great personal danger. That's what we do here at DEA.

00:45:45 Do we have time for questions?

Male Voice: Just to put this event in context -- my recollection is that the year before, Ambassador Adolph Dubs, who was assassinated in Pakistan -- I'm wondering if the State Department or the embassy took any countermeasures following that as far as changes in procedures and so forth, in relation to the event you were involved with.

00:46:19 Randy Sayles: Yeah. I know that now when the embassy becomes under attack; it is not the senior State Department official that calls the shots. It is the senior military person, the Marine gunnery sergeant or the military person who is attached to the embassy that ensures what action is going to be taken. Does that answer your question? Next question.

Male Voice: Did you guys come under any fire when you were going over the roof and trying to get out? Were there people trying to attack you -- or how did you escape that way? When you were making escape, did you come under fire also?

00:47:10 Randy Sayles: No, because at that point, there was very few demonstrators that was down on the ground. The large contingent of people, who was less than 50, were either Pakistani military firemen or whomever. They was just over on the side. So those people that we escapees identified as demonstrators -- they was mainly roaming to get off of the compound. The only encounter that we had was people trying to take our weapons.

Male Voice: So they had given up at that point?

00:47:43 Randy Sayles: Who had given up?

Male Voice: The demonstrators.

Randy Sayles: Yes, I believe that the demonstrators had dispersed because at the height of -- these are not my numbers because once we were inside the embassy, we couldn't tell how many people were outside. The ambassador, when he called back, he said there was a large contingent. At the point that I went out to get [Crowley], I could see out. It looked like there was 500 to 1,000 people, but the reports are at the height of the demonstration, it was 10,000 people. When we came over the side, the only people we saw were up there. So they either gave up or they were driven off or whatever. I don't know.

00:48:21 There was a question here -- you're back there. Go ahead. I'm sorry.

Male Voice: Yes, sir. Did you participate in any particular training before you deployed to Pakistan or did you get issued any special equipment that would have helped in a survival type situation?

Randy Sayles: Yeah. I'm a DEA agent. DEA trains us to be able to handle any kind of situation. This was beyond what we were normally trained to do to go over to interact with our colleagues to set up effective programs and initiatives for drug law enforcement and other criminality. This was a straight terrorism and terrorist act. It was a demonstration that became a terrorist act. Just by the mere nature of DEA and its philosophy of being adaptable and doing whatever you need to do -- was the philosophy I had up there -- is drilled into all DEA employees. That is the training that helped myself and Country Attaché Powers and all the other DEA agents who are stationed around the world to be able to switch from one role to another role.

00:49:42 I don't know if that answered your question, but that's -- and I had a solid law enforcement foundation from the Denver police department and Jerry Kennedy.

There was a question back there.

Male Voice: After this event, was there any judicial investigation? Was anyone tried and convicted -- Pakistanis for this event?

Randy Sayles: Not --

Male Voice: Was there any compensation paid to the US government for loss of property of life, or the two Pakistanis who lost their lives? Were they in any way compensated by the government of Pakistan?

00:50:14 Randy Sayles: Not that I know of. Matter of fact, I believe the United States government wanted the Pakistani government to pay for rebuilding the embassy and I think the Pakistani government agreed to do that, but then I think that further negotiations down the road is the aid that we provide to Pakistan the exact amount of money that they needed to give us to pay the embassy, we put back in. So we really rebuilt our own embassy?

Another question?

00:50:48 Well, if there are no more questions, I thank all of you for coming out and supporting the Drug Enforcement administration, for supporting the museum, supporting all of the employees and me today. Thank you.

Sean Ferns: Randy, thank you very much. Thank you.

00:51:21 Randy, on behalf of all of us on the museum staff, we have a small token of appreciation.

Thank you all very much for joining us, both here in the auditorium as well as online through the web. We look forward to more programs in the future.

Thank you.

End of recording.