



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Aviation  
Administration

# Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Full Transcript; Aircraft Accidents;  
AAL11; UAL175; Manhattan, New York  
September 11, 2001 UTC

Date: September 14, 2001

From: LaGuardia ATCT

Reply to  
Attn. of:

To: Facility Accident/Incident Files

This transcript covers the LaGuardia ATCT Class B Airspace position for the time period from September 11, 2001, 1241 UTC to September 11, 2001, 1308 UTC.

Agencies Making Transmissions

LaGuardia ATCT, Class B Airspace  
Helicopter N8Bravo Quebec  
Kennedy ATCT  
Teterboro ATCT  
Newark ATCT  
Helicopter N317Mike Exray  
Police Helicopter 14 (Air Sea Rescue 14)  
Police Helicopter 6  
Channel 4 News Helicopter  
Helicopter N165 Mike Lima  
Unknown Transmission

Abbreviations

CBA  
N8BQ  
JFK  
TEB  
EWR  
N317MX  
PD14  
PD6  
CHPR 4  
N165ML  
UNKN

I hereby certify that the following is a true transcription of the recorded conversations pertaining to the subject aircraft accidents involving AAL11 and UAL175.

Lawrence Epstein  
Support Specialist  
LaGuardia ATCT

1241

1241:34 CBA

november eight bravo quebec radar contact is lost advise if you change altitudes or position

1241:40 N8BQ roger eight bravo quebec were at nine hundred feet now  
1242  
1243  
1244  
1245  
1245:15 N8BQ laguardia tower eight bravo quebec

1245:19 CBA november eight bravo quebec yes sir

1245:20 N8BQ okay well complete here like to take it out to the ah g w south on the hudson one point five handoff to newark landing (unintelligible)

1245:26 CBA (unintelligible) thank you ah proceed westbound one thousand five hundred then southbound on the hudson ill work out the handoff for you

1245:33 N8BQ thank you sir

1246  
1246:43 N8BQ laguardia tower eight bravo quebec

1246:46 CBA november eight bravo quebec yes sir

1246:47 N8BQ yes sir wed like to take it direct to the twin towers

1246:52 CBA ah november eight bravo quebec proceed as requested

1246:54 N8BQ okay eight bravo quebec ah laguardia did you have someone ah go off your scope

1246:58 CBA im sorry

1247  
1247:02 CBA eight bravo quebec I missed your last transmission

1247:05 N8BQ did you have someone go off the scope down by world trade looking a look toward southwest

1247:14 CBA you say that's coming from the world trade

1247:16 N8BQ that's correct looks like somethin just ah collided

1247:51 CBA newark laguardia

1247:53 EWR yeah

1247:54 CBA yeah listen ah we just got a helicopter (\*looks) i see some smoke coming from the world trade did you

1247:58 EWR yeah yeah billy its a huge amount of smoke man off the top ten floors its unbelievable

1248  
1248:03 CBA yeah we can you see is it a fire

1248:04 EWR ah its something burning i i didnt see anything crash into it but all a sudden a huge plume of smoke came out of the world trade center

1248:11 CBA thank you

1248:12 EWR awright

1248:29 B8BQ ah laguardia eight bravo quebec you can forget that ah handoff to newark

1248:33 CBA okay fine

1248:39 CBA newark laguardia hand eight bravo quebec back off to me please

1248:43 N317MX laguardia sikorsky three one seven mike xray s about twenty to the east ah two thousand id like throgs neck landing three four

1248:43 CBA (\*simultaneous transmission) say again no

1248:54 CBA im sorry i missed that for thirty fourth street

1248:56 N317MX yes its sikorsky three one seven mike xray and were about twenty to the  
ah like throgs ah routing into three four

1249  
1249:09 CBA ah eight bravo quebec ah remain north of the world trade center please

1249:15 N8BQ roger eight bravo quebec not a problem

1249:17 CBA im sorry the gentleman just called i was on another line once more please

1249:20 N317MX ah yes sir sikorsky three one seven mike xray about ah nineteen miles to  
the east like ah throgs neck ah to three four

1249:27 CBA three one seven mike xray laguardia squawk zero two zero three and  
ident laguardia altimeter three zero one three

1249:34 N317MX ah zero two zero three

1249:36 CBA ah yes sir laguardia altimeter three zero one three

1249:40 N317MX seven mike xray

1250  
1250:23 CBA eight bravo quebec just remain west of ah your present position please  
maintain one thousand five hundred

~~1250:29 N8BQ roger eight bravo quebec well ah keep that ah new channel over the  
hudson while on station now then~~

1250:53 N317MX and laguardia seven mike xray down to one point nine

1250:56 CBA seven mike xray say your position now please

1251:00 N317MX ah were about ah fifteen miles to the east

1251:02 CBA awaright report one zero miles east of laguardia one thousand five hundred for clearance into bravo airspace laguardias departing runway four landing runway three one

1251:10 N317MX seven mike xray

1251:38 N8BQ laguardia tower eight bravo quebec were gonna ah descend to check out

1251:42 CBA bravo quebec maintain at or below one thousand leaving bravo airspace radar service terminated frequency change approved

1251:48 N8BQ roger eight bravo quebec

1252  
1252:25 N317MX and laguardia seven mike xray s coming up ten east

1252:28 CBA mike xray ah thank you

1252:32 CBA and ah we didn't get rid of you squawk zero two zero five okay youre radar contact i have you now cleared into bravo airspace on thousand five hundred thros neck overhead laguardia departing runway four landing runway three one

1252:43 N317MX seven mike xray  
1253  
1254  
1255

1255:29 UNK laguardia

1255:37 UNK laguardia (unintelligible)

1255:42 CBA november three one seven ah mike xray once i get you west of four two two you can expect ah the five nine and lower laguardia center field wind three three zero at nine

1255:52 PD14 laguardia p d fourteen with ya

1255:56 CBA p d fourteen was that you checking in sir

1255:58 PD14 thats affirmative sir going to the world trade well be working on station at or below two thousand if you can ah divert any traffic above that and at least a mile and a half we possibly have a plane into the world trade

1256  
1256:07 CBA okay fine will do and cleared into bravo airspace laguardia altimeter three zero one three

1256:12 PD6 (garbled) p d six checking in well do the same

1256:21 PD6 ah laguardia p d six

1256:23 CBA p d six laguardia

1256:24 PD6 yes sir checking in doing the same at or below two thousand

1256:27 CBA ah maintain at or below two thousand you have company in sight

1256:29 PD6 affirmative sir well maintain a visual

1256:44 JFK laguardia kennedy seven twenty five and a quarter if you get anybody

1256:49 CHPR 4 (unintelligible) its chopper four

1257:00 CHPR 4 laguardia tower chopper four

1257:17 CBA p d fourteen be advised were not in communication with some of the aircraft ah targets around the world trade center at this time

1257:26 CHPR 4 and laguardia tower chopper four

1257:28 CBA chopper four laguardia

1257:30 CHPR 4 yes sir were just north of the world trade wed like to check in with you ah to stay ah at two thousand feet by ah just north of the world trade

1257:36 CBA p d ah chopper four okay i gotta keep you at least two miles ah circumference around the world trade center due to police request ah request

1257:45 CHPR 4 well do that ah can we climb up to two thousand and check in with you

1257:49 CBA standby chopper four two thousand feet out there s not my airspace either

1257:55 CBA okay chopper squawk zero two one zero if you wanna hold ah north of the empire or abeam the empire state building out there at two thousand feet i can approve that thats the best i can do for you

1258  
1258:06 CHPR 4 okay well do that zero two one zero and checked in chopper four

1258:09 CBA chopper four report on station abeam the empire state building between the empire state building and the lincoln tunnel ill keep you in that area now other helicopters news helicopters who wanna hold over in that area i can do that for ya but we need to keep you clear of the area

---

1258:23 CHPR 4 chopper four understand

---

1258:28 CBA p d fourteen ah by the ah empire state building holding a news aircraft is thats ah suffice for you

1258:33 PD14 yeah thatll be fine just keep them no closer than that no closer than that

1258:36 CBA okay

1258:40 CBA three one seven mike xray you landing thirty fourth

1258:43 N317MX ah yes sir were at five nine

1258:44 CBA okay descend at your discretion radar service terminated squawk v f r

1258:48 N317MX yes sir

1258:56 PD6 and p d six coming up on station fifteen hundred feet company traffic in sight

1259:00 CBA p d six roger thank you theres ah targets im showin a target south ah bound toward the statue of liberty area at eight hundred feet chopper four is heading up towards the ah empire state building be holding there at this time

1259:12 PD6 ah roger sir understand well be looking for everybody

1259:50 CHPR 4 chopper four is on station i got both p d ships in sight well maintain visual and well stay at two thousand

1259:56 CHPR 4 chopper four thank you very much

1300  
1300:46 CBA chopper four laguardia

1300:49 CHPR 4 go ahead

1300:50 CBA yeah can you proceed just a little bit further north about maybe another quarter of a mile

1300:54 CHPR 4 sure no problem chopper four



1300:56 CBA thank you sir i appreciate that and you gonna be at two thousand feet out there

1300:59 CHPR 4 well stay at two thousand well stay above the p d i think theyre staying at fifteen

1301  
1301:03 CBA affirmative thank you very much

1301:06 TEB and laguardia teterboro

1301:07 CBA yeah laguardia teterboro

1301:09 TEB yeah you guys got any type any idea what knda airplane ran into the world trade

1301:13 CBA i dont personally i dont believe it was an airplane that ran in there

1301:16 TEB you dont think so

1301:17 CBA i dont think so

1301:18 TEB i dont know it looks like theres a big hole there from this side

1301:20 CBA yeah well holes go outward too

1301:23 TEB yeah i hear you

1301:24 CBA okay (laughter)

1301:25 TEB okay thanks (laughter)

1301:26 CBA okay (laughter)

1301:51 CBA p d fourteen laguardia

1301:53 PD14 go head sir you got p d fourteen

1301:54 CBA just a question ah theres ah was it an explosion outward or something inward

1302  
1302:01 PD14 apparently its something inward we might have a ah ah an eyewitness with something reported that was a plane it came in through the landlines ah it mighta went into the building unknown size at this time

1302:10 CBA okay thank you

1302:14 CHPR 4 laguardia its chopper four it looks like a plane you can actually see the impact of ah where the wing came in

1302:20 CBA chopper four roger do you know its size (unintelligible) probably a small (unintelligible) a private airplane

1302:29 CHPR 4 cant tell how big it is right now

1302:31 CBA ah thank you

1303  
1303:09 PD14 hey laguardia a seven thirty seven just struck the world trade center

1303:13 CBA a seven thirty seven

---

1303:15 PD14 thats affirmative sir

---

1303:17 CBA okay thank you

1303:27 N65ML laguardia sikorsky one six five mike lima

1303:30 CBA six five mike lima go head

1303:31 N65ML i dont know whats going on over there im sure you guys are watching it we just saw another airplane hit that building

1303:37 CBA six five mike lima roger ah we just reported a seven thirty seven run into it ah whats your request sir

1303:43 N65ML awright ah well were going to six november five if thats if thats possible ah

1303:47 PD14 air sea rescue fourteen to laguardia

1303:49 CBA rescue fourteen go head ah six november five ah six five mike lima what do you want thirty fourth street

1303:55 PD14 (\*try indentify gimme a heads up) we just had a seven thirty seven go right into the world trade center we dont know its a terrorist attack or what

1304  
1304:02 CBA rescue im sorry say again

1304:04 PD14 i want you to keep all air traffic out of this area (unintelligible) if anything comes up on your radar try to divert him out if he doesnt listen to you i need to know about it ah as soon as possible we just had a second seven (unintelligible) seven thirty seven possibly crash into the world trade center

1304:17 CBA understand all aircraft ah chopper four laguardia you have to exit the airspace towards the hudson river towards north hudson park all aircraft in on laguardia class b frequency unless youre a p d chopper or an emergency aircraft you must exit the area

1304:33 CBA six five mike lima remain clear of the class b

1304:35 N65ML ah mike lima roger going back to teterboro

1304:37 CBA and chopper four laguardia

1304:39 CHPR 4 yeah i heard you ah chopper four well take it north and check out

1304:42 CBA chopper four proceed northbound to north hudson park

1304:45 CHPR 4 chopper four

1304:46 CBA p d fourteen all aircraft are exiting the class b at this time that are under my control

1304:52 PD14 air sea rescue fourteen to laguardia im lookin for any aircraft thats on your airspace or comin into newark if you can get hold of them anything on radar thats comin into this airspace thats not supposed to be comin this way we just had a second airplane fly directly into the world trade center a passanger liner it was looked like an american airlines plane ah we just gonna need anything that comes over your radar thats comin that way up the river i wanna close down your airport if you have to

1305

1305:17 CBA rescue fourteen roger ill advise the port authority here theres a target down by the statue of liberty a newark target a two thousand feet dont know the type it looks like news seven at this time all my aircraft in my airspace are exiting the area at this time

1305:31 PD14 thank you sir i appreciate your help

1305:33 CBA awright thank you

1306

1306:23 PD14 laguardia p d fourteen

---

1306:25 CBA yes

1306:26 PD14 were gonna take it (unintelligible) were gonna be down by the lady ah were remaining with you right now ah we just have (unintelligible)

1306:32 CBA p d fourteen be advised i show a nine hundred foot target just west of the world trade center i dont ah type and altitude unknown its just a v f r target and at this time it is not ah displaying any kind of alpha numerics

1306:47 CBA p d six laguardia

1306:52 CBA p d fourteen ya copy the target s eight hundred feet heading northbound just west of the world trade center

1307  
1307:24 PD14 rescue fourteen laguardia

1307:28 PD14 laguardia p d fourteen how do ya read

1307:30 CBA p d fourteen i read you five by now theres traffic showing nine hundred feet just northwest of the world trade center heading northbound type unknown

1307:38 PD14 okay that was a helicopter and ah it looks like to be still going to the north there

1307:42 CBA thank you hes just off of p d sixs ah right side now

1307:46 PD14 its okay well contact p d six

1307:48 CBA okay p d fourteen are you gonna be my communications center

1307:50 PD14 ah as of now sir im gonna try to land it over here at governors and get a good view if we can still stay with you ah well ah well stay down there

---

1307:56 CBA thank you p d six are you on freq

1307:58 PD6 yes sir on freq

1308:00 CBA awright thank you then youre the only two i have ah verified targets in that area at this time other than that a helicopter northbound

1308:06 PD6 awright sir listen p d six is gonna have to ah leave this location were gonna have to go to jacobi hospital over by city island pick up ah a passenger

1308:14 CBA p d six roger advise me of ah your intentions when you proceed as ah your requested at this time

1308:19 PD6 roger p d six

1308:22 CHPR 4 laguardia chopper four in off station now over north hudson park

1308:27 CBA chopper four you have to remain clear of the class b as per request of the new york police department at this time due to emergency in this progress in this area you have to remain clear of the class b at all times and ah and remain ah clear of this frequency please

1308:40 CHPR 4 chopper four well check out

1308:41 CBA thank you

1308:49 PD6 and ah number six to ah fourteen over laguardia - - where are you

1308:56 CBA p d six fourteen is looked like he was settin down by said he was gonna set it down by governors

**End of Transcript**

**\* This portion of the rerecording is not entirely clear, but this represents the best interpretation possible under the circumstances.**