Fallen Naval Intelligence Personnel Remembered in 9/11 Ceremonies

Ceremonies were held Sept. 11 at the Office of Naval Intelligence and Arlington National Cemetery to honor eight Naval Intelligence personnel who died in the attack on the Pentagon 14 years ago.

Both ceremonies honored those who were serving in the Navy Command Center and Chief of Naval Operations Intelligence Plot (CNO-IP). They represented a cross-section of dedicated Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) professionals—men and women, officers and enlisted; civilians, contractors and interns.

At ONI, a ceremony was held in the Remembrance Garden where a marble marker with the eight names and images are inscribed.

“We honor the sacrifice of the men and women whom we lost that day, as well as the thousands who have deployed forward into harm’s way and those who did not return in the years since by continuing our mission to support our warfighters and the nation’s leaders and helping them bring the perpetrators to justice and defeat their followers around the world,” said RADM Elizabeth L. Train, ONI Commander, who presided over the ceremony.

“When you walk past this memorial garden and through these doors, remember your duty to our fallen shipmates and colleagues is embodied in the commitment and dedication you bring to the mission every day.”

The names of each of the fallen were read as a bell tolled eight times.

Hours later, Director of Naval Intelligence VADM Ted Branch presided over a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery’s Columbarium and a moment of silence was observed before four wreaths were placed in memory of CDR Dan Shanower, LCDR Vince Tolbert, Gerard P. Moran and Information Systems Technician First Class Julian Cooper. All were interred at Arlington.

Four wreaths were also sent to the burial locations of LT Jonas Panik in Pennsylvania, LT Darin Pontell and Angela Houtz in Maryland, and Brady Howell in Idaho.

Ceremony attendees included former Director of Naval Intelligence retired RADM Richard B. Porterfield, former Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence Letitia A. Long and former ONI Commander retired CAPT Tom Bortmes, all of whom were serving when the attack occurred. Collectively, their leadership helped the organization quickly recover from the initial attacks to re-establish communications with Navy and national leaders.