If anyone is itnerested, I uploaded the photos and video that I took of the Pentagon on 9-11, as well as some I took from a close vantage point a few days later. They can be found Here.

These are pictures that I personally took. The capture time and date are in the EXIF data. The pictures were taken with a Sony Mavica MVC-CD1000, which records directly to CDR mini-discs.

I did not see the actual impact, as the Pentagon was located on the other side of my apartment building.

Lame ascii art alert:

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From my apartment window (noted by "me" above). I saw the plane fly right by. It was very low and moving very fast (according to Radar reports it was going 500mph). I could actually see the people in the cockpit as well as passengers in the windows as it went by.

Shortly afterwards, I also saw the C130 cargo plane that was apparent sent to follow. Around the same time I heard reports on the local radio that people in the streets saw the cargo plane fly overhead.

At the time, even though seeing the plane flying low and fast, where planes never fly...for some reason it didn't occur to any of us that it was going to hit the Pentagon. I remember we were watching the news, my TV was right next to the window, and my then-girlfriend first noticed the plane out the window and pointed to it and said "What's that plane doing...it's flying so low...that's making me nervous". I got up and went to the window and watched it go by. At the time I just figured it was some low flying plane. I guess the things happening in New York seemed so far away, that we didn't make the connection. I guess we were still in shock over what was happening.

Once they announced on the news that the Pentagon was hit, we ran out to the living room and watched for a few minutes on the big screen TV. We were shocked to say the least. We questioned whether the muffled noise we had heard was the explosion. My roomate ran out the door and down the hall to a spot that has windows facing that way, and he came back and said that the Pentagon was on fire. We then all ran down the hall, and looked out the window along with several other building tennants. We took the pictures and video that I put online.

We then realized the full scope of what had happened, and how fortunate my then-girlfriend was. She was working as a contractor with the Pentagon rennovation project, and had she gone to work on time, she would have been in the very area that the plane hit and destroyed. She was late for work however from spending the night at my place. Had she not, she most likely would have been killed.

We went for a drive to try and get closer, but they roads were blocked off. A few days later we went to a nearby mall, that we knew had a good view of the Pentagon from the top level parking structure. Surprisingly the top level was not blocked off, except for some police tape to prevent people from going too close to the side facing the Pentagon. I then took the other pictures you see in my gallery.

That day pretty much changed Washington DC forever. No more can you just drive by the whitehouse, or walk near it. Concrete barricades are all over the place, constant reminders that we now have to be on guard against any thing that could happen at any time. For quite awhile, the highway near the pentagon had Humvees with missle launchers on top of them parked next to the road. Miltiary personnel were everywhere.

The worst thing about the whole event, was realizing that nobody is safe. Of course nobody ever was really safe, but until something like this happens you are lulled into a sense of security. Anytime we had seen something bad happen, it was in some other country or place, just images on the TV or newspaper. Things like that don't happen HERE...not to US...right? I suppose the terrorists goals were not only to kill and destroy, but to make us feel unsafe. In many ways, they succeeded on all counts. I think we feel much safer these days, since we have constant reminders of the steps being taken to keep this from happening again (the airport security checks, concrete barricades, etc). Even with those reminders of what could happen and how safe we are supposed to be, there are still fresh events, like the latest attempt to blow up planes with liquid explosives, to remind us that there are people who would like to destroy our way of life.

We can never forget that we are constantly in someones crosshairs (sometimes literally...fucking snipers - I was in the thick of that too but that's another story), and although security measures may seem like a pain in the ass, or in some cases an invasion of privacy, we have seen what can happen if we do not protect ourselves.

EDIT: I typed way more than I intended here. Sorry about that. I had just meant to upload the pictures that I took and post the link to them. I guess when you have been through an experience like that, its hard to just mention it in passing.

P.S. I realize my ASCII pentagon is not actually a pentagon. I did the best I could