To: wtc@nist.gov
From: Michael Swanson <miklas@bluebottle.com>
Subject: Four Questions re: "WTC 7 Investigation Report for Public Comment"

To whom it may concern at NIST,

My name is Michael Swanson, I am interested in perhaps getting a clarification of certain items in the recent NIST report on WTC building number seven. According to the report for public comment, in my opinion the most likely cause of the building's collapse--the use of explosives--is dismissed. I would like some clarification on this dismissal. The reasons the report gives for ruling out the use of explosives are as follows:

1. The sound of explosives (MDX?) would have been deafening, and it would have been audible on the video footage of the collapse though it wasn't

2. The preparation for planting explosives would have been improbable in order to plant explosives on most or all of the buildings support columns

3. Thermite or thermate was not used because 100 lbs of thermite would have had to be used to melt just one foot of steel and it is "unlikely" that thermite was carried into the WTC and applied without detection

4. Ananysis of WTC debris for thermate signatures would not have been conclusive because the metallic compounds would have been present in construction materials making up the WTC.

My questions are:

A. When the sound of explosives are cited to point to the improbability of explosives used, does this sound hypothesis include thermite/thermate, or is it the sound of MDX only?

B. I was wondering what thermite/thermate compounds (such as Thermate-TH3 etc.) NIST looked at to set this figure of the proper application of 100 lbs of thermite per foot of steel. Are there expert interviews I could get a copy of, or experimental results or references with regard to thermite/thermate compounds that could be released to the public?

C. What data was looked at to justify the assumption that it was unlikely that thermate would have been applied without detection? Specifically, what data did NIST look at to determine the preparation work needed to apply these different thermate compounds to columns and steel inside the building such as cutting with torches? Again, if there's a transcript of the expert testimony or section of the full report with experimental results I would like to see it if possible.

D. Finally, in regard to reason #4 against the use of explosives-- the NIST WTC7 Report Q and A states "Analysis of the WTC steel for the elements in thermite/thermate would not necessarily have been conclusive. The metal compounds also would have been present in the construction materials making up the WTC buildings..." Did NIST look at any metal or debris from WTC7 in order to check for telltale signs of a probable thermite/thermate reaction such as "Iron spherules" found in other scientific studies about the collapse of the WTC towers, or did the NIST study simply assume that byproducts of a possible thermite/thermate reaction were

irrevelant because the chemical elements that compose these byproducts are present in the building in some form or another? Am I right in assuming that since the Q and A states that analysis for thermate signatures "would not have been conclusive" that the full NIST report did not look for any evidence of byproducts in debris of a thermite/thel
rmate reaction?

I appreciate your consideration, and if I could receive the relevant sections from the full report, or even (if pressed for time) the whole thing in its entirety I would be very grateful.

Sincerely,

Michael Swanson
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