

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former NIST Fire Science Division chief and scholars challenge NIOSH WTC report

James Quintiere, Ph.D., former chief of the Fire Science Division of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), has asked for an independent review of NIST's investigation (NCSTAR 1 report) into the collapses of the World Trade Center towers on 9/11.

In his presentation on the NIST investigation at the 2007 World Fire Safety Conference, Quintiere noted: "I wish that there would be a peer review of this. I think all the records that NIST has assembled should be archived. I would really like to see someone else take a look at what they've done, both structurally and from a fire point of view."

Quintiere added: "I think the official conclusion that NIST arrived at is questionable. Let's look at real alternatives that might have been the cause of the collapse of the World Trade towers and how that relates to the official cause and what's the significance of one cause versus another!"

Among the issues Quintiere labeled

"problematic," are the following:

- There is no timeline in the NIST report. He said he originally thought NIST would do a good job with the investigation. He thought NIST would enlist the assistance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and that people would be sent "out on the street" to get information. Quintiere faults "the legal structure that cloaks the Commerce Department and therefore NIST" for preventing this from happening.

- NIST's failure to provide a report on World Trade Center Building 7. The building burned for a long time. He noted that even though firefighters were in the building, he had not seen any stories about what they saw or what was burning and doesn't know if photographs were taken.

- NIST's "repeated failures" to formally respond to serious questions raised about its conclusions regarding the WTC building collapses and the process used to arrive at those conclusions. Quintiere made it clear, however, that he is not a supporter of the theory that the towers

were brought down by preplanted explosives. He alluded to the assertion by the proponents of the explosives theory that smoke puffing out all around the building was caused by setting off an explosive charge. Quintiere said it was more likely that the cause was one of the floors falling down.

The research done by Quintiere and his students contradicts the NIST report conclusion that there would have been no collapse if the fire insulation had remained in place. Quintiere suggests that an equally justifiable theory is that the trusses fail as they are heated by the fire, even with the insulation intact.

Quintiere had told the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science in October 2005 that, in his opinion, "The WTC investigation by NIST fell short of expectations by not definitely finding cause, by not sufficiently linking recommendations of specificity to cause, by not fully involving all of their authority to seek facts in the investigation, and by the guidance of government lawyers to deter rather than develop fact finding."

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Quintiere is a founding member and past chair of the International Association for Fire Safety Science and a fellow of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

OTHER DISSENTERS

On another front, Dr. Judy Wood, a former member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Clemson University and a member of Scholars for 9/11 Truth, formally challenged the *NCSTAR 1* report. Wood filed a Request for Correction (RFC) in March 2007 relative to the Data Quality Act under the guidance of Connecticut Attorney Jerry Leaphart. Wood maintains that directed energy weapons (DEW) destroyed the towers. She claimed that *NCSTAR 1* was "fraudulent and deceptive," since NIST could not explain the profound destruction of the WTC, including the massive pulverization of the towers.

In its acknowledgement of Wood's assertion concerning the directed energy weapons, NIST said it did not analyze that part of the event where the destructive effects referenced by Wood would have been taking place.

Wood had charged that some of NIST's contractors would have been able to confirm the use of DEW because they manufacture and develop such weapons. Among the contractors NIST used to help it prepare *NCSTAR 1* was Applied Research Associates, Inc. (ARA), which is also a founding sponsor of the Directed Energy Professional Society (DEPS). NIST posted a copy of Wood's appeal on its Web site.

In July, Catherine Fletcher of NIST said NIST "has found that the evidence submitted by Dr. Wood does not support a theory involving directed energy weapons." NIST also indicated that it had done a background check on its contractors to ensure there were no conflicts of interest and that it did not know that ARA manufactured DEW. Wood asserts that NIST should have known of ARA's involvement with DEW and appealed NIST's decision in August 2007. The appeal is at http://drjudywood.com/pdf/070822_RFC_Appeal17a_JW.pdf and http://drjudywood.com/articles/NIST/NIST_RFC.html#wood.

Dr. Morgan Reynolds, professor (Emeritus) of economics at Texas A & M University and former chief economist in the Department of Labor, initiated two actions against NIST. In an RFC, he states that *NCSTAR 1* did not properly explain the observed damage caused by the "supposed plane impacts." He asserted that the phenomena cited in the report "are not independently verifiable."

Reynolds also initiated a lawsuit against NIST and other parties, a "Qui

Tam" complaint, in July, charging that the "defendants knowingly concealed, or failed to disclose, or caused others to fail to disclose material information."

A list of other engineers and architects who have questioned the official NIST investigation of the events of 9/11 is at <http://PatriotsQuestion911.com/>. *www.priessp.com/priester/92756*, September 10, 2007; Alan Miller, www.opednews.com/maxwrite/print_friendly.php?pg=genera_slan_mil_070820_former_chief_of_ni..., August 22, 2007



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