

Phone Calls from the 9/11 Airliners

Response to Questions Evoked by My Fifth Estate Interview

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On November 27, 2009, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Fifth Estate program aired a show entitled "9/11: The Unofficial Story,"¹ for which I, along with a few other members of the 9/11 Truth Movement, was interviewed. In the most important part of my interview, I pointed out that, according to the FBI's report on phone calls from the airliners provided in 2006 for the Moussaoui trial, Barbara Olson's only call from Flight 77 was "unconnected" and hence lasted "0 seconds." Although this Fifth Estate program showed only a brief portion of my discussion of alleged phone calls from the 9/11 airliners, its website subsequently made available a 22-minute video containing this discussion.²

Shortly thereafter, a portion of this video, under the title "David Ray Griffin on the 9/11 Cell Phone Calls: Exclusive CBC Interview," was posted on YouTube,³ after which it was posted on 911 Blogger.⁴ This latter posting resulted in considerable discussion, during which some claims contradicting my position were made. In this essay, I respond to the most important of these claims, namely:

1. The FBI has not admitted that cell phone calls from high-altitude airliners on 9/11 were impossible.
2. There is no evidence that some of the reported 9/11 phone calls were faked.
3. American Airlines' Boeing 757s, and hence its Flight 77, had onboard phones.
4. The FBI's report on phone calls from the 9/11 airliners did not undermine Ted Olson's report about receiving phone calls from his wife.

The four sections of this essay will respond to these four claims in order.

1. The FBI on the Possibility of High-Altitude Cell Phone Calls in 2001

I have suggested that the FBI's report to the Moussaoui trial in 2006 implied its acceptance of the argument, made by some members of the 9/11 Truth Movement, that cell phone calls from high-altitude airliners would have been impossible, or at least virtually so. One critic, however, said: "The FBI hasn't admitted anything about the possibility of making cell phone calls at 30,000 feet."⁵ It is true that the FBI has never explicitly stated that such calls are impossible, or at least too improbable to affirm. But its report for the Moussaoui trial, I have argued, implies an acceptance of this view.

My argument for this claim involves three points: (1) Immediately after 9/11, the FBI had

described, or at least accepted the description of, about 15 of the reported calls from the airliners as cell phone calls. (2) In 2003, a prominent member of the 9/11 Truth Movement argued persuasively that, given the cell phone technology available in 2001, calls from high-altitude airliners would have been impossible. (3) The FBI report for the Moussaoui trial affirmed only two cell phone calls from the airliners, both of which were from United Flight 93 after it had descended to 5,000 feet. I will expand on each of these three points.

Reported Calls Originally Described as Cell Phone Calls

Approximately 15 of the reported phone calls from the four airliners were described at the time as cell phone calls. About 10 of those were from Flight 93. For example:

- A Washington Post story said: “[Passenger Jeremy] Glick’s cell phone call from Flight 93 and others like it provide the most dramatic accounts so far of events aboard the four hijacked aircraft during the terrifying hours of Tuesday morning, and they offer clues about how the hijackings occurred.”⁶
- A Newsweek story about United 93 said: “Elizabeth [Honor] Wainio, 27, was speaking to her stepmother in Maryland. Another passenger, she explains, had loaned her a cell phone and told her to call her family.”⁷
- According to the FBI’s interview of Fred Fiumano, a close friend of UA 93 passenger Marion Britton, she called to tell him about the hijacking and then gave him the number of the phone she was using. Since this was not the number of her own cell phone, Fiumano assumed that Britton, who was traveling with a colleague from work, “had borrowed a cell phone.”⁸
- Reporting that UA 93 flight attendant Sandy Bradshaw had called her husband from United 93, the Greensboro News & Record, besides speaking of their “cellular phone conversation,” also reported that she had told her husband that “many passengers were making cell phone calls.”⁹
- A story about Deena Burnett, who reported receiving three to five calls from her husband, Tom Burnett, said: “Deena Burnett clutched the phone. ... She was at once terrified, yet strangely calmed by her husband’s steady voice over his cell phone.”¹⁰

Two calls from United Flight 175 were also originally described as cell phone calls:

- A BBC story said: “Businessman Peter Hanson, who was with his wife and baby on the United Airlines flight 175 that hit the World Trade Center, called his father in Connecticut. Despite being cut off twice, he managed to report how men armed with knives were stabbing flight attendants.”¹¹ An Associated Press story said that “a minister confirmed the cell phone call to Lee Hanson.”¹²
- A Washington Post story said: “Brian Sweeney called his wife Julie: ‘Hi, Jules,’ Brian Sweeney was saying into his cell phone. ‘It’s Brian. We’ve been hijacked, and it doesn’t look too good.’”¹³

It was widely reported, likewise, that two people had made cell phone calls from American Flight 77. One of these was flight attendant Renee May, about whom a story’s headline read: “Flight Attendant Made Call on Cell Phone to Mom in Las Vegas.”¹⁴

The other reported cell-phone caller from Flight 77 was CNN commentator Barbara Olson, wife of Theodore “Ted” Olson, the US solicitor general. On the afternoon of 9/11, CNN put out a story stating that, according to Ted Olson, his wife had “called him twice on a cell phone from American Airlines Flight 77.”¹⁵ Olson, who reportedly told the FBI the same day that he did not know “if the calls were made from her cell phone or the telephone on the plane,”¹⁶ went back and forth between these two positions in his public statements.¹⁷ He even endorsed the onboard phone version in what seem to have been his two final public statements on the issue, made to the Federalist Society on November 16, 2001, and to London’s Daily Telegraph on March 5, 2002.¹⁸ But these statements of the alternative version went virtually unnoticed in the American press, as shown by the fact that, a year after 9/11, CNN was still reporting, with no public contradiction from the FBI, that Barbara Olson had used a cell phone.¹⁹

Finally, there were reportedly two connected cell phone calls from American Flight 11, both made by flight attendant Madeline “Amy” Sweeney. The 9/11 Commission Report later stated:

“[Flight attendant] Amy Sweeney got through to the American flight Services Office in Boston but was cut off after she reported someone was hurt aboard the flight. Three minutes later, Sweeney was reconnected to the office and began relaying updates to the manager, Michael Woodward. . . . The phone call between Sweeney and Woodward lasted about 12 minutes.”²⁰

An affidavit from the FBI agent who interviewed Woodward that same day stated that, according to Woodward, Sweeney had been “using a cellular telephone.”²¹

It is likely that, except for the Olson case and one or two others, the newspapers got the information for their stories primarily from the FBI, which gave the impression of supporting the people’s claims that they had received calls from cell phones. This was the case, as we have just seen, with regard to the reported calls from Amy Sweeney. With regard to Deena Burnett, the FBI report said:

“Starting at approximately 6:39 a.m. (PST), Burnett received a series of three to five cellular phone calls from her husband. . . . Approximately ten minutes later Deena Burnett received another call from her husband. . . . Approximately five minutes later she received another cell phone call from her husband.”²²

With regard to Lee Hanson, the FBI report said: “He believed his son was calling from his cellular telephone.”²³

It is clear, therefore, that the FBI was not publicly raising objections to – and even appeared to be endorsing – the notion that there were several cell phone calls from the 9/11 flights, even though these flights were reportedly at quite high altitudes when the calls were received. In the report presented to the Moussaoui trial by the FBI in 2006, however, this apparent endorsement would disappear – probably because of limitations on what cell phones could do.

Cell Phone Limitations

Given the cell phone technology available in 2001, cell phone calls from airliners at altitudes

of more than a few thousand feet, especially calls lasting more than a few seconds, were virtually – and perhaps completely – impossible. And yet many of the reported cell phone calls occurred when the planes were above 25,000 or even 40,000 feet²⁴ and also lasted a minute or more – with Amy Sweeney’s reported call even lasting for 12 minutes.²⁵

Three problems have been pointed out: (1) The cell phone in those days had to complete a “handshake” with a cellsite on the ground, which took several seconds, so a cell phone in a high-speed plane would have had trouble staying connected to a cellsite long enough to complete a call. (2) The signals were sent out horizontally, from cellsite to cellsite, not vertically. Although there was some leakage upward, the system was not designed to activate cell phones at high altitudes.²⁶ (3) Receiving a signal was made even more difficult by the insulation provided by the large mass of an airliner.

Well-known Canadian scientist and mathematician A. K. Dewdney, who for many years had written a column for *Scientific American*, reported early in 2003 on experiments showing that these difficulties would have rendered impossible at least most of the reported cell phone calls from the 911 airliners.²⁷ His experiments involved both single- and double-engine airplanes.

Dewdney found that, in a single-engine plane, successful calls could be counted on only under 2,000 feet. Above that altitude, they became increasingly unlikely. At 20,000 feet,

“the chance of a typical cellphone call making it to ground and engaging a cellsite there is less than one in a hundred.... [T]he probability that two callers will succeed is less than one in ten thousand.”

The likelihood of 13 successful calls, Dewdney added, would be “infinitesimal.”²⁸ In later experiments using a twin-engine plane, which has greater mass and hence provides greater insulation from electronic signals, Dewdney found that the success rate decayed to 0 percent at 7,000 feet.²⁹ A large airliner, having much greater mass, would provide far more insulation – a fact, Dewdney added, that “is very much in harmony with many anecdotal reports ...that in large passenger jets, one loses contact during takeoff, frequently before the plane reaches 1000 feet altitude.”³⁰ Dewdney concluded, therefore, that numerous successful cell phone calls from airliners flying above 30,000 feet would have been “flat out impossible.”³¹

Such calls would become possible only several years later. In 2004, Qualcomm announced a successful demonstration of a fundamentally new kind of cell phone technology, involving a “picocell,” that would allow passengers “to place and receive calls as if they were on the ground.” American Airlines announced that this new technology was expected to be commercially available in 2006.³² This technology, in fact, first became available on commercial flights in March 2008.³³

In light of the fact that the 9/11 attacks occurred many years before this technology was available, the FBI faced a serious problem.

The FBI’s Revised Public Position

As will be shown later, the FBI by 2004 – the year after Dewdney reported his results – had provided an account of the reported calls from the airliners that did not affirm the occurrence of any high-altitude cell phone calls. But this account was not made public.

This account first became publicly visible in 2006 in a report on phone calls from the 9/11 airliners prepared by the FBI for the trial of Zacarias Moussaoui (who was accused of being the “20th-hijacker”). According to the McClatchy reporter at the trial, the spokesman for the FBI said: “13 of the terrified passengers and crew members made 35 air phone calls and two cell phone calls.”³⁴

Implicit in this matter-of-fact statement was a radical change in the FBI’s public position: Previously, the FBI had supported the idea – at least by not contradicting press reports spreading it – that there were over ten cell phone calls from Flight 93 – three or four from Tom Burnett alone. Indeed, Dewdney, observing that “more alleged cell phone calls were made [from Flight 93] than from the other three flights combined,” dubbed it the “Cell phone Flight.”³⁵ But the FBI was now saying that this flight was the source of only two cell phone calls.

This statement by the FBI spokesman accurately reflected the FBI’s report on phone calls from the flights that was placed on the US government website for the Moussaoui trial.³⁶ This form of the FBI’s report consists of graphics that summarize the information about the various reported calls. Only two of the graphics for Flight 93 indicate calls made from cell phones. One of these says: “9:58 AM: Passenger Edward Felt, using his cell phone, (732) 241-XXXX, contacts John Shaw, a 911 Operator from Westmoreland County, PA.”³⁷ The other one, which is for flight attendant CeeCee Lyles, indicates that she made a “cell phone call” to a residential number at 9:58 AM.³⁸ The FBI clearly said, therefore, that these two calls were the only ones from Flight 93 made on cell phones.

Moreover, none of the graphics for the other three flights describe any of the reported calls as cell phone calls. Can we safely infer from this fact that the FBI’s report was indicating that the only cell phone calls from all the 9/11 airliners combined were those by Felt and Lyles? There are several indications that we can.

First, the FBI clearly said this about Flight 93, as the FBI spokesman, in a statement quoted above, said that “13 of the terrified passengers and crew members made 35 air phone calls and two cell phone calls.” In other words, except for the two calls with graphics specifically indicating that they were cell phone calls, all the calls were clearly stated to have been “air phone calls.”

Second, in spite of the fact that two women from American Flight 77 – Barbara Olson and flight attendant Renee May – were generally reported to have made cell phone calls, the graphics for them did not indicate that either of them had used a cell phone. And when we look at a May 2004 FBI report on phone calls from AA Flight 77, which “was conducted in support of the U.S. Justice Department’s criminal case against Zacarias Moussaoui,” we find this statement: “All of the calls from Flight 77 were made via the onboard airphone system.”³⁹

Third, the FBI evidently intended the same with regard to the other two flights. The two people who had been reported as having made cell phone calls on United 175 – Peter Hanson and Brian Sweeney – were said in the FBI’s Moussaoui trial report to have used onboard phones. And the call from AA 11 flight attendant Amy Sweeney to fellow employee Michael Woodward, which according to Woodward as quoted in the FBI affidavit had been made with a “cellular telephone,” was said in the FBI’s Moussaoui trial report to have been made using an onboard phone.⁴⁰ In light of the fact that we have statements from the FBI about Flights 77 and 93 showing that, unless a call is explicitly designated to have been a

cell phone call, it was made from an onboard phone, we can safely assume that the FBI intended the same for Flights 11 and 175.

It seems, therefore, that according to the FBI's report for the Moussaoui trial, the only cell phone calls from the 9/11 airliners were the aforementioned calls from Edward Felt and CeeCee Lyles.

Did these two calls have something in common that set them apart from the rest of the reported calls that had originally been described as cell phone calls? Yes, they were both, as we saw above, said to have been made from Flight 93 at 9:58, and by that time it had reportedly descended to 5,000 feet.⁴¹ In the light of Dewdney's reports, two successful cell phone calls from a high-speed airliner at 5,000 feet would have still been very improbable, but they would at least have been more likely than such calls from above 25,000 feet, so those two calls could not be so completely ruled out as impossible.

Given the fact that, of the approximately 15 calls from the 9/11 airliners that were originally described as cell phone calls, the FBI accepted this description for only the two that reportedly occurred at a relatively low altitude, it seems reasonable to conclude that the FBI implicitly agreed, in its report to the Moussaoui trial, that calls from high-altitude airliners were impossible – or at least too improbable to affirm.

2. Evidence for Faked Phone Calls

In response to the claim – made in several of my writings and repeated during my Fifth Estate interview – that at least some of the reported phone calls were almost certainly fabricated, one critic wrote: “DRG has no evidence . . . that phone calls were faked.”⁴² To the contrary, there is considerable evidence for this conclusion.

The Number of People Who Reported Receiving Cell Phone Calls

As we saw, people on the ground reported receiving cell phone calls from UA 93 flight attendant Sandra Bradshaw; UA 93 passengers Marion Britton, Tom Burnett, Jeremy Glick, and Elizabeth “Honor” Wainio; from UA 175 passengers Peter Hanson and Brian Sweeney; from AA 77 flight attendant Renee May; and, according to the best-known version of Ted Olson's account, AA 77 passenger Barbara Olson. However, the FBI, in its report to the Moussaoui trial, declared that all of those calls were made from onboard phones. If that is true, how would the FBI explain why so many people reported that they had been called from cell phones?

People do, of course, make mistakes, especially in stressful situations. They may misunderstand, or misremember, what they were told. But is it plausible that so many people would have made the same mistake, wrongly thinking that they had been told by the people calling them that they were using cell phones? (Ted Olson, as we saw earlier, and Renee May's parents, as we will see below, both said they were uncertain what kind of phone had been used, so they can be excluded from the list of people who would need to be accused of having made that mistake.) Should we not look for some more plausible explanation?

The FBI's Amazing Treatment of Amy Sweeney's Calls

What appears to be the FBI's most elaborate effort to change a story occurred in relation to

the phone calls reportedly made by flight attendant Amy Sweeney from American Flight 11. As we saw earlier, an FBI affidavit, dated September 11, said that AA employee Michael Woodward, who reportedly talked to Sweeney for 12 minutes, said she had been using “a cellular telephone.”⁴³

Strangely, the summary of an FBI interview with AA Vice President for Flight Services Jane Allen, who reported that she had conducted a “flight service system conference call” involving Woodward the day after the 9/11 attacks, indicated that she said: “According to Woodward, Sweeney’s [sic] call came from either a cell telephone or an airphone on the aircraft.”⁴⁴ Surely, however, Lechner’s affidavit, according to which Woodward said simply that Sweeney used a “cellular telephone,” must be considered more authoritative than this indirect quotation of Jane Allen, for four reasons: First, Lechner would have been trained to be precise about such matters when writing affidavits, whereas Allen’s focus during the conference call would have been on flight services; second, Lechner had a one-on-one interview with Woodward, whereas Allen talked to him during a conference call involving other people; third, Lechner’s interview took place on 9/11 itself, whereas Allen’s conference call occurred the following day; and fourth, Lechner received his information directly from Woodward himself, whereas the FBI summary was reporting a second-hand statement of what Woodward had said. The FBI’s summary of Allen’s summary of Woodward’s statement provides, therefore, no reason to question FBI Special Agent James Lechner’s affidavit, according to which Woodward said that Amy Sweeney had been “using a cellular telephone.”

It appears, moreover, that this view was almost universally held for the first two years after 9/11. Except for a New York Times editorial in December 2001 saying that Amy Sweeney had called “by air phone,”⁴⁵ reports that mentioned the kind of phone she used referred to it as a cell phone. For example, former flight attendant Elizabeth Kilkenny wrote in a tribute to Sweeney: “I recognized her name from a newspaper account which said she was on a cell phone with her scheduler in Boston.”⁴⁶ A memorial by the Association of Flight Attendants said that Sweeney “relayed information about the hijacking to her supervisor by cell phone.”⁴⁷ A biography at the Astro Databank said that she “was able to get through on her cell phone.”⁴⁸

The fact that there was this near-unanimity about her having used a cell phone is not surprising, given the fact that Lechner’s affidavit to this effect was, in October 2001, made known in an Associated Press story entitled “Flight Affidavit: Flight Attendant Made Call to Report Hijacking,” which said:

“An American Airlines employee received a cell phone call from a flight attendant aboard doomed Flight 11 shortly before it crashed into the World Trade Center, according to newly unsealed court documents. . . . The FBI cited its interview with the American Airlines employee in an affidavit.”⁴⁹

However, in spite of Lechner’s affidavit and the resulting near unanimity of opinion that Sweeney had used a cell phone, the 9/11 Commission’s report, which appeared in July 2004, said that she had used an onboard phone. It did not state this in the text, where it would have been widely noticed, but an endnote said:

“Amy Sweeney attempted by airphone to contact the American Airlines flight services desk at Logan. . . . The phone call between Sweeney and Woodward

lasted about 12 minutes (8:32-8:44).”⁵⁰

What had happened to produce this change in the official story?

In August 2004, shortly after the appearance of the 9/11 Commission’s report, New York Press journalist Alan Cabal, in an article entitled “Miracles and Wonders,” wrote:

“Last week, USA Today reported a joint effort between Qualcomm and American Airlines to allow passengers to make cell phone calls from aircraft in flight. . . . [T]he satellite-based system employs a ‘Pico cell’ to act as a small cellular tower. . . . Before this new ‘Pico cell,’ it was nigh on impossible to make a call from a passenger aircraft in flight. Connection is impossible at altitudes over 8000 feet or speeds in excess of 230 mph. Yet despite this, passengers Todd Beamer [and] Jeremy Glick . . . managed to place calls from Flight 93 on the morning of September 11. Peter Hanson . . . phoned his dad from Flight 175. Madeline Amy Sweeney, a flight attendant, made a very dramatic call from Flight 11. . . . Each call was initially reported as coming from a cell phone. Later, when skepticism reared its ugly head and the Grassy Knollers arrived, the narrative became fuzzy; it was suggested that \$10-a-minute Airfones were involved.”⁵¹

As this statement shows, Cabal, having realized by August 2004 that the official story had been changed, suggested that this change had been made in response to doubts about the possibility of the reported cell phone calls raised by members of the 9/11 Truth Movement. (Although his reference to them as “Grassy Knollers” might seem like ridicule, the rest of his story shows that it was the official story that Cabal considered ridiculous.⁵²) Since otherwise the 9/11 Commission’s report did not specify the type of phone used by any of the people who had originally been described as cell phone callers, its endnote statement about Amy Sweeney – that she had used an “airphone”⁵³ – may have been what led Cabal to say that the story had been changed.

In any case, the story had indeed been changed before the 9/11 Commission wrote its final report. In a 9/11 Commission staff report of 2004 that was reflected in the Commission’s final report, only the 9:58 calls by Edward Felt and CeeCee Lyles were referred to as cell phone calls.⁵⁴ This staff report also indicated that the calls (supposedly) made from AA 11 by Amy Sweeney and from UA Flight 175 by Peter Hanson and Brian Sweeney had employed onboard phones – even though the 9/11 Commission’s report itself would not indicate what kind of phone was supposedly used by these two men.⁵⁵

With regard the description of the phone used by Amy Sweeney as an onboard phone (“airphone”), the evidence said to support this description appears to have emerged in May 2004. Amy Sweeney’s widowed husband, Mike Sweeney, was evidently informed two weeks prior to June 4 – when there was to be a special presentation for family members of the victims – that a tape existed containing the contents of his wife’s phone calls to Michael Woodward of American Airlines. According to reporter Gail Sheehy, Mike Sweeney said:

“I was shocked that I’m finding out, almost three years later, there was a tape with information given by my wife that was very crucial to the happenings of 9/11. Suddenly it miraculously appears and falls into the hands of FBI? . . . Why did it surface now?”⁵⁶

The answer to his question may have something to do with the fact that the 9/11 Commission was about to complete its report, combined with the fact that this tape provided a basis for changing the story about the kind of phone used by Amy Sweeney. According to Sheehy's summary of this part of the tape:

"The young blond mother of two had secreted herself in the next-to-last passenger row and used an AirFone card, given to her by another flight attendant, Sara Low, to call the airline's flight-services office at Boston's Logan airport."

Accordingly, the information that Amy Sweeney had used an "airphone" - rather than a cell phone, as the FBI's affidavit had said - was provided by this tape, which had "miraculously appear[ed]." How had it been produced? Here is the story, as summarized by Sheehy:

"Since there was no tape machine in his office, Woodward began repeating the flight attendant's alarming account to a colleague, Nancy Wyatt, the supervisor of pursers at Logan. On another phone, Ms. Wyatt was simultaneously transmitting Ms. Sweeney's words to the airline's Fort Worth headquarters [where Wyatt's words were recorded]. It was that relayed account that was played for the families."⁵⁷

This story is reflected in the aforementioned 9/11 Commission staff report, which said:

"[A]t 8:40 AM, an American Airlines employee in Boston who was standing next to Michael Woodward as he talked to Sweeney contacted an employee in American Airlines' SOC [Systems Operations Control]. She reported the content of the ongoing call between Woodward and Sweeney."⁵⁸

This new story is also reflected, albeit very opaquely, in The 9/11 Commission Report itself, which in endnotes repeatedly cited, with no explanation: "AAL transcript, telephone call from Nancy Wyatt to Ray Howland, Sept. 11, 2001."⁵⁹ This reference tells us that the SOC person at American Airlines' headquarters who reportedly received the call from Nancy Wyatt was Ray Howland.

The claim by the FBI and the 9/11 Commission that Sweeney had used an onboard phone is evidently based entirely on this story. But this story is completely unbelievable, for six reasons:

First, it appears that until May 2004, there had been no word of the existence of this tape. Sheehy wrote:

"David Novak, an assistant U.S. attorney involved in prosecuting the Moussaoui case, told Mr. Sweeney [when he notified him about it in May 2004] that the existence of the tape was news to him. . . . 'We, the prosecution team and the F.B.I. agents that have been assigned to assist us, were not aware of that tape,' Mr. Novak told me. He says he only learned of it two weeks ago while he was briefing 9/11 commissioners on what he knows about the two hijacked American flights. He believes the commission got the tape from the airline."⁶⁰

This widespread ignorance about the tape creates the suspicion that it did not exist.

Second, this suspicion is increased by reflection on the question of why the 9/11 Commission had not received this tape from American Airlines until 2004. If that were true, then presumably someone at American headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas, where the recording was made, would have just discovered it. But it is inconceivable that the existence of this tape had been forgotten by Ray Howland and other people at American Headquarters, given the dramatic way in which this tape had been produced – with Nancy Wyatt from Boston relaying to Howland in Texas a virtually verbatim account of one of the first phone calls from the hijacked airliners.

Third, the suspicion that the tape was not made in 2001 is further increased by a Los Angeles Times story of September 20, 2001, which said:

“FBI officials in Dallas [-Fort Worth], where American Airlines is based, were able, on the day of the terrorist attacks, to piece together a partial transcript and an account of the phone call. American Airlines officials said such calls are not typically recorded, suggesting that the FBI may have reconstructed the conversation from interviews.”⁶¹

Why would FBI officials have needed to “piece together a partial transcript” if officials at AA headquarters had a recording of Wyatt’s virtually verbatim account of Woodward’s virtually word-for-word account of what Sweeney had said? Surely, even if these AA officials had somehow forgotten about the existence of this recording over the years, they could not have already forgotten about it later in the day on 9/11 itself. Also, why would AA officials have said “such calls are not typically recorded” if, in this case, they did have a recording – albeit an indirect one – of the call? Finally, it is also inconceivable that the AA officials would, while knowing about this recording, have withheld it from the FBI.⁶²

Fourth, there is no indication that Michael Woodward mentioned the creation of this recording when he was interviewed by FBI agent James Lechner on 9/11. Besides not being mentioned in Lechner’s affidavit, the existence of such a tape is also not mentioned in the summary of the FBI interview with Woodward the following day, which ends by saying: “Woodward took notes while he was talking to Sweeney which he signed and dated and gave to the interviewing Agent.”⁶³ But surely, if Woodward had, only hours earlier, repeated Sweeney’s report to Nancy Wyatt, who had in turn repeated it to Ray Howland down in Texas, Woodward would have said something like: “You don’t need to rely entirely on my notes, because there is a recording of a virtually verbatim repetition of Sweeney’s statements down in Texas at American headquarters.”

Fifth, if Woodward had repeated to Nancy Wyatt Sweeney’s statement that she had used “an AirFone card, given to her by another flight attendant,” he surely would not have told Lechner, only a few hours later, that she had been “using a cellular telephone.”

Finally, the new story is even internally inconsistent. The conversation between Sweeney and Woodward, we were told, lasted from 8:32 until 8:44 AM. And yet, according to the aforementioned staff report of the 9/11 Commission, Nancy Wyatt did not start relaying the call to American headquarters in Texas until 8:40 AM.⁶⁴ If she was on the phone with Ray Howland in Texas for only the final 4 minutes of the 12-minute call, during which she was, as Gail Sheehy reported, “simultaneously transmitting Ms. Sweeney’s words to the airline’s Fort Worth headquarters,” how could this call have resulted in a virtually verbatim transcript of the entire Sweeney-Woodward call – rather than simply the final four minutes?

To sum up: We have six good reasons to conclude that the alleged recording of Nancy Wyatt's verbatim repetition of Amy Sweeney's alleged phone call from American Flight 11 is a late fabrication, which was created in order – perhaps among other reasons – to change the description of this 12-minute call, so that it would no longer be portrayed as a cell phone call. By thus implicitly admitting that the call as portrayed in the FBI's 2001 affidavit could not have happened, the FBI in 2004 implicitly admitted, it seems to me, that the reported call from Sweeney to Woodward was fabricated.

Cell Phone Numbers Recognized on Caller ID

In spite of what has been said above, some people may be able to accept the idea that everyone who reported receiving cell phone calls from the 9/11 airliners – except perhaps for those who reported the 9:58 calls from Felt and Lyles – had misunderstood what they had been told. But even if so, they face a still more difficult problem: If all the calls (except the two at 9:58) were made from onboard phones, as the FBI's report for the Moussaoui trial says, why did some of the calls produce the supposed caller's cell phone number on the recipient's Caller ID?

Tom Burnett: The best-known case of this type involves the reported calls from Flight 93 passenger Tom Burnett to his wife, Deena Burnett. As we saw earlier, she told the FBI agent that she had received three to five calls from her husband that morning. The FBI report then added:

“Burnett was able to determine that her husband was using his own cellular telephone because the caller identification showed his number, 925 980-3360. Only one of the calls did not show on the caller identification as she was on the line with another call.”⁶⁵

According to the report presented to the Moussaoui trial, however, Tom Burnett completed three calls, all of which were made using a passenger-seat phone (the rows from which he allegedly made the calls are indicated).⁶⁶

It is instructive to compare the FBI's treatment of Deena Burnett's testimony with its treatment of the testimony of Lorne Lyles, the husband of CeeCee Lyles. The FBI's summary of its interview with him says: “At 9:58 AM, Lorne Lyles received a call at home from her celular [sic] telephone. Lyles was in a deep sleep at the time. . . . Lyles commented that CeCe [sic] Lyles' telephone number 941-823-2355 was the number on the caller ID.”⁶⁷ When the FBI turned in its telephone report for the Moussaoui trial, it reflected Lorne Lyles's testimony that his spouse had used a cell phone. But even though Deena Burnett provided the same evidence – that her spouse's cell phone number had appeared on her phone's Caller ID – the FBI's report for the Moussaoui trial did not reflect her testimony, but instead said that her husband had used a seat-back phone. This contrast provides further evidence that the FBI's report was tailored to avoid affirming any high-altitude cell phone calls.

In any case, how can anyone say that the FBI's treatment of the reported calls from Tom Burnett does not provide insuperable evidence against the truth of the official story? If he had actually called from an onboard phone, as the FBI now says, how could his home phone's Caller ID have possibly indicated that the calls came from his cell phone? Some people reject as “unwarranted speculation” the suggestion that this shows that the calls were faked. But until someone comes up with an alternative explanation, this is the only

hypothesis that accounts for the facts.

One cannot avoid the problem, moreover, by assuming that the FBI agent who wrote the report of the interview misinterpreted her. She repeated her statement about the Caller ID a year later to McClatchy reporter Greg Gordon,⁶⁸ and five years later she repeated it again in a book, in which she said: "I looked at the caller ID and indeed it was Tom's cell phone number." She said, incidentally, that she realized that this was problematic, writing: "I didn't understand how he could be calling me on his cell phone from the air."⁶⁹ She, nevertheless, reported what she had seen.

Renee May: There was, furthermore, evidently another phone that registered the cell phone number of a person onboard the 9/11 airliners, namely, AA 77 flight attendant Renee May. According to the FBI summary of its interview with Renee's mother, Nancy May, she "did not know whether her daughter was utilizing an in-flight telephone or her own personal cellular telephone."⁷⁰ But there was another reported call from Renee May, about which the public was not told. The 9/11 Commission Report asserted that "all family members of the Flight 77 passengers and crew were canvassed to see if they had received any phone calls from the hijacked flight, and only Renee May's parents and Ted Olson indicated that they had received such calls."⁷¹ However, if Renee May's fiancé should be considered one of her "family members," then the Commission should have mentioned his testimony.

According to FBI notes dated June 5, 2002, Renee May's parents "advised that Renee also had made a telephone call to [her fiancé] at his office, on the morning of 09/11/2001, but did not speak to him." Then, summarizing the testimony of her fiancé (whose name was blocked out), the FBI notes said:

"May had attempted to contact [him] on the morning of 09/11/2001, but did not talk to him. [He] advised that the caller identification (ID) of his business telephone . . . had indicated May had called."⁷²

We cannot say for certain that we have here a parallel with the Burnett case, because May's fiancé, according to the FBI's summary of its interview with him, could not say at what time in the morning the call occurred. One might suppose, therefore, that she had called early, before the flight departed.

However, the flight reportedly pushed back from the gate at 8:09 AM, so if she had called before she was on duty, she would have needed to call pretty early, surely no later than 7:15 AM. Accordingly, the fact that the call leaving her cell phone number came to her fiancé's office phone, rather than his home phone, means that it was most likely dialed later, after Flight 77 would have been in the air. This seems to be what May's fiancé and parents assumed. Indeed, it was likely this belief that convinced the Mays that their daughter's call to them had also been made from her cell phone, leading to the local headline, "Flight Attendant Made Call on Cell Phone to Mom in Las Vegas."⁷³

In any case, the FBI's report to the Moussaoui trial, not mentioning the call to Renee May's fiancé, indicated that her two calls to her parents - only one of which was connected - were made from an onboard phone.⁷⁴

Conclusion: On the one hand, the cell phone number of Tom Burnett and probably that of Renee May showed up on Caller IDs while their planes were in the air. On the other hand,

the FBI's Moussaoui trial report states that Burnett and Renee May did not use cell phones. Unless one is willing to challenge the FBI on this point, what alternative is there except to conclude that someone fabricated at least one, and probably both, of these calls, using a device that, besides replicating the impersonated persons' voices, also caused their cell phone numbers to appear?⁷⁵ That is, to be sure, speculation. But if there is no other plausible way to account for the facts, it cannot be called unwarranted speculation.

Moreover, if we can say with great confidence that the reported calls from Amy Sweeney and Tom Burnett (and probably Renee May) were faked, what about the reported calls from various other people - including Sandy Bradshaw, Marion Britton, Honor Wainio, Jeremy Glick, Peter Hanson, and Brian Sweeney - that were originally said to have been made on cell phones? The only way to avoid the conclusion that they also were faked, it seems, would be to claim that they were based on misunderstanding or faulty memory. However, the accuracy of these reports is supported not only by the fact that so many people gave them, but also by the fact that the Burnett calls, having been registered on the recipient phone's Caller ID as cell phone calls, cannot be explained with speculations about misunderstanding or faulty memory. The calls to Deena Burnett thereby support the accuracy of the claims of the other people who said they had been called from cell phones. It would seem, therefore, that we have good evidence, with regard to most of the reported calls originally said to have been made on cell phones, that they were faked.

That conclusion leads to the further conclusion that all of the reported calls from the airliners were faked, even those that were from the beginning said to have been made from onboard phones. Why? Because if some of the calls had been genuine, reporting real hijackings, why would several people have been all set up with the equipment and information to fabricate cell phone calls from some of the passengers? If people were ready to fabricate calls from Amy Sweeney, Tom Burnett, and most of the other people who were originally said to have made cell phone calls, then the airliners were not, as the official story has it, hijacked in a surprise operation. If the most fundamental part of the official story is false, then there is no reason to accept the reality of any of the hijack-reporting phone calls from the planes.

3. Questions about Onboard Phones on American Flight 77

Prior to learning about the FBI 2006 report to the Moussaoui trial, which indicated that Barbara Olson had attempted only one call and that it was "unconnected" so that it lasted for "0 seconds," members of the 9/11 Truth Movement already had reasons for doubting the truth of Ted Olson's claim that she had made two calls to him from Flight 77, during each of which they had conversations. One of those reasons was that it seemed that the calls could not have been made from either a cell phone or an onboard phone.

The possibility that Barbara Olson might have used a cell phone seemed ruled out by the plane's reported altitude: According to the 9/11 Commission, her first call reportedly occurred "between 9:16 and 9:26 AM," when Flight 77, according to the NTSB's official report, would have been somewhere between 25,000 and 14,000 feet.⁷⁶ (The FBI later specified that her attempted call occurred at 9:18:58, at which time the NTSB report says that Flight 77 would still have been at about 25,000 feet.⁷⁷) It was no big surprise to learn, therefore, that the FBI said in a previously quoted 2004 statement - "All of the calls from Flight 77 were made via the onboard airphone system"⁷⁸ - that there were no cell phone calls from this flight.

That statement did, however, indicate that there were onboard calls from this flight. And, as we have seen, the FBI explicitly said that Renee May, using an onboard phone, completed a call to her parents. But I have cited evidence that neither she nor Barbara Olson could have made such calls, because American Airlines' 757s did not, in September 2001, have functioning onboard phones.

In response, one critic has written, "FACT: AA 757s had airfones on 9/11," even adding: "Griffin himself acknowledged as much in 2007 – but has continued to promote the claim about no phone calls," and other critics have expressed agreement.⁷⁹ I will address the two parts of this twofold claim – that American's 757s had onboard phones on 9/11, and that I have claimed otherwise while knowing better – in reverse order.

My Evolving Position on whether Flight 77 Had Onboard Phones

When I published the first edition of *Debunking 9/11 Debunking* in 2007, I argued that the claim on which Ted Olson had evidently settled – that his wife had called him twice from Flight 77 using a passenger-seat phone – could not be true, because this flight did not have such phones. I made this assertion primarily on the basis of evidence provided by Rowland Morgan and Ian Henshall in their co-authored book *9/11 Revealed* that American's 757s (unlike United's) did not have onboard phones.⁸⁰

Morgan and Henshall had based this claim on three facts: First, the American Airlines website, while reporting that passengers could make telephone calls from AA's Boeing 767s and 777s, did not mention its 757s.⁸¹ Second, they had learned from a representative of American Airlines in London that its 757s did not have onboard phones. Third, having asked AA in an email letter, "Are 757s fitted with phones that passengers can use?" they received a reply, signed "Tim Wagner, AA Spokesman," which said: "American Airlines 757s do not have onboard phones for passenger use." Then, realizing that Wagner's reply left open the possibility that American's 757s might have had phones that, while intended only for use by the crew, Barbara Olson might conceivably have borrowed, Morgan and Henshall sent another letter, asking, "are there any onboard phones at all on AA 757s, i.e., that could be used either by passengers or cabin crew?" Wagner's response said: "AA 757s do not have any onboard phones, either for passenger or crew use. Crew have other means of communication available."⁸²

On the basis of these three mutually supporting pieces of evidence, I said in the first edition of *Debunking 9/11 Debunking* (which appeared early in 2007): "[W]e have very good evidence that the call to Ted Olson, like the call to Renee May's parents, was fabricated – unless, of course, he simply made up the story."⁸³

My Retraction of My "Error": Shortly after the book appeared, however, I had second thoughts, which were provoked by three facts. First, a trusted colleague sent a 1998 photograph of the inside of an AA 757, showing that it had seat-back phones. Second, a CNET News report from February 6, 2002, sent by this same colleague, said:

"American Airlines will discontinue its AT&T in-flight phone service by March 31, a spokesman for the airline said Wednesday. . . . Passengers on Boeing 777 and Boeing 767-300 aircraft, which mainly fly international routes, will continue to offer an in-flight phone service."⁸⁴

At that time, I took this statement to mean that all Boeing airliners except the 767s and

777s would have had in-flight phone service until March 31, 2002.

Third, looking back at the statements from AA representatives quoted by Morgan and Henshall, I saw that they were formulated in the present tense, stating only that AA's 757s "do not" have onboard phones. Those statements left open the possibility that, although they did not have onboard phones at the time these statements were made (2004), they had had have them back in 2001.

Having concluded that I had probably made an error, I wrote a retraction, entitled "Barbara Olson's Alleged Call from AA 77: A Correction About Onboard Phones," which was posted May 7, 2007. Having said that my earlier claim that AA 757s did not have onboard phones was "wrong, at least probably," I concluded this essay by saying:

"In this brief essay, I have tried to exemplify what I have always said people should do when they find that they have made errors, especially about issues of great importance: Correct them quickly, forthrightly, and publicly. I assume that now NIST, Popular Mechanics, and the 9/11 Commission will correct the dozens of errors that have been pointed out in their reports."⁸⁵

Retracting the Retraction: Although the second of these two sentences was written with tongue in cheek, I was completely serious about the importance of correcting errors. Six weeks later, that same policy led to retract my retraction because of three new pieces of information: First, I learned of a 2004 news report that said: "Several years ago, American installed seatback phones . . . on many of its planes but ripped them out except in some Boeing 777s and 767s on international routes."⁸⁶ The fact that American's 757s had onboard phones in 1998 did not, therefore, necessarily mean that it still had them in 2001.

The second new piece of information, supplied by Rob Balsamo of Pilots for 9/11 Truth, was a page from the Boeing 757 Aircraft Maintenance Manual (757 AMM), which was dated January 28, 2001. The first sentence of this page states: "The passenger telephone system was deactivated by ECO FO878." This page indicates, in other words, that by January 28, 2001, the passenger phone system for the AA 757 fleet had already been deactivated.⁸⁷

This information is relevant to the news report of February 6, 2002, which said that, except for its 767s and 777s, American Airlines would "discontinue its AT&T in-flight phone service by March 31." There were two things I had not earlier noticed about this report. First, it merely said that this service would be discontinued (except for its 767s and 777s) "by March 31." To say that it would be discontinued by that date was not necessarily to imply that it would be continued until that time on all of AA's planes. Second, this report did not mention 757s in particular, so it did not necessarily indicate that AA's 757s still had any in-flight phone service to be discontinued. This news report, in other words, would be consistent with the idea that, although some AA planes (in addition to the 767s and 777s) might continue in-flight phone service until March 31, the service on its 757s had already been discontinued. And that is precisely what the page from the 757 AAM indicated, namely, that the phones on American's 757s had already been deactivated by January 2001.

The third new piece of information, which I also learned from Balsamo, was that another AA representative had made a statement about the absence of phones on AA 757s, which, being more precise than the statements that Morgan and Henshall had received, left no room for misinterpretation. This statement, which had appeared on a German political forum, had been evoked by a letter to American Airlines saying:

"[O]n your website . . . there is mentioned that there are no seatback satellite phones on a Boeing 757. Is that info correct? Were there any . . . seatback satellite phones on any Boeing 757 . . . on September 11, 2001?"

The reply, which was signed "Chad W. Kinder, Customer Relations, American Airlines," said:

"That is correct; we do not have phones on our Boeing 757. The passengers on flight 77 used their own personal cellular phones to make out calls during the terrorist attack."⁸⁸

After confirming the authenticity of this reported exchange,⁸⁹ Balsamo and I co-authored an article entitled "Could Barbara Olson Have Made Those Calls? An Analysis of New Evidence about Onboard Phones." In a section entitled "Correcting an 'Error,'" we reviewed the reasons that had led me to conclude that my claim about AA 77 - that it would have had no onboard phones - was probably wrong.

That section was followed by one entitled "Correcting the Correction," in which we laid out the three above-mentioned "new pieces of evidence supporting the contention that AA 77 did not have onboard phones." We then also reported that our conclusion about Barbara Olson's alleged calls to her husband - that they did not occur - was supported by the FBI's report for the Moussaoui trial (although this report did not support our contention that Flight 77 would have had no onboard phones).⁹⁰ Although we said that "we cannot yet claim to have proof" that American's 757s did not have functioning onboard phones in September 2001, we called our evidence "very strong."

This article was posted (on the Pilots for Truth website) on June 26, 2007. So my retraction, in which I stated that Flight 77 probably did have onboard phones, had stood as my public position for only the six weeks between May 7, 2007 - when I posted "Barbara Olson's Alleged Call from AA 77: A Correction About Onboard Phones" - and June 26, 2007.

The fact that I had retracted that retraction was also stated prominently in the second edition of *Debunking 9/11 Debunking*, which, labeled "Revised and Updated Edition," appeared in August 2007. Indeed, the primary reason for putting out this new edition was to update the book's discussion of the alleged phone calls from the airliners, using the new information contained in the article co-authored with Balsamo. Besides reporting in this updated edition on the FBI's report for the Moussaoui trial, in which it failed to affirm any high-altitude cell phone calls (including those purportedly made by Tom Burnett),⁹¹ I also explained the reasons for my initial retraction of the claim, made in the first edition, that there were no onboard phones on AA 77, and then the reasons for retracting this retraction. Although I did not have enough space to explain these reasons in detail - because the second edition's overall pagination had to remain the same as the first edition's - I referred readers to the article co-authored with Balsamo for more detail.⁹²

Finally, in October 2009, I published an article entitled "New Evidence that the Official Story about 9/11 Is Indefensible," in which I explained that "I was motivated to put out the Revised and Updated Edition [of *Debunking 9/11 Debunking*] primarily because of new information about the alleged phone calls."⁹³

In light of all this, I can perhaps be forgiven for being astonished to find people claiming that I have agreed since 2007 that American's 757s had onboard phones.⁹⁴

Did American 77 Have Onboard Phones?

Thus far in this section, I have merely discussed the fact of, and the reasons for, the evolution of my own thinking on the question of whether American 77 had onboard phones. The important question, however, is whether the relevant evidence, taken as a whole, supports the view that it probably did or did not. As I see it, the relevant evidence supports the latter conclusion, with the most important evidence consisting of the following four items:

□ Statements from various representatives of American Airlines that its Boeing 757s did not have onboard phones, the most important of these being Chad Kinder, who, in response to the question whether it was true that there were no “seatback satellite phones on any [American] Boeing 757 on September 11, 2001,” said: “That is correct; we do not have phones on our Boeing 757. The passengers on flight 77 used their own personal cellular phones to make out calls during the terrorist attack.”⁹⁵

□ A page, dated January 28, 2001, purportedly from the Boeing 757 Aircraft Maintenance Manual (757 AMM), which states: “The passenger telephone system was deactivated by ECO [Engineering Change Order] FO878.”⁹⁶ Although the phones were physically removed from the planes in 2002, this document says that they were deactivated, so that they could not be used, almost eight months before September 11, 2001. The authenticity of this page is vouched for by an American Airlines employee who, although he wishes to remain anonymous, is known to Rob Balsamo of Pilots for 9/11 Truth.

□ The following statement of American Airlines Public Relations Representative John Hotard: “An Engineering Change Order to deactivate the seatback phone system on the 757 fleet had been issued by that time [9/11/2001].” Following this statement, Hotard emphasized that photographs showing seatback phones in American 757s after 9/11 would not prove anything, for this reason: “We did two things: issued the engineering change orders to disconnect/disable the phones, but then did not physically remove the phones until the aircraft went . . . in for a complete overhaul.”⁹⁷

□ The following statement by Captain Ralph Kolstad, who flew Boeing 757s (as well as 767s) as captain from 1993 until he retired in 2005: “[T]he ‘air phones,’ as they were called, were . . . deactivated in early or mid 2001. They had been deactivated for quite some time prior to Sep 2001.” In response to a question about this statement, he added: “I have no proof, but I am absolutely certain that the phones were disconnected on the 757 long before Sep 2001. They were still physically installed in the aircraft, but they were not operational.”⁹⁸

Given the fact that these four mutually supporting pieces of evidence come from completely different sources, they provide very strong evidence for the view that American 757s in 2001, and hence American Flight 77, did not have functioning onboard phones.

The opposite point of view appears to have the following support:

- The claim by the FBI that onboard phone calls were made from Flight 77: an unconnected call by Barbara Olson; a connected (as well as an unconnected) call by Renee May; four connected calls by unknown persons to unknown numbers; and one unconnected call from an unknown person to an unknown number.⁹⁹

- The aforementioned CNET News report from February 6, 2002, which quoted an AA spokesperson as saying: “American Airlines will discontinue its AT&T in-flight phone service by March 31.”¹⁰⁰
- A document, dated March 13, 2002, which was provided by someone using the alias AMTMAN, and which purports to be an American Airlines ECO (Engineering Change Order) for the deactivation of the telephone circuit breaker and toggle switch for B757s.¹⁰¹

None of this evidence, however, is very strong:

- Given the fact that the FBI had the primary responsibility for marshaling evidence to support the official story, the FBI’s own testimony in support of this story cannot simply be assumed to be accurate, especially since this testimony is not supported by any clearly authentic, publicly available, documents.
- The evidence provided by the CNET News report of February 6, 2002, is weak for the reasons pointed out earlier: It merely says that all phone service on American Airlines, except for the 767s and 777s, will be discontinued “by March 31.” It does not say that all phone service will continue until that date, and it says nothing whatsoever about 757s in particular. It is compatible, therefore, with the evidence that the service on American’s 757s was discontinued long before March 31, 2002.
- The document purported to be an American Airlines ECO dated March 13, 2002, was provided by the anonymous person using the alias “AMTMAN” only after the publication of the Griffin-Balsamo article, which included the citation of a page, apparently from the Boeing 757 AMM, stating that the telephone system had been deactivated prior to January 28, 2001. When AMTMAN was challenged by Balsamo to give his real identity, so that his claim to be an AA employee could be verified, he disappeared. This document is, therefore, in the same boat as the purported page from the 757 AMM in one sense, namely, that the authenticity of each is supported only by a person who has remained anonymous. They differ, however, in a very important way: Whereas the purported AMM page is consistent with the testimony of Customer Service Representative Chad Kinder, pilot Ralph Kolstad, and Public Relations Representative John Hotard, the purported ECO provided by AMTMAN is contradicted by the testimony of all of these past and present AA employees.

At the end of our joint article, Balsamo and I wrote: “Although we believe our evidence that they did not have [functioning onboard] phones is very strong, we cannot yet claim to have proof; evidence to the contrary might still emerge.” While repeating that statement today, I would add that, given the new statements by John Hotard and Ralph Kolstad, combined with the fact that in the intervening years no proof to the contrary has emerged, the evidence is even stronger now. The evidence is very strong, therefore, that Barbara Olson could not possibly have made calls from Flight 77.

4. Did the FBI’s 2006 Report Confirm Ted Olson’s Testimony?

The question of whether American Flight 77 had onboard phones is important primarily for the question of the reality of the reported calls from Barbara Olson. However, if it should turn out that, contrary to what the presently available evidence indicates, Flight 77 did have onboard phones, that fact by itself would not settle the question about Olson’s reported calls, because there are other reasons to doubt their reality.¹⁰² One of these reasons is that Ted Olson’s account – according to which he received two calls from his wife that morning,

each of which lasted a minute or more – was undermined by the FBI’s Moussaoui trial report on phone calls from the airliners. Or at least I so claimed in my Fifth Estate interview, as well as in some of my writings. In this section, I respond to challenges that have been made to this claim.

The basic reason for my claim was the stark contrast between Ted Olson’s testimony and the FBI’s report on phone calls from American Flight 77. According to Olson’s testimony, he received two telephone calls from his wife that morning, the first of which, he told the FBI, “lasted about one (1) minute,” after which, a few minutes later, he received another call from her, during which, he later told Larry King, they “spoke for another two or three or four minutes.”¹⁰³ The FBI’s report to the Moussaoui trial, by contrast, says that Barbara Olson attempted one call, which was “unconnected” and (therefore) lasted “0 seconds.”¹⁰⁴ Could anyone possibly think that this report does not undermine Ted Olson’s account?

The answer to this question, surprisingly, turns out to be Yes, because some people suggest that Ted Olson’s account and the FBI report are not mutually contradictory. These suggestions all revolve around the fact that the FBI’s telephone report about American Flight 77, besides indicating that there was an unconnected call from Barbara Olson and two calls from Renee May – one unconnected, the other connected – also indicated that there were five calls from this flight that were doubly unknown: Each was made by an “unknown caller” to an “unknown number.” It also stated that four of these five calls were connected.¹⁰⁵

One attempt to reconcile the FBI’s Moussaoui trial phone report with the claim made by Ted Olson, according to which his wife called him twice from Flight 77, has been to suggest that this FBI report was intended to confirm Olson’s account, and successfully did so, by saying that all four of the connected calls to unknown numbers were calls from Barbara Olson to her husband’s office. A second attempt to reconcile the two would be to suggest that two of the four connected calls were from her. I will look first at the four-call hypothesis, then the two-call hypothesis.

Is the Four-Call Hypothesis Plausible?

In order for the four-call hypothesis to be persuasive, two conditions would need to be fulfilled. First, the FBI, in presenting its phone report to the Moussaoui trial, would have needed to be proposing, at least implicitly, the hypothesis that the four connected calls to unknown numbers were made by Barbara Olson. Second, in order for this four-call hypothesis to reconcile the FBI’s 2006 report with Olson’s account, it would need to be plausible. I will look at these two questions in reverse order.

In the first chapter of The 9/11 Commission Report, we find this statement about the reported calls from Barbara Olson:

“At some point between 9:16 and 9:26, Barbara Olson called her husband, Ted Olson, the solicitor general of the United States. . . . About a minute into the conversation, the call was cut off. . . . Shortly after the first call, Barbara Olson reached her husband again. She reported that the pilot had announced that the flight had been hijacked.”¹⁰⁶

That discussion suggested that there was no reason to question the reality of these calls. The only hint that there might be something problematic was the evident fact that no one

could establish exactly, or even very approximately, when the first call from her came. Surely, one would think, Ted Olson himself and whoever in his office put the call through to him would have had a pretty precise memory of when this shocking, traumatic call was received - more precise, at least, than the 10-minute span of time "between 9:16 and 9:26." So why could it not be determined with more precision when this reported call came?

Often, of course, puzzles raised by statements in the text of a book can be solved by looking at the relevant notes. When one turns to the endnote for this paragraph, however, one finds the following statement:

"The records available for the phone calls from American 77 do not allow for a determination of which of four 'connected calls to unknown numbers' represent the two between Barbara and Ted Olson, although the FBI and DOJ believe that all four represent communications between Barbara Olson and her husband's office. . . . The four calls were at 9:15:34 for 1 minute, 42 seconds; 9:20:15 for 4 minutes, 34 seconds; 9:25:48 for 2 minutes, 34 seconds; and 9:30:56 for 4 minutes, 20 seconds."107

So, we learn, there were apparently only two sources of information: purely oral reports from people in the office (not backed up by any notes or logs), which provide the account of two calls from Barbara Olson; and "records available for the phone calls from American 77," which provide no proof that Barbara Olson made any calls whatsoever. The DOJ and the FBI merely "believe" that two, or perhaps all four, of the connected calls to unknown numbers had been made by her.

The other thing this statement seems to imply is that there were no DOJ phone records showing the reception of any calls from Barbara Olson or from American Flight 77 - and, in fact, no DOJ phone records indicating that any calls were received at times corresponding to the times of any of the connected calls to unknown numbers reportedly made from Flight 77. Does this fact not undermine any attempt to try to correlate the phone calls reported by the two sources?

In any case, the statement about what "the FBI and DOJ believe" did indeed reflect a DOJ briefing (of May 2004), which said:

"While there was no direct evidence with respect to the 'unknown calls,' interviews with recipients (especially Lori Keyton who was answering the phone in Ted Olson's office on 9/11), plus interviews of family members of other Flight 77 passengers, has [sic] lead [sic] to the conclusion that all of these unknown calls were from Barbara Olson to her husband Ted's office."108

The question, however, is whether this "conclusion" is even remotely plausible. In answering this question, it will be helpful to look at the FBI reports of its interviews with the two people who reportedly received the calls: Ted Olson and DOJ secretary Lori Keyton.

According to the FBI's summary of the testimony of Keyton (who was working in Olson's office that morning to "cover the telephones"), she at approximately 9:00 AM received six to eight automated collect calls, from which nothing resulted. Next she "received a collect call from a live operator," who had "an emergency collect call from Barbara Olsen [sic] for Ted Olsen [sic]." Keyton accepted the call and then put Barbara Olson's call through to Ted. The FBI summary next says:

“There was a second telephone call a few to five (5) minutes later. This time Barbara Olsen [sic] was on the line when she answered. She called direct. It was not a collect call. . . . Keyton said, . . . ‘I’ll put you through.’ Keyton advised that there is no caller identification feature on the phone she was using. Keyton didn’t know if Barbara Olson was calling from the phone on the plane or from her cell phone.”¹⁰⁹

This summary contains many noteworthy features. One of these is the fact that, whereas Ted Olson had based some confused speculations about what kind of phone his wife had used on the idea that both calls had been made collect (he told Hannity & Colmes [see note 17] that, given the fact that she called collect, she must have used the “airplane phone [because] she somehow didn’t have access to her credit cards”), Lori Keyton, who reportedly received the calls, said that one of them was a direct call. For our present purposes, however, the relevant point is that the summary of Keyton’s testimony concluded with the above-quoted words. There was no hint of any further calls from Barbara Olson.

The same is true of the FBI’s summary of its interview with Ted Olson himself. According to this summary, Olson said that, while he was watching television – which was “rerunning film of the second plane hitting the WTC” – he, after being told that Barbara was on the phone, “picked up the call from his wife and spoke for about one (1) minute,” after which the call “was then cut off.” After reporting this call to the DOJ Command Center, he was told that his wife was on the phone again and, after they discussed several things, “[t]his call was then cut off.” The FBI’s summary of Ted Olson’s testimony concludes by saying:

“Olsen [sic] then went back to the television and learned of the crash at the Pentagon... Olson doesn’t know if the calls were made from her cell phone or the telephone on the plane. She always has her cell phone with her.”¹¹⁰

In the light of these two interview summaries, how could we suppose that the four “connected calls to unknown numbers” could have been “from Barbara Olson to her husband Ted’s office”?

We might, to be sure, find it plausible that the two calls reported by Lori Keyton and Ted Olson were the first two of the connected calls to unknown numbers, because their times and durations – 9:15:34 for 1 minute and 42 seconds; 9:20:15 for 4 minutes and 34 seconds – match up decently well with the Keyton-Olson reports.

But what are we to suppose about the third call, which reportedly began at 9:25:48 and lasted for 2 minutes and 34 seconds, and the fourth call, which reportedly began at 9:30:56 and lasted for 4 minutes and 20 seconds? Are we to suppose that Keyton received these calls and transferred them to the solicitor general, but then both of them failed, while being interviewed by the FBI, to mention these two calls, which would have lasted a total of almost 7 minutes? The idea is too ludicrous to consider.

How, then, are we to suppose that these final two calls could have been “from Barbara Olson to her husband Ted’s office”? Can we imagine that someone else in that office – perhaps Ted Olson’s personal secretary, Helen Voss, or someone else who took over telephone duty from Lori Keyton – received these two calls and then, instead of transferring them to Ted, stayed on the line with Barbara for almost seven minutes, and then never told him about these calls? Again, the idea is too absurd to entertain.

Accordingly, the hypothesis that all four of the connected calls to unknown numbers were actually calls from Barbara Olson to Ted Olson's office is completely implausible. As such, it cannot do anything to mitigate the conclusion that the FBI's report for the Moussaoui trial undermines Ted Olson's report that he received two calls from her.

Nevertheless, some critics of my views, looking aside from the question of whether the four-call hypothesis is plausible, have argued that it shows the falsity of my claim that the FBI, in issuing its Moussaoui trial report about Flight 77, in effect contradicted Ted Olson's claim to have received two calls from his wife. This argument depends on the assumption that the FBI, in presenting its telephone call report to the Moussaoui trial in 2006, was proposing the four-call hypothesis.

Did the FBI's Moussaoui Trial Report Propose the Four-Call Hypothesis, At Least Implicitly?

In a previous article, after quoting the FBI's Moussaoui trial graphic about Flight 77 - which says of Barbara Olson only that she made one call, which was "unconnected" and (hence) lasted "0 seconds" - I wrote:

"According to the FBI, therefore, Ted Olson did not receive a single call from his wife using either a cell phone or an onboard phone. This was an amazing development: The FBI is part of the Department of Justice, and yet its report undermined the well-publicized claim of the DOJ's former solicitor general that he had received two calls from his wife on 9/11."¹¹¹

One critic, having quoted this statement, wrote:

"Yes, the FBI is part of the Department of Justice, and 2 years before the Moussaoui trial all this info[rmation] was known to them, and the Department of Justice confirmed Olson's story. DRG claims the FBI's report 'undermined' Olson's claim to have received two calls from his wife."

Then, referring to the above-quoted DOJ briefing of May 20, 2004 - the work for which, it says, "was conducted in support of the U.S. Justice Department's criminal case against Zacarias Moussaoui" - the critic says that "this document seems to prove otherwise."¹¹²

This critic's claim is that, in light of the fact that the work for this 2004 briefing was conducted by the FBI to support the DOJ's case against Moussaoui, plus the fact that this briefing said that interviews had "lead [sic] to the conclusion that all of [the unknown connected] calls were from Barbara Olson to her husband Ted's office," the FBI's Moussaoui trial report, far from undermining Ted Olson's story, had "confirmed" it. There are, however, two problems with this assertion.

First, for that 2004 "conclusion" - namely, that all four connected calls to unknown numbers had been calls from Barbara Olson to her husband's office - to serve to "confirm" the truth of Olson's account, that conclusion would need to be plausible. But, as we have seen, it is not, so it cannot confirm anything.

The second problem is that the FBI's 2006 report to the Moussaoui trial did not repeat the 2004 statement about the DOJ-FBI "conclusion" that the four connected calls to unknown

numbers were all made by Barbara Olson. One cannot validly infer, simply from the fact that the 2004 DOJ briefing reflected work that was “conducted in support of the U.S. Justice Department’s criminal case against Zacarias Moussaoui,” that the FBI in 2006 meant to reaffirm statements in that briefing that were not explicitly reaffirmed.¹¹³ A lot can happen in two years. Also, making a patently indefensible statement in a court of law is a much more serious matter than making such a statement in a press briefing.

Therefore, all that we can say about the FBI’s report to the Moussaoui trial, insofar as it bears on Ted Olson’s story, is that it indicates only that Barbara Olson attempted one call, that this attempted call was unconnected, and that it lasted “0 seconds.” As such, this report clearly undermined Ted Olson’s account, according to which his wife had called him twice from American Flight 77, sharing information about the hijacking with him in each call. We cannot say that those presenting this report meant to undermine Olson’s testimony, but we also cannot say that they did not mean to do this. What we can say is that, as a matter of fact, the report did undermine his testimony.

The Two-Call Hypothesis As Less Problematic

Some critics, while granting the absurdity of the hypothesis that all four connected calls to unknown numbers were from Barbara Olson to her husband’s office, have suggested a two-call hypothesis. One of them wrote:

“[T]he FBI report on Flight 77 also contains several calls that could not be identified. The FBI if pressured could say that Barbara Olson’s calls to Ted were from two of those unidentified calls.”¹¹⁴

This hypothesis, according to which only two of the calls to unconnected numbers were made by Barbara Olson – with these being the two calls reported by Lori Keyton and Ted Olson – is certainly less obviously false than the four-call hypothesis. Indeed, at first glance it seems promising, because the times and durations of the first two unknown calls correspond roughly with Olson’s account of the two calls he received.

As we saw earlier the first of the connected calls to unknown numbers reportedly occurred at 9:15:34, whereas the first call to Olson’s office occurred “between 9:16 and 9:26 AM.” These times apparently create a problem, because the first of the connected calls to unknown numbers occurred 26 seconds before, according to the 9/11 Commission, the first call from Barbara Olson was received at Ted Olson’s office. However, one might argue that, allowing for human error, the times corresponded well enough.

Another apparent problem is that the reported durations might seem too different to be referring to the same calls: the first unknown call reportedly lasted for 102 seconds (one minute and 42 seconds), whereas Ted Olson told the FBI on 9/11 that it “lasted about one (1) minute.” However, when Olson was interviewed by Larry King a few days later, he said of the first call: “We spoke for a minute or two, then the phone was cut off.”¹¹⁵ There is sufficient correspondence, therefore, for a plausible identification of the first of Flight 77’s connected calls to unknown numbers with the first call from Barbara Olson reported by Ted Olson’s office.

The same is true of the second calls reported by these sources. According to AA records, the second call from Flight 77 began at 9:20:15, whereas Lori Keyton reported that the second

call from Barbara Olson came “a few to five (5) minutes” after the first one (so if the first one had been at 9:15:34, a second call at 9:20:15 would have been slightly less than five minutes later). Also, whereas the second unknown call lasted for 4 minutes and 34 seconds (274 seconds), Ted Olson told Larry King that he and his wife spoke in the second call for “another two or three or four minutes”¹¹⁶ – so, again, one could argue that this was close enough.

It might seem reasonable, therefore, to identify the first two of the reported calls to unknown numbers with the two calls reportedly received from Barbara Olson. If this is what the 9/11 Commission intended, however, it is puzzling that it specified that the first call came “between 9:16 and 9:26,” thereby seeming to rule out the possibility that the first of the unknown calls, said to have begun at 9:15:34, was the first Olson call.

Could an advocate of that position fix this problem by identifying the Olson calls with the second and third calls to unknown numbers, said to have begun at 9:20:15 and 9:25:48, respectively? The time between them – about 5 and a half minutes – fits the report provided by the Olson office closely enough. But the duration of the second unknown call – over 4 and a half minutes, could not correspond to Olson’s estimate to the FBI of the duration of the first call from his wife – “about one (1) minute” – or even his estimate to Larry King – “a minute or two.” So that attempted fix would not work.

The other possibility would be to equate the two Olson calls with the third and fourth calls from Flight 77 to unknown numbers. But this possibility seems to be ruled out by two facts: The third call lasted too long – over two and a half minutes – for Olson to have estimated to the FBI that it lasted only about one minute. And its beginning time of 9:25:48 seems far too late to fit the timeline suggested by various accounts of the occurrences in Ted Olson’s office that morning. For example, Olson and his secretary, Helen Voss, both reported that, after the first call, he phoned the DOJ Command Center to ask that someone – a security officer, Voss specified – be sent to his office.¹¹⁷ This security officer, Allen Ferber, said that this call came “at approximately 9:00 AM.”¹¹⁸ He surely would not have given this estimate if the call had not come until almost 9:26.

It would seem, then, that the most plausible way to portray the FBI phone report as compatible with Ted Olson’s account would be to equate the reported calls from his wife with the first two connected calls to unknown numbers.

Problems Confronting the Two-Call Hypothesis

However, whereas this version of the two-call hypothesis is not as obviously false as the four-call hypothesis, it is still afflicted with serious problems.

The Time of the First Call: One problem already discussed is that, according to the 9/11 Commission, the first call came at some time after 9:16, whereas the first of Flight 77’s calls to unknown numbers began earlier than that – at 9:15:34. There would need to be some explanation as to why this discrepancy should not rule out the identification of the two reported calls. Such an explanation might well be forthcoming, however, so this first problem is less serious than the following ones.

The Sequence of the Calls: According to Olson’s telephone receptionist, Lori Keyton, the first call from Barbara Olson was a collect call, made through an operator, whereas the second call was different: “This time Barbara Olsen [sic] was on the line when she answered. She

called direct. It was not a collect call.”¹¹⁹ If we regard these two reported calls as the first two connected calls to unknown numbers that reportedly originated from Flight 77, and then add the unconnected direct call at 9:18:58 indicated by the Barbara Olson graphic provided in the FBI’s report to the Moussaoui trial, we need to say that Barbara Olson attempted three calls: a successful collect call through an operator at 9:15:34; an unsuccessful (unconnected) direct call at 9:18:58 by means of an onboard phone, which could have been activated only by means of a credit card; and then a successful direct call at 9:20:15.

This sequence raises some questions: In the first place, if Barbara Olson had her credit card (contrary to Ted Olson’s speculation) and also had access to an onboard phone, so that she knew that she could call her husband’s office direct, why did she first use an operator to call collect – a procedure that, besides also requiring a credit card, would have taken extra time? In the second place, having successfully reached the office through an operator, why would she then have tried to dial direct? In the third place, having then found that trying to call direct did not work, why would she have tried that method again, rather than going back to her first method, which had worked?

We cannot say for certain, of course, that she would not have made this sequence of calls. But the seeming impossibility of answering these questions does increase the problematic nature of the two-call hypothesis.

Why Were the Two Connected Calls “Unknown”? Articulating a still more severe problem for the two-call hypothesis, one commentator wrote:

“[I]t is very strange that the FBI did not have any confirmed calls from Barbara Olson to Ted Olson. There were 4 connected calls with unconfirmed numbers and unconfirmed callers. That is odd. If they were able to confirm a call by Barbara Olson that was unconnected to the DOJ and lasted zero seconds, why not calls that were actually connected and lasted several minutes long?”¹²⁰

This set of claims, correctly called by this writer “very strange,” appears to be so bizarre as to be completely implausible. If the FBI was able to identify the number dialed for a call that failed to connect – so that it did not endure for even a hundredth of a second – could anyone give a plausible explanation as to why the FBI could not identify the number reached by two calls that, besides connecting, endured for over 1.5 and 4.5 minutes, respectively?

This problem becomes even more severe when we focus on the hypothesis that two of the connected calls to unknown numbers were from Barbara Olson to the Department of Justice, which was also reportedly the number reached by an attempted call from her that failed to connect. If the FBI was able to determine that Barbara Olson had at 9:18:58 unsuccessfully attempted to reach the Department of Justice, why would it have been unable to determine that the calls that she – according to the two-call hypothesis – made at 9:15:34 and 9:20:15 had reached that same Department of Justice?

Although to my knowledge no advocate of the hypothesis being considered – that some of the connected calls to unknown numbers were from Barbara Olson to the DOJ – has provided a plausible explanation of these seemingly bizarre consequences of that hypothesis, one advocate has tried. According to this individual:

“If you use a credit card and pay yourself you dial the number yourself and a

record from the airphone is then made. She did that once and it didn't go through...you have the one recorded call, and the number dialed from the airphone. The others were made collect and therefor [sic] the operator dialed the number not the person using the airphone therefor [sic] the number called is unknown (not dialed on the airphone) but the time the airphone was used is known and recorded."

There are two problems with this explanation. First, as we already saw, only one of the calls from Barbara Olson reportedly received by her husband's office came through an operator. The other one, Lori Keyton said, was a direct call. Second, it is simply not the case that collect calls made through operators leave no record. (Without a record, how would the phone company know whom to charge for the calls?) So this explanation is about as wrong as an explanation can be.

This doubly false explanation was offered by a critic on behalf of his central thesis, which is: "Evidence shows the calls happened as Olson said, and there's no evidence they didn't." But good evidence is provided by the apparent fact that, as this critic's failed attempt illustrates, there is no plausible answer to this question: If the system was able to determine that Barbara Olson attempted a call to the DOJ that did not go through, why could this same system not identify either the caller or the recipient of two calls by her that did go through? If there is no plausible answer to that question, then this is good evidence that she did not complete two calls to Ted Olson's office from Flight 77.

In sum: Although the two-call hypothesis is not as obviously false as the four-call hypothesis, it is still too problematic to be considered a way to reconcile the FBI's Moussaoui trial telephone report with Ted Olson's claim that he had received two calls from his wife while she was aboard American Flight 77. As far as I can see, therefore, my claim - that the FBI's report to the Moussaoui trial undermined Ted Olson's account of his wife's having called him twice from aboard Flight 77 - stands.

The conclusion that Ted Olson's account was false does not necessarily imply that he did not receive two calls, transferred to him from Lori Keyton, that were purportedly from Barbara Olson aboard American Flight 77. It merely implies that Lori Keyton and Ted Olson did not, in fact, receive two calls from Barbara Olson from Flight 77. What really happened is another question, which could probably be answered quite quickly by a genuine investigation into the matter.

Conclusion

Although this essay has focused on details, often minute, in merely one aspect of the official account of 9/11, the implications are enormous. Without the widespread assumption that the 9/11 attacks had been planned and carried out by al-Qaeda, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq would not have been possible. With regard to the war in Afghanistan in particular, Michel Chossudovsky has recently emphasized the fact that NATO's decision to support this US-led war was based on a briefing by Frank Taylor of the US State Department, in which he provided what was called conclusive evidence of al-Qaeda's responsibility for the attacks.¹²¹ Although the contents of Taylor's briefing have never been made public, the main evidence provided to the general public has consisted of the hijack-describing phone calls reportedly received from passengers and flight attendants aboard the airliners. But when subjected to a detailed analysis, these alleged phone calls, far from supporting the war-justifying story, lead to a very different conclusion: that these alleged calls were faked.

This analysis thereby suggests that the entire 9/11 story used to justify the US-led wars is a lie.

If asked which part of the official story can be most definitively shown to be false, I would speak not of the alleged phone calls but of the destruction of the World Trade Center, the official account of which says that the Twin Towers and WTC 7 came down without the aid of pre-set explosives. Given the fact that this theory involves massive violations of basic laws of physics, the evidence against it is so strong as to be properly called proof – as I have recently emphasized in a book-length critique of the official report on WTC 7 in particular.¹²²

Nevertheless, the importance of the evidence against the official account provided by analyzing the alleged phone calls should not be minimized. If the official story is false, then we should expect every major dimension of it to be false – which, as I have emphasized in another recent book, can be seen to be the case.¹²³ It is this cumulative argument that provides the strongest disproof of the official, war-justifying account of 9/11. The evidence that the alleged phone calls from the airliners were faked is an important part of this cumulative argument.¹²⁴

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Notes

1 “9/11: The Unofficial Story,” The Fifth Estate, CBC News, November 27, 2009 (http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/2009-2010/the_unofficial_story). It is also available on You Tube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/SaveOurSovereignty3#p/u/3/8SK1PWIGs48>).

2 “Video Interview: David Ray Griffin,” The Fifth Estate, CBC News, December 4, 2009 (http://www.cbc.ca/fifth/2009-2010/the_unofficial_story/video_griffin.html).

3 “David Ray Griffin on the 9/11 Cell Phone Calls: Exclusive CBC Interview,” You Tube, December 18, 2009 (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjlmLL4NnwA>).

4 “David Ray Griffin on the 9/11 Cell Phone Calls: Exclusive CBC Interview,” 911Blogger.com, December 19, 2009 (<http://www.911blogger.com/node/22192>).

5 Dean Jackson, “Comments,” *ibid.*

6 Charles Lane and John Mintz, “Bid to Thwart Hijackers May Have Led to Pa. Crash,” Washington Post, September 13, 2001 (<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-459249.html>).

7 “The Final Moments of United Flight 93,” Newsweek, September 22, 2001 (<http://web.archive.org/web/20040626080457/http://msnbc.msn.com/id/3067652>).

8 FBI, Interview with Fred Fiumano, transcribed September 20, 2001 (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/15072623/T1A-B33-Four-Flights-Phone-Calls-and-Other-Data-Fdr-Entire-Contents-FBI-302s-843>).

- 9 Kerry Hall, "Flight Attendant Helped Fight Hijackers," News & Record (Greensboro, N.C.), September 21, 2001 (<http://webcache.news-record.com/legacy/photo/tradecenter/bradshaw21.htm>).
- 10 Greg Gordon, "Widow Tells of Poignant Last Calls," Sacramento Bee, September 11, 2002 (<http://holtz.org/Library/Social%20Science/History/Atomic%20Age/2000s/Sep11/Burnett%20widows%20story.htm>).
- 11 "Harrowing Final Phone Calls," BBC News, September 13, 2001 (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/1543466.stm>).
- 12 Karen Gullo and John Solomon, Associated Press, "Experts, U.S. Suspect Osama bin Laden, Accused Architect of World's Worst Terrorist Attacks," September 11, 2001 (<http://sfgate.com/today/suspect.shtml>).
- 13 David Maraniss, "September 11, 2001," Washington Post, September 16, 2001 (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A38407-2001Sep15>).
- 14 See Natalie Patton, "Flight Attendant Made Call on Cell Phone to Mom in Las Vegas," Las Vegas Review-Journal, September 13, 2001 (http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2001/Sep-13-Thu-2001/news/16989631.html).
- 15 Tim O'Brien, "Wife of Solicitor General Alerted Him of Hijacking from Plane," CNN, September 11, 2001 (<http://archives.cnn.com/2001/US/09/11/pentagon.olson>).
- 16 "Transcription of FBI Interview with Theodore Olson," September 11, 2001 (<http://intelfiles.egoplex.com/2001-09-11-FBI-FD302-theodore-olsen.pdf>).
- 17 Three days after 9/11, Olson told Hannity and Colmes (Fox News) that his wife must have used an "airplane phone," but then on Larry King's show that same day he went back to the cell phone version: Having reported that the phone suddenly went dead, he said that this must have been "because the signals from cell phones coming from airplanes don't work that well" ("America's New War: Recovering from Tragedy," Larry King Live, CNN, September 14, 2001 [<http://edition.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0109/14/kl.00.html>]).
- 18 Theodore B. Olson, "Barbara K. Olson Memorial Lecture," November 16, 2001, Federalist Society, 15th Annual National Lawyers Convention (<http://www.fed-soc.org/resources/id.63/default.asp>);
Toby Harnden, "She Asked Me How to Stop the Plane," Daily Telegraph, March 5, 2002 (<http://s3.amazonaws.com/911timeline/2002/telegraph030502.html>).
- 19 See "On September 11, Final Words of Love," CNN, September 10, 2002 (<http://archives.cnn.com/2002/US/09/03/ar911.phone.calls>), which said: "Unbeknown to the hijackers, passenger and political commentator Barbara Olson, 45, was able to call her husband - Solicitor General Ted Olson - on her cellular phone."
- 20 The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States, Authorized Edition (New York: W. W. Norton, 2004), 6, 453n32. (Henceforth cited as 9/11CR.)
- 21 Affidavit by FBI Special Agent James K. Lechner, September 11, 2001; available at Four Corners: Investigative TV Journalism (<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/atta/resources/documents/fbiaffidavit1.htm>), page 9.

Sweeney and Woodward are not identified by name in the affidavit, which refers simply to the former as “a flight attendant on AA11” and to the latter as “an employee of American Airlines at Logan.” But their names were revealed in an “investigative document compiled by the FBI” to which reporter Eric Lichtblau referred in “Aboard Flight 11, a Chilling Voice,” Los Angeles Times, September 20, 2001

(<http://web.archive.org/web/20010929230742/http://latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-092001hijack.story>).

Also, the 9/11 Commission’s report indicates that the information about Amy Sweeney’s call was provided by Woodward (9/11CR 453n32).

22 FBI, “Interview with Deena Lynne Burnett,” 9/11 Commission, FBI Source Documents, Chronological, September 11, 2001, Intelfiles.com, March 14, 2008

(<http://intelfiles.egoplex.com:80/2008/03/911-commission-fbi-source-documents.html>).

23 FBI, “Interview with Lee Hanson” (<http://intelfiles.egoplex.com/2001-09-11-FBI-FD302-lee-hanson.pdf>).

24 For example, according to the 9/11 Commission’s report, which reflected official documents, United Flight 93 was at 34,300 feet when passengers and crew members began making calls, and it soon climbed “to 40,700 feet” (9/11CR 11-12, 29).

25 9/11CR 453n32.

26 AT&T spokesperson Alexa Graf said shortly after 9/11: “On land, we have antenna sectors that point in three directions—say north, southwest, and southeast. Those signals are radiating across the land.” Insofar as “those signals do go up,” that is “due to leakage” (quoted in Betsy Harter, “Final Contact,” Telephony’s Wireless Review, November 1, 2001 [http://wirelessreview.com/ar/wireless_final_contact]). A story in the Travel Technologist, published one week after 9/11, said: “[W]ireless communications networks weren’t designed for ground-to-air communication. Cellular experts privately admit that they’re surprised the calls were able to be placed from the hijacked planes. . . . They speculate that the only reason that the calls went through in the first place is that the aircraft were flying so close to the ground” (“Will They Allow Cell Phones on Planes?” The Travel Technologist, September 19, 2001 [<http://web.archive.org/web/20020818131901/http://elliott.org/technology/2001/cellpermit.htm>]). But, of course, the planes were not flying close to the ground when most of the cell phone calls were reportedly made. These points were made in 2004 by Michel Chossudovsky, “More Holes in the Official Story: The 9/11 Cell Phone Calls,” Centre for Research on Globalisation, August 10, 2004 (<http://globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO408B.html>). On this basis, Chossudovsky concluded that at least part of the reported cell phone conversations had to have been fabricated.

27 A.K. Dewdney, “Project Achilles Report: Parts One, Two and Three,” Physics 911, April 19, 2003 (<http://www.physics911.net/projectachilles>). He later summarized and extended his conclusions in “The Cell phone and Airfone Calls from Flight UA93” (http://physics911.net/cell_phoneflight93.htm).

28 Dewdney, “Project Achilles Report.

29 The results of Dewdney’s twin-engine experiments are reported in Barrie Zwicker, Towers of Deception: The Media Cover-Up of 9/11 (Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers, 2006), 375.

30 E-mail letter from Dewdney, November 21, 2006.

31 Dewdney, "The Cell phone and Airfone Calls from Flight UA93."

32 QUALCOMM Press Release, "American Airlines and QUALCOMM Complete Test Flight to Evaluate In-Cabin Mobile Phone Use," July 15, 2004
(<http://www.qualcomm.com/news/releases/2004/07/15/american-airlines-and-qualcomm-complete-test-flight-evaluate-cabin-mobile-p>).

33 Stephen Castle, "Era of In-Flight Mobile Phone Use Begins in Europe," International Herald Tribune, April 18, 2008 (<http://www.ihf.com/articles/2008/04/18/business/cell.php>).

34 Greg Gordon, "Prosecutors Play Flight 93 Cockpit Recording," McClatchy Newspapers, KnoxNews.com, April 12, 2006
(<http://web.archive.org/web/20080129210016/http://www.knoxnews.com/shns/story.cfm?pk=MOUSSAOUI-04-12-06&cat=WW>).

The quoted statement is Gordon's paraphrase of the testimony of "a member of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force."

35 Dewdney, "The Cell phone and Airfone Calls from Flight UA93."

36 United States v. Zacarias Moussaoui, Exhibit Number P200054
(<http://www.vaed.uscourts.gov/notablecases/moussaoui/exhibits/prosecution/flights/P200054.html>).

These documents have been made more readily accessible by 9/11 researcher Jim Hoffman in "Detailed Account of Phone Calls from September 11th Flights" (<http://911research.wtc7.net/planes/evidence/calldetail.html>).

37 Although the most easily accessible graphic about Felt's call on the government website (see previous note) says only "call placed from bathroom," the statement quoted in the text is on an expanded graphic. Although getting to it on that site can be difficult, this expanded graphic can easily be seen on Jim Hoffman's website (see previous note).

38 This graphic for Lyles can easily be accessed on Jim Hoffman's website (see the previous two notes).

39 "T7 B12 Flight 93 Calls- General Fdr- 5-20-04 DOJ Briefing on Cell and Phone Calls From AA 77 408," May 20, 2004
(<http://www.scribd.com/doc/18886083/T7-B12-Flight-93-Calls-General-Fdr-52004-DOJ-Briefing-on-Cell-and-Phone-Calls-From-AA-77-408>).

40 See the graphics for Flights 11 and 175 at "Detailed Account of Phone Calls from September 11th Flights" (<http://911research.wtc7.net/planes/evidence/calldetail.html>).

41 See "UA-93 Altitude Profile," Webshots.com
(<http://good-times.webshots.com/photo/2367739610098837763LtPhuo>).

42 jimd3100, "'Fake' Phone Calls? What The Evidence Shows," 911Blogger.com, December 22, 2009 (<http://911blogger.com/node/22214>).

43 Affidavit by FBI Special Agent James K. Lechner, September 11, 2001 (see note 21, above).

44 FBI, Interview with Jane Allen, September 12, 2001

(<http://www.scribd.com/doc/13499802/T7-B13-Flight-Call-Notes-and-302s-Folder-Entire-Contents>).

45 “Madeline Amy Sweeney: The Final Call,” New York Times, December 26, 2001

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/12/26/national/portraits/POG-26SWEENEY.html?pagewanted=1>

46 Elizabeth L. Kilkenny, “Madeline ‘Amy’ Sweeney,” Irish Tribute

(<http://www.irishtribute.com/tributes/view.adp@d=236920&t=239167.html>).

47 “Madeline Amy Sweeney,” Association of Flight Attendants-CWA

(http://www.afanet.org/memoriam/aa_flt_11.htm).

48 “Sweeney, Amy,” Biography, Astro Databank

(http://www.astro.com/astro-databank/Sweeney,_Amy).

49 Jerry Harkavy, “Flight Affidavit: Flight Attendant Made Call to Report Hijacking,” Associated Press, October 5, 2001

(<http://multimedia.belointeractive.com/attack/investigation/1005hijackercar.html>).

50 9/11CR 453n32.

51 Alan Cabal, “Miracles and Wonders,” New York Press, August 10, 2004

(<http://www.nypress.com/article-9872-miracles-and-wonders.html>).

52 Cabal wrote, for example: “[N]umerous technological miracles and wonders will rise up out of the ashes of that terrible day. . . . Satam Al-Suqami’s indestructible passport, for one, is currently under the microscope in the Reverse Engineering Department at Area 51. My old passport was falling apart when I finally replaced it last year, just from spending 10 years in my pocket. His survived the destruction of the World Trade Center. I want one of those” (ibid.).

53 The term “airphone” seems to be either a misspelling of “Airfone” (which is the brand name of the onboard phone provided by GTE from 1986 to 2000 and by Verizon after that) or else the use of this alternative spelling as a generic term for onboard phones.

54 Staff Report (for the 9/11 Commission), August 26, 2004 (<http://www.archives.gov/legislative/research/9-11/staff-report-sept2005.pdf>), 45. Although this report is dated August 26, its contents were obviously available to the Commission before the completion of its final report, which appeared in July. (This report provides no clue as to the reason for its late date.)

55 9/11CR 9, 90n156. The 9/11 Commission Report was written so as to disguise the fact that it was not affirming any cell phone calls other than the reported 9:58 calls from United Flight 93 by Edward Felt and CeeCee Lyles. Writing about this flight, for example, the Commission said: “Shortly [after 9:32], the passengers and flight crew began a series of calls from GTE airphones and cellular phones” (9/11CR 12). Along with many other readers, I was deceived for some years into thinking that the Commission had thereby affirmed the occurrence of high-altitude cell phone calls (as shown by my discussion in 9/11 Contradictions: An Open Letter to Congress and the Press [Northampton: Olive Branch, 2008], 173). Only after studying the Commission’s Staff Report of August 2004 (see previous

note) did I realize that the only cellular calls in that alleged “series of calls from GTE airphones and cellular phones” were those of Felt and Lyles.

56 Gail Sheehy, “9/11 Tapes Reveal Ground Personnel Muffled Attacks,” New York Observer, June 24, 2004
(<http://www.observer.com/node/49415>).

57 Ibid.

58 Staff Report (for the 9/11 Commission), August 26, 2004: 14.

59 9/11CR 453nn25, 32, 33, 36.

60 Sheehy, “9/11 Tapes Reveal Ground Personnel Muffled Attacks.”

61 Eric Lichtblau, “Aboard Flight 11, a Chilling Voice,” Los Angeles Times, September 20, 2001
[<http://web.archive.org/web/20010929230742/http://latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-092001hijack.story>).

62 The tape itself, to be sure, does reportedly contain dialogue that may have been intended to prepare for such a claim to be made. According to a former AA employee who heard the tape, Gail Sheehy has reported, it contains the voices of two managers in American Airlines’ SOC who, hearing Nancy Wyatt’s transmission of Amy Sweeney’s words on 9/11, were saying: “Do not pass this along. Let’s keep it right here. Keep it among the five of us” (Sheehy, “9/11 Tapes Reveal Ground Personnel Muffled Attacks”). I find it completely beyond belief, however, that any AA officials, upon having learned that one of their airplanes was being hijacked, would have thought they could keep it among themselves. This reported conversation seems to be simply one of the most transparently phony parts of this made-up story.

63 “T7 B10 FBI 302s Olsen Fdr- 302s Re Michael Woodward 372”
(<http://www.scribd.com/doc/18775594/T7-B10-FBI-302s-Olsen-Fdr-302s-Re-Michael-Woodward-372>).

64 Staff Report (for the 9/11 Commission), August 26, 2004: 14.

65 FBI, Interview with Deena Lynne Burnett, September 11, 2001
(<http://www.scribd.com/doc/15072623/T1A-B33-Four-Flights-Phone-Calls-and-Other-Data-Fdr-Entire-Contents-FBI-302s-843>).

66 See Thomas Burnett, Flight 93, in “Detailed Account of Phone Calls from September 11th Flights”
(<http://911research.wtc7.net/planes/evidence/calldetail.html>).

67 FBI, Interview with Lorne Lyles, September 12, 2001
(<http://www.scribd.com/doc/15072623/T1A-B33-Four-Flights-Phone-Calls-and-Other-Data-Fdr-Entire-Contents-FBI-302s-843>).

68 Gordon, “Widow Tells of Poignant Last Calls.”

69 Deena L. Burnett (with Anthony F. Giombetti), Fighting Back: Living Life Beyond

Ourselves (Longwood, Florida: Advantage Inspirational Books, 2006), 61.

70 FBI Interview with Ronald and Nancy May, September 12, 2001

(<http://www.scribd.com/doc/15072623/T1A-B33-Four-Flights-Phone-Calls-and-Other-Data-Fdr-Entire-Contents-FBI-302s-843>).

71 9/11CR 455n57.

72 “T7 B13 Flight Call Notes and 302s Folder - Entire Contents” (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/13499802/T7-B13-Flight-Call-Notes-and-302s-Folder-Entire-Contents>). The summary of the interview with Renee May’s fiancé is the final item in these notes.

73 Natalie Patton, “Flight Attendant Made Call on Cell Phone to Mom in Las Vegas,” Las Vegas Review-Journal, September 13, 2001

(http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2001/Sep-13-Thu-2001/news/16989631.html).

74 Although the graphic for Renee May did not specify the seat from which her call was made, it indicated that the call was made from an onboard phone by default, that is, by not specifying that it was made on a cell phone. Also, as we saw, an FBI report stated: “All of the calls from Flight 77 were made via the onboard airphone system” (see text for note 39, above).

75 Although Brickhouse Security’s advertisement for “Telephone Voice Changers” (<http://www.brickhousesecurity.com/telephone-voice-changers.html>) has been modified in recent years, it previously included a device called “FoneFaker,” the ad for which said: “Record any call you make, fake your Caller ID and change your voice, all with one service you can use from any phone.” I had quoted this statement in *Debunking 9/11 Debunking: An Answer to Popular Mechanics and Other Defenders of the Official Conspiracy Theory* (Northampton: Olive Branch [Interlink Books], 2007), 297. For more evidence that the calls from the airliners were fabricated, along with informed speculation about the process for creating the faked calls, see Rowland Morgan’s book-length manuscript “Voices: The 9/11 Phone-Call Evidence,” which is available on the Internet (<http://davidraygriffin.com/voices/>).

76 For the times, see 9/11CR 9. The elevations are those indicated for 9:16 and 9:26, respectively, by the National Transportation Safety Board’s flight path study for AA Flight 77, put out February 19, 2002

(<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB196/doc02.pdf>).

77 See the NTSB flight path study (previous note) or the NTSB animation

(<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6529691284366443405&q=AA77+animation>).

78 “T7 B12 Flight 93 Calls- General Fdr- 5-20-04 DOJ Briefing on Cell and Phone Calls From AA 77 408,” May 20, 2004

(<http://www.scribd.com/doc/18886083/T7-B12-Flight-93-Calls-General-Fdr-52004-DOJ-Briefing-on-Cell-and-Phone-Calls-From-AA-77-408>).

79 This criticism was made by a member of the 9/11 Truth Movement writing on December 20, 2009, on 911Blogger.com under the alias “loose nuke”; see the comments under “David Ray Griffin on the 9/11 Cell Phone Calls: Exclusive CBC Interview” (<http://www.911blogger.com/node/22192>). This twofold claim was seconded by a couple of other commentators, to whom I refer below in note 94.

80 Griffin, *Debunking 9/11 Debunking*, 1st edition, 266-67, citing Rowland Morgan and Ian Henshall, *9/11 Revealed: The Unanswered Questions* (New York: Carroll and Graf, 2005), 128-29.

81 The critic "jimd3100," while attempting to contradict my position, stated, "American Airlines had AirFones in 2001," evidently failing to understand that this was never at issue. The only question was whether American's 757s in particular had them.

82 The letter of inquiry was sent December 6, 2004. The response from Tim Wagner was sent the same day; see Morgan and Henshall, *9/11 Revealed*, 128-29. The fact that AA had confirmed the absence of onboard phones on its Boeing 757s is also mentioned in Rowland Morgan, *Flight 93 Revealed: What Really Happened on the 9/11 'Let's Roll' Flight?* (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2006), 52.

83 *Debunking 9/11 Debunking*, 1st edition, 267.

84 Sam Ames, "Airline Grounds In-flight Phone Service," CNET News.com (<http://news.cnet.com/2100-1033-831093.html>).

85 David Ray Griffin, "Barbara Olson's Alleged Call from AA 77: A Correction About Onboard Phones," Information Clearing House, May 7, 2007 (<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article17659.htm>).

86 "Cell Phones Test Positive on AA Flight," USA Today, July 16, 2004 (http://www.usatoday.com/tech/wireless/2004-07-16-jet-phones_x.htm).

87 This document is available at Pilots for 9/11 Truth (<http://pilotsfor911truth.org/AA757AMM.html>).

88 Posted February 17, 2006, by "the Paradroid" on the Politik Forum (<http://web.archive.org/web/20070713043551/http://www.politikforum.de/forum/archive/index.php/t-133356-p-24.html>).

89 As reported in the article cited in the following note, I confirmed the reliability of the person using "the Paradroid" alias, while Balsamo contacted Chad Kinder to ask if he had indeed written that reply. Kinder's answer was that, although he could not recall that particular letter (which would have been written more than a year earlier), it "sound[ed] like an accurate statement."

90 David Ray Griffin and Rob Balsamo, "Could Barbara Olson Have Made Those Calls? An Analysis of New Evidence about Onboard Phones," Pilots for 9/11 Truth, June 26, 2007 (<http://pilotsfor911truth.org/amrarticle.html>) or (<http://www.911blogger.com/node/9627>).

91 Griffin, *Debunking 9/11 Debunking: An Answer to Popular Mechanics and Other Defenders of the Official Conspiracy Theory*, Revised and Updated Edition (Northampton: Olive Branch, August 2007), 90-91.

92 *Ibid.*, 267.

93 "New Evidence that the Official Story about 9/11 is Indefensible," *The Canadian*, October 9, 2007 (<http://www.agoracosmopolitan.com/home/Frontpage/2007/10/08/01871.html>); also posted at 911Truth.org (<http://www.911truth.org/article.php?story=20071009102819394>).

94 The commentator “loose nuke,” who declared it a “fact” that “AA 757s had airfones on 9/11,” added: “and, as SCL [Screw Loose Change] documents, Griffin himself acknowledged as much in 2007 – but has continued to promote the claim about no phone calls.” Then, while stating that “SCL is dishonest and disgusting,” he proceeded to cite five articles posted on this website as support for his twofold claim. Jon Gold, citing for support the comment by “loose nuke,” claimed that it provided an example of my “[p]romoting false claims even after being shown they are false” (<http://www.911blogger.com/node/22192>). And “jimd3100” – the critic who claimed that I had no evidence that any phone calls were faked – wrote: “American Airlines had AirFones in 2001. . . . DRG knows this, and has for years” (<http://911blogger.com/node/22214>) – by which this critic evidently meant to be referring to American’s 757s in particular. As proof, this person referred to some of the same articles from Screw Loose Change cited by “loose nuke.” None of these articles, however, show that I have continued to express a view that I knew to be false. The first one, dated May 7, 2007 (<http://screwloosechange.blogspot.com/2007/05/debunking-david-ray-griffin.html>), is a post by “James B” in which he simply reported my retraction, which had been posted that same day. (And yet it is this article of mine, originally posted on May 7, 2007, at Information Clearing House, that “loose nuke” cites as proof that I have been making a claim I know to be false: After citing this article, “loose nuke” said: “DRG been made [sic] aware that AA 757’s had airfones on 9/11; he acknowledged this in writing.” His criticism is, in other words, based on the false assumption that my article of May 7, 2007, was my final writing on the subject – an assumption that has been facilitated by James B, as I point out below.) In the second article, dated September 14, 2007 (screwloosechange.blogspot.com/2007/09/aa-77-airfones-final-story.html), James B, besides trying to take credit for my retraction, said that my next move was “to immediately turn around and decide that this was too big of a concession to reality and start trying to prove they didn’t exist again.” This was, of course, his tendentious way of explaining why I retracted the retraction (without mentioning the three new pieces of evidence, which provided the reason). The important point, however, is that he did acknowledge this. So how could anyone point to this article as evidence that I have agreed since 2007 that Boeing 757s had onboard phones on 9/11? The third article, dated October 10, 2007 (screwloosechange.blogspot.com/2007/10/david-ray-griffin-liar-or-just-sloppy.html), is by Pat of SLC and has a title asking whether I am a “Liar or Just Sloppy?” The basis for this loaded question was a brief article in which I had said that the FBI’s report to the Moussaoui trial said “in effect that the two calls that [Ted Olson] reported had never happened.” Pat replied: “No, that’s not what they said,” because they “show five other phone calls for which they don’t know who the caller was.” Pat’s point seemed to be that my failure to mention these other five calls (four of which were described as “connected”) implied dishonesty or sloppiness on my part. But if one turns to the article I had co-authored with Balsamo, one will find, in the section headed “United States v. Ted Olson,” our discussion of the fact that the FBI report referred to four “connected calls to unknown numbers,” attributing each one to an “unknown caller.” I also discussed these calls in the updated edition of *Debunking 9/11 Debunking* (267) and, most fully, in the Olson chapter of my *9/11 Contradictions* (76-78). In the fourth article, dated April 3, 2008 (<http://screwloosechange.blogspot.com/2008/04/griffin-and-barrett-suggest-olson-were.html>), James B, in an attempt to refute my claim that American 757s had no onboard phones in 2001 (which I had repeated during a radio interview that week), actually quoted, against me, my retraction of May 2007, even though he had previously – in his article of September 14, 2007, and also in an article of June 26, 2007 (<http://screwloosechange.blogspot.com/2007/06/mike-mechanic.html>) – acknowledged that I had shortly thereafter retracted that retraction. (This continued use of my retraction, even

after having acknowledged that I had retracted it long ago, illustrates the dishonesty of the SLC site mentioned by “loose nuke.”) In the fifth article, dated December 20, 2009 (screwloosechange.blogspot.com/2009/12/more-on-griffin.html), James B points out - as if I had overlooked or deliberately failed to mention it -the fact that the 9/11 Commission had reported the times of the four “connected calls to unknown numbers,” adding that “the FBI and DOJ believe all four represent communications between Barbara Olson and her husband’s office.” But I quoted the times of these alleged calls in the Olson chapter of my 2008 book, 9/11 Contradictions, and Balsamo and I, in our jointly authored essay, quoted the Commission’s statement about what “the FBI and DOJ believe,” explaining why we found this a very strange belief. In sum: I cannot understand how anyone could cite the SCL articles as evidence that I have acknowledged since 2007 that American Flight 77 had onboard phones. (The other point for which these articles at SLC were said to provide good evidence - the claim that AA 77 did have onboard phones - is discussed next in the text.)

95 “The Paratrooper,” Politik Forum, February 17, 2006 (<http://web.archive.org/web/20070713043551/http://www.politikforum.de/forum/archive/index.php/t-133356-p-24.html>).

96 This document is available at Pilots for 9/11 Truth (<http://pilotsfor911truth.org/AA757AMM.html>).

97 Posted by someone using the alias “Pomeroo,” James Randi Educational Forum, June 29, 2007 (<http://forums.randi.org/showpost.php?p=2730356&postcount=378>).

98 Captain Ralph Kolstad, email letters to Rob Balsamo and David Griffin, December 22, 2009.

99 See “American Airlines Flight #77 Telephone Calls: Unknown Caller” (<http://911research.wtc7.net/planes/evidence/docs/exhibit/UnknownCallerAA77.png>).

100 Sam Ames, “Airline Grounds In-flight Phone Service,” CNET News.com (<http://news.com.com/2100-1033-831093.html>).

101 This document is available on the Internet (http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_go0r2XYwpws/Rut6XRAnZ9I/AAAAAAAAAL8/h3RSUc1GUJw/s1600-h/F0871+001.jpg).

102 I discussed some of these reasons in the latter part of “Barbara Olson’s Alleged Call from AA 77: A Correction About Onboard Phones.”

103 “America’s New War: Recovering from Tragedy,” Larry King Live, CNN, September 14, 2001 (<http://edition.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0109/14/lkl.00.html>).

104 The official location for this report is United States v. Zacarias Moussaoui, Exhibit Number P200054 (<http://www.vaed.uscourts.gov/notablecases/moussaoui/exhibits/prosecution/flights/P200054.html>). But these documents can be more easily viewed in “Detailed Account of Phone Calls From September 11th Flights” (<http://911research.wtc7.net/planes/evidence/calldetail.html#ref1>). One can also go directly to the Barbara Olson graphic (<http://911research.wtc7.net/planes/evidence/docs/exhibit/BarbaraOlson.png>).

105 See the Flight 77 graphic for “Unknown Callers” (<http://911research.wtc7.net/planes/evidence/calldetail.html#ref1>). Some critics of my position have implied that I have deliberately not mentioned this part of the report. For example, after citing a brief essay of mine on the calls reported by Ted Olson, the critic going by “jimd3100” wrote: “[Griffin] doesn’t mention that there were 5 other calls from the flight, presented at the same trial. How come?” (“‘Fake’ Phone Calls? What The Evidence Shows” [<http://911blogger.com/node/22214>]). Also, in note 94, above, I pointed out that Pat of SCL suggested that, because I have not mentioned these unknown but connected calls, I must be either sloppy or a liar. However, as I pointed out in that note, I have mentioned the four “connected calls to unknown numbers” in some of my writings, including the updated edition of Debunking 9/11 Debunking and the article I co-authored with Rob Balsamo.

106 9/11CR 9.

107 9/11CR 455n57.

108 “Memorandum for the Record: Department of Justice Briefing on Cell and Phone Calls from AA Flight 77,” May 20, 2004 (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/18886083/T7-B12-Flight-93-Calls-General-Fdr-52004-DOJ-Briefing-on-Cell-and-Phone-Calls-From-AA-77-408>).

109 FBI, summary of interview with Lori Lynn Keyton, September 14, 2001, INTEL Wire.com (<http://intelfiles.egoplex.com/2001-09-14-FBI-FD302-lori-lynn-keyton.pdf>).

110 FBI, “Interview with Theodore Olsen [sic],” 9/11 Commission, FBI Source Documents, Chronological, September 11, 2001Intelfiles.com, March 14, 2008, (<http://intelfiles.egoplex.com:80/2008/03/911-commission-fbi-source-documents.html>).

111 “Ted Olson’s Report of Phone Calls from Barbara Olson on 9/11: Three Official Denials,” Global Research, April 1, 2008 (<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=8514>).

112 jimd3100, “‘Fake’ Phone Calls?” (<http://911blogger.com/node/22214>).

113 Besides being guilty of making this faulty inference, jimd3100 compounds the problem by abbreviating the 2004 statement – that the interviews “lead [sic] to the conclusion that all of these unknown calls were from Barbara Olson to her husband Ted’s office” – to “all of these unknown calls were from Barbara Olson to her husband Ted’s office,” so that it appears to have been a simple categorical statement, not a speculative inference.

114 Dean Jackson, “Comment,” December 20, 2009, about “David Ray Griffin on the 9/11 Cell Phone Calls: Exclusive CBC Interview,” 911Blogger.com, December 19, 2009 (<http://www.911blogger.com/node/22192>).

115 “America’s New War: Recovering from Tragedy,” Larry King Live, CNN, September 14, 2001.

116 Ibid.

117 “Transcription of FBI Interview with Theodore Olson,” September 11, 2001; FBI, “Interview of Helen Voss,” transcribed September 14, 2001 (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/15072623/T1A-B33-Four-Flights-Phone-Calls-and-Other-Data-Fdr>

[-Entire-Contents-FBI-302s-843](#)).

118 FBI, "Interview of Allen Ferber," transcribed September 14, 2001 (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/15072623/T1A-B33-Four-Flights-Phone-Calls-and-Other-Data-Fdr-Entire-Contents-FBI-302s-843>).

119 FBI, summary of interview with Lori Lynn Keyton (<http://intelfiles.egoplex.com/2001-09-14-FBI-FD302-lori-lynn-keyton.pdf>).

120 This statement was made on December 20, 2009, by "DavidS" in comments to "David Ray Griffin on the 9/11 Cell Phone Calls" (<http://www.911blogger.com/node/22192>).

121 Michel Chossudovsky, "September 11, 2001: America and NATO Declare War on Afghanistan: NATO's Doctrine of Collective Security," Global Research, December 21, 2009 (<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=16573>).

122 David Ray Griffin, The Mysterious Collapse of World Trade Center 7: Why the Final Official Report about 9/11 is Unscientific and False (Northampton: Olive Branch, 2009).

123 David Ray Griffin, The New Pearl Harbor Revisited: 9/11, the Cover-Up, and the Exposé (Northampton: Olive Branch, 2008).

124 My thanks to Elizabeth Woodworth and Tod Fletcher for help with this essay.

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