

and arms. According to Jackson, she was determined to make it out of there alive and that thinking of her children kept her going.

By the time she struggled free of the building, Jackson was severely burned and was taken by ambulance to the hospital's burn unit for treatment.

Sgt. Jackson works as a contractor for the Department of the Army installing computers at the Pentagon. At the time of the incident, she had only been working there for 9 months.

"She was in really good spirits and was thankful to everyone for their prayers," stated Staff Sgt. Sharon Riley,

who works at the TSC. She visited Jackson in the hospital; "I was truly surprised to see her smiling," stated Riley, who was prepared for the worse after hearing of Sgt. Jackson's fate.

Sgt. Jackson is currently in the 55th TSC.. She works on the PT Team at that unit. A unit member described her as a shining star in the NCO ranks with a positive attitude and a winning personality."

(Editor's note: At the time of publication, Sgt. Jackson had been released from hospital and was recovering from her injuries. Staff Sgt. Ruth is with the 214th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Belvoir, Va.)

Reserve MP uses military, civilian training following attack

Story and Photo by Staff Sgt. Michele Hammonds

Officer Arthur Rosati was in a meeting at the Pentagon near the metro entrance when he heard a blurb from his hand-held police radio.

Unable to hear the details, Rosati went out into the hallway with George Clodfelter, his partner, so they could listen more clearly the morning the Pentagon was attacked on Sept. 11.

"The hair on the back of my neck stood up, and suddenly I had a bad feeling," said Rosati, a Defense Protective Service policeman.

There had been an explosion on the mall side, according to the special report. The two raced back to the meeting and ordered everyone there to evacuate the building immediately.

Rosati said he relied on both his military and civilian law enforcement training.

"I ran to the mall side to find out what had happened, and I tried to evacuate people on foot," said Rosati as his eyes filled with tears.

He paused and lowered his head as he recalled what happened next.

"I ran out to the impact area and I saw my partner had a streak of blood across his shirt," he said. After checking to make sure his partner was all right, Rosati continued to evacuate people.

Rosati, who was recently promoted to master patrol officer with the Defense Protective Service at the Pentagon — wears two hats. Besides holding down a full-time job as a Pentagon police officer, he is a staff sergeant in the Army Reserve with 20 years of military service.

At the time of the explosion, Rosati couldn't see the

cause but Wanda Ramey, a DPS master patrol officer, had a clear view. Ramey stood at the mall plaza booth when she saw a plane flying real low.

"I saw the wing of the plane clip the light post and it made the plane slant. Then the engine revved up and crashed into the west side of the building," she said. "It happened so fast. One second I saw the plane and next it was gone."

Recalling those moments again, Ramey said it appeared the building sucked the plane up inside.

"A few seconds later, I heard a loud boom and I saw a huge fireball and lots of smoke," she said.

Added another DPS officer who asked not to be identified, "I was on the other side — I heard a boom and a large fireball came over the roof of the building."

Ramey and another officer ran to the scene.

"People started flooding out of the building and some people looked like they were cut and bleeding," Ramey said. "Rosati was one of the officers over there pulling people out of the building."

Some fire and rescue crews were already on the scene, according to military officials.

The subsequent scene was "absolute pandemonium — people were running and screaming," Rosati said. "One lady was screaming hysterically and I ordered someone to help her out of the building."

His evacuation attempts were hampered because he didn't have a gas mask and other equipment to protect him from the heavy smoke and heat that had engulfed the mall area inside the Pentagon.



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