

Carter: 'There's just so much to tell'

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in a matter of three seconds seemed like minutes," Carter said.

"My boss came in yelling, 'We're under attack, everybody out!' About that time the fire alarm came on and a voice over the intercom was directing us to exit the building. I grabbed my stuff, covered up my classified information, grabbed my cell phone and made my way out of the building.

"As I was coming out of the door, I thought, 'To the right, all hell is breaking loose. Should I go try to help?' That's when my buddy shook me and turned me left, and we made our way down the hallway.

"What I remember the most, coming out of the building, was the smell of burning insulation, the smell of burning jet fuel, the smell of burning. The heat...just heat.

"We exited out of the building, and my office did a head count. We had everybody. So my buddy and I left this area, crossed the parking lot and made our way over just to see if there was something we could do.

"It was just chaos, just bad.

"Seeing that we couldn't help, we came back to our area. As we did, a security officer told us that another airplane was incoming and asked us to exit the premises. General J.C. Jones was there and he said, 'Hey, my car is right over there.' Four of us lived near him, so we all got in his car. The interstate was packed, nothing was moving. Traffic was backed up and at a standstill. So, we got off the interstate and took a back road, but a lot of other people had the same idea. There was a lot of traffic. While we were sitting at an intersection, we heard on the radio that the Trade Center Tower I had fallen. Then we heard Tower II had fallen.

"I ended up getting home that day at 4:30 p.m. I was in the process of painting my garage, so I changed clothes – my clothes smelled like smoke – got a shower and started working on the garage door. Then I heard this roar and looked up. Right above my tree line, there is Air Force One with two fighters on its wings. It was the coolest sight I'd ever seen. And I thought, 'Bring it on. Bring it on'."

Carter, a 24-year Air Force veteran who now calls Perry home, along with his wife, Cathy, spent three tours in the Pentagon.

"There's just something about that building. I just loved it. If you were going to be in the middle of something that's going on, that's the place to be. That's the heartbeat of the military," he said.

"My typical day those last few years was getting up at 4:30 a.m., out of the house by 5 a.m. Leave for home around 10 p.m., get home about 11, microwave my dinner, get to bed by midnight and start all over again the next morning."

Sept. 11, 2001, started out as a beautiful day.

"It was a bright blue sky. I remember commenting to my captain how blue the sky was. I rode in with a friend, went up to my cube and was sitting at my desk – I remember I had to get an e-mail to the Charleston Air Force base by 9:30 a.m. As I was working on the e-mail, someone came in and said, 'Hey guys, an airplane just flew into the World Trade Center.' Now, I'm in an office full of pilots and we were all like, 'What kind of bonehead flies into the World Trade Center?'"

"We went into my boss' office watching Fox News. The first airplane hit around 8:46 a.m. We were watching when the second airplane hit. We were like, 'What's going on?' The whole time I'm looking at my watch because I have a deadline to

meet."

Carter met his 9:30 a.m. deadline.

Seven minutes later, at 9:37 a.m., the plane hit, and the lives of so many changed in an instant.

But, despite the horrors of the previous day, for Carter and his team, the next day was business as usual.

"I went to work," Carter said.

They arrived to find their office covered in ashes and soot.

"We picked up our stuff and went to another office for a couple of days while they cleaned.

"It was either the first or second day back when my buddy and I went down to the cafeteria for lunch. We see this crowd of people and moved our way to the front. We get up there and there's President (George) Bush. He's talking and addressing everybody, saying 'Thank you.' When he finished, we were just standing there and, being the kind of guy I am, I walk up to him and shake his hand and say, 'Thank you so much for what you're doing. We appreciate you. We love you.'

"He said, 'Thank you so much. Giv'em hell,'" Carter recalled.

"He need not say any more. From there, I got my sandwich, went upstairs and went to work."

As a programmer, Carter oversaw an \$84 billion budget for C-17s (the Air Force's military transport aircraft).

"Before 9-11, I was having to take things away from one program just to find money for other programs. Three days after 9-11, we received a memo stating whatever funding we needed to let them know. I started building my priority list of things that needed to be funded.

"Before, we would only get eight or 10 (things funded). But that budget year, April 2002, we got like 22. That's a good day," Carter added.

"What that means is

we were giving the war fighters the stuff they need to kill and fight the enemy. That's what that means, and you've got to love that," Carter said.

While Carter and his team "knew right out of the gate" the attacks were carried out by terrorists, they joined the rest of the country in watching the investigation unfold.

Carter carried on with his military service, and by 2005, witnessed first-hand the continued reinforcement efforts to the Pentagon that had started in 1991.

"They had just completed reinforcing the first wedge (the Pentagon is designed

with five wedges) when the plane hit in 2001. It hit the area that had just been reinforced. I believe if it had hit any other part of the building, the damage could have been a lot worse. Since they had been working on that wedge, there were not as many people there. They were just moving back into the offices."

Today, the 184 people killed at the Pentagon that fateful day are memorialized at the site.

"They have benches set up for them with ponds under it. It is one of the quietest places I've ever been. Of the 184 who died, 126 were in the Pentagon

itself, and there were 59 on the airplane if you don't count the terrorists. I don't count them."

The emotions of the day still churn in Carter as he recounts what he saw and experienced 18 years later.

"There's just so much to tell."

Each telling honors the nearly 3,000 men and women who died that day at the Pentagon, at the Twin Towers and in a Pennsylvania field where Flight 93 passengers took their fate into their own hands and prevented the further loss of countless more lives.

Tell, and remember.

NOTICE

The 2019 Value Adjustment Board (VAB) of Taylor County, Florida, will hold its' Organizational Meeting, as required by Section 194.011, Florida Statutes, on:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019, at 5:30 P.M.

in the County Commission Meeting Room, Taylor County Administrative Building, Old Post Office Complex, 201 E. Green Street, Perry, Florida, 32347.

The purpose of this Organizational Meeting is to make available to Board members and the public, the "Uniform Policies & Procedures" Chap 12.D-9 F.A.C., as prepared and approved by the Department of Revenue (DOR), to be used by the Taylor County VAB in 2019, to ratify the current VAB Attorney contract and to consider extending said contract for a period of three (3) years, to confirm the appointed members of the VAB, to determine if additional Procedures are required locally, adopt fees for filing petitions to VAB, receive the tentative schedule for VAB Petition Hearings, as well as to discuss legislative issues/changes with regards to the VAB.

A copy of the proposed "Uniform Rules of Procedure" Chap. 12.D-9 F.A.C. can be inspected in the Office of the Clerk of Court, who serves as the Clerk to the Taylor County VAB, any time Monday through Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

The annual meeting of the Taylor County VAB to hear petitions filed, will be advertised and held at a future date.

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Florida Statutes 286.0105, that any persons deciding to appeal any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the meeting and may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

All interested persons should be governed by this Taylor County VAB Organizational Meeting notice.

**TAYLOR COUNTY
VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD
BY: Annie Mae Murphy
Clerk of Court**

PPD will be monitoring Ellis St. 3-way stop along detour route

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9 with minor traffic delays as the existing asphalt road surface was cut for removal.

The crossing is scheduled to be closed from Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 8 a.m. through Sept. 13, as a contractor removes the asphalt, performs rail track work, installs improved crossing hardware and completes new paving work.

The crossing was open Tuesday morning, but

closed with barricades by Tuesday afternoon.

"The contractor is scheduled to be on site Sept. 12, but there is a possibility they will not arrive until Sept. 13," the Perry Police Department (PPD) stated. "The crossing will be barricaded until the entire project is completed."

The crossing is scheduled to re-open on Sept. 13 or Sept. 14, as soon as the newly-installed pavement has adequate time to cure to allow vehicular traffic. However, this is not an

exact timetable, and there is a possibility for delays, the PPD stated.

PPD reminds motorists that Ellis Street – one of the detour routes – is a three-way stop, adding that PPD officers will be monitoring the intersection.

"Motorists should look for alternate routes or allow for additional time to travel in the downtown area due to the Center Street closure because traffic will be backed up," PPD Capt. Gene Franklin stated.

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planning, grants and public works projects that require studies, design, plan production, and construction inspection/management services.

Qualified firms or individuals desiring to provide the required products or services must submit five (5) packages in a sealed envelope or similar package marked "Sealed SOQ for Taylor County, Florida, Continuing Contract for Construction Engineering & Inspection Services" to the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida 32347, to arrive no later than 4:00 P.M., local time, on September 13, 2019. All SOQs MUST have the respondent's name and mailing address clearly shown on the outside of the envelope or package when submitted. SOQs will be opened and respondents announced at 9:15 A.M. local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on September 17, 2019, in the Taylor County Administrative Complex, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347.

SOQ information may be obtained from the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida 32347, (850) 838-3506 or downloaded from the Taylor County web site: <http://www.taylorcountygov.com/government/>

county_bids/index.php. The County reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to reject any or all SOQs, to cancel or withdraw this solicitation at any time and waive any irregularities in the RFQ process. The County reserves the right to award any contract to the respondent which it deems to offer the best overall service; therefore, the County is not bound to award any contract(s) based on the lowest quoted price. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to waive any minor defects in the process and to accept the proposal deemed to be in the County's best interest. No faxed SOQs will be accepted. Additional information may be obtained from: Taylor County Engineering Department 201 East Green Street Perry, FL 32347 (850) 838-3500, Ext 4. BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Taylor County, Florida 9/4, 9/11

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners, in conformance with the Consultants' Competitive

Negotiations Act (CCNA), Florida Statutes §287.055, et seq. and the policies and procedures of Taylor County is soliciting sealed statements of qualifications from qualified professional engineering firms that are interested in providing general engineering services for various planning, grants and public works projects that require studies, design, plan production, and construction inspection/management services.

Qualified firms or individuals desiring to provide the required products or services must submit five (5) packages in a sealed envelope or similar package marked "Sealed SOQ for Taylor County, Florida, Continuing Contract for Engineering Services" to the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida 32347, to arrive no later than 4:00 P.M., local time, on September 13, 2019. All SOQs MUST have the respondent's name and mailing address clearly shown on the outside of the envelope or package when submitted. SOQs will be opened and respondents announced at 9:10 A.M. local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on September 17, 2019, in the Taylor County Administrative Complex, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347. SOQ information may be obtained

from the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida 32347, (850) 838-3506 or downloaded from the Taylor County web site: http://www.taylorcountygov.com/government/county_bids/index.php.

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BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Taylor County, Florida 9/4, 9/11

INVITATION TO BID

The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting sealed proposals for Taylor County Closed Landfill Mowing and Fertilizing services.

Qualified firms or individuals desiring to provide the required products or services must submit five (5) packages in a sealed envelope or similar package marked "Sealed Proposal for Taylor County Closed Landfill Mowing and Fertilizing" to the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida, to arrive no later than 4:00 P.M., local time, on September 13, 2019. All Proposals MUST have the respondent's name and mailing address clearly shown on the outside of the envelope or package when submitted. Proposals will be opened and respondents announced at 9:05 A.M. local time, or as soon thereafter as practical, on September 17, 2019, in the Taylor County Administrative Complex, 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347. RFP information may be obtained from the Clerk of Court, 1st Floor Courthouse, 108 North Jefferson Street, Suite 102, Perry, Florida 32347, (850) 838-3506 or downloaded on-line at http://www.taylorcountygov.com/government/county_bids/index.php. The County reserves the right, in

its sole and absolute discretion, to reject any or all Proposals, to cancel or withdraw this solicitation at any time and waive any irregularities in the RFP process. The County reserves the right to award any contract to the respondent which it deems to offer the best overall service; therefore, the County is not bound to award any contract(s) based on the lowest quoted price. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to waive any minor defects in the process and to accept the proposal deemed to be in the County's best interest. The County, in its sole and absolute discretion, also reserves the right to assign a local business preference in an amount of five (5) percent of the proposal price pursuant to Taylor County Ordinance No. 2003-12. No faxed Proposals will be accepted. Additional information may be obtained from: Taylor County Engineering 201 East Green Street Perry, FL 32347 (850) 838-3500 BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Taylor County, Florida 9/4, 9/11

Call (850) 584-5513 to subscribe

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