

Interview With

**CAPTAIN BARRY CAVER**  
Texas Ranger

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Project:  
Texas Rangers

Confrontation with the Republic of Texas

Interview Conducted At The Office Of  
Les Littleton All-State Insurance  
Nacogdoches, Texas  
Sunday—June 27, 2004

Interviewed By:  
Robert Nieman  
Longview, Texas

Present At Interview: Barry Caver and Robert Nieman



## Introduction

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**Captain Barry Caver**  
Texas Ranger

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** This is Sunday June 27, 2004. My name is Robert Neiman, I am visiting with Captain Barry Caver, Commander of Company E, Midland, Texas and we are at the offices of Les Littleton, Allstate Insurance Agency in Nacogdoches, Texas. The purpose of this interview is to discuss Captain Caver's participation in the Republic of Texas standoff at Ft. Davis, Texas. Captain Caver, do I have your permission to video tape this interview?

**BARRY CAVER:** Yes sir.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Captain Caver, you understand that this videotape will belong to you and to me?

**BARRY CAVER:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And finally Captain Caver, do I have your permission to present copies of this tape to various historical, non-profit organizations such as museums, libraries and schools?

**BARRY CAVER:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Just for the record, would you give your name, title and....Captain Caver...

**BARRY CAVER:** I'm Barry Caver, Captain of Company E, Texas Ranger in Midland.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Barry, when did you first become aware of the Republic of Texas?

**BARRY CAVER:** Just of their existence probably the latter part of 1996. Ah...we started hearing rumors of some of the things that they were doing, some of their ideas and beliefs that they had. We heard that there was a fairly large faction of them in Ft. Davis and the Odessa area.

And we started ah....trying to monitor their activities and try to really figure out what they were doing, where they intended on going with their beliefs and so forth.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Just...what was some of those....what was their core beliefs.

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah...the primarily ah....their belief was the fact that they didn't believe that Texas was legally annexed in 1845 and into the Union as a State. And they wanted to basically revert the State of Texas back to the Republic of Texas to claim some ah.... trillions of dollars ah....for basically their own use and to further their ....their goals and objectives within their organization.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well did they claim....the old ah....the Texas ..(unintelligible)....the part of Texas that actually goes all the way up to Wyoming?

**BARRY CAVER:** They never did really stipulate as far as some of the other states, but they were basically claiming this....this....making this claim within the State of Texas itself. At least within the confines of the State of Texas...ah....they ah....to my knowledge they never did talk about any other states.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....did you consider them ah....especially coming on the heels of Waco and Oklahoma City, did you consider them a militant organization?

**BARRY CAVER:** Early on no ah....you know it's kind of....they were fairly new to us anyway and we wasn't real sure what their beliefs were or what kind of ah...ah....tendencies or violence.....violent tendencies that they may have. Ah....so we were obviously a little ah...ah....cautious about what to expect and that sort of thing. We were kind of playing it by ear really.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....in my reading on this and trying to do a little research on it before we had this ah....they talk about the Montana standoff with the Freemen they call themselves

and that these Freemen had held classes ah....for possibly hundreds of militants from states all over and that they were running a bogus money scheme. Were you aware of this, that there was tie-ins and if so, when did you become aware?

**BARRY CAVER:** I was not aware of it at that particular point and time. Later on after this incident happened and we finally resolved it, then I later found out after interviewing some of the people involved that yes they did receive some training up there as to some of the schemes that they had and basically scams to get something for nothing is what it amounted to.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well ah....what were ah...the Republic of Tex....I'm just going to call them the ROT ah....the ROT, what were their common courts and what did they hope to accomplish with them?

**BARRY CAVER:** It was a way I believe ah...to scare or...or....intimidate ah....people into thinking or...or complying with some of the things that they were trying....some of the scams they were trying to pull. Ah....in other words, you know they may get stopped on the side of the road by Highway Patrol, they may not have a driver's license or registration on their car, they officer would take enforcement action against them for that and then they would get a....officers would get letters in the mail later saying they were being sued in this common law court and if they didn't appear then they were gone to be held in contempt and fined hundreds of thousands of dollars and they even ah....would file liens against that particular individual officers personal property and that sort of thing. So it was just a way to further their scam and scheme of ....of getting what they were trying to get.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well ah....and they were filing all these bogus liens and what not against not only officers but civilians and any one else were they not.

**BARRY CAVER:** Pretty much yeah, anybody that got in their way or tried to ah....ah....prevent them from again furthering what they were trying to do, then they would put this fear and intimidation into them and file these bogus law suits against them.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And ah....did they get involved counterfeiting?

**BARRY CAVER:** Yes...ah....they did, again ah....early on or about the time we were getting involved with them ah....they started pass....basically getting a computer and a color printer and creating their own ah....treasury warrants on the State of Texas, but it would say Republic of Texas at the top of it. And they actually tried to cash some of these and they would even pay some of their bills with them. And of course people receiving them they.... I mean they looked authentic, they looked like the real thing. If you....but if you were to read it, I mean you'd know ah...that it wasn't ah... a good document. But ....yeah they tried every way they could to use this again to further their .....their whole organization.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And people working in say a convenience store or something wouldn't necessarily pay as close attention as they could.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right, that's right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....well did they counterfeit anything else such as deeds or...or ah.....warranty deeds, quick claim deeds, contracts or anything like that.

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah...not to....that I'm aware of, I don't know.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....a representative named Will Hardant out of Dallas passed a....or proposed a bill I guess....I'm supposing it was ah....passed, making it illegal to file bogus liens. Ah....were you....were you in ....familiar with this when this happened or was this still before you really got involved?

**BARRY CAVER:** I could be wrong, but I'm thinking that most all the laws that we deal with now as a result of this came after this particular stand off ended. Ah .....there were several laws passed....this ended on May 5<sup>th</sup> of 1997....there were several laws passed in the month of May after this ended. But I could be wrong on that particular bill that you're talking about.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well this one they said ah....the first two offenses would be a mis.....misdemeanors and then third would be a felony.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah....did you....do you know when that was passed?

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....I'm sorry .....

**BARRY CAVER:** Cause I'm thinking it was after the fact. I think it was later.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I .... I think it was, but I didn't write it down, I apologize. Ah....ah.....you know and they were also denying of course, Judges jurisdictions for ah....for anything, that they didn't have the right to....to even pass judgment on them. Ah.... I think it said ah....somewhere I read, that they passed a .....they claimed a 93 trillion dollars lien against Texas and the Roman Catholic Church. How did they involve the Church?

**BARRY CAVER:** That was news to me when I read your question on that. I have no idea, that's the first I've ever heard of a Church affiliation with their group.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well it may have been...where I got it may have not been quite accurate. Ah...19<sup>th</sup>....on November 19, 1996 ah....McLaren was impeached as an Ambassador of the Republic of Texas by another unit. Of course he ignored this impeachment but I understand that the Republic of Texas was not one central organization, that there was several splinters of it. Could you describe the different splinters and different philosophies.

**BARRY CAVER:** At that particular point in time I knew of about three splinters. The one that McLaren ran, there was another one out of Odessa and then there was one around the Dallas/Ft.

Worth area. Ah.... I think basically what....what you have here is different groups ah....don't like the other groups telling them what to do. So they would ah....they may be involved....it may have all started in one central group and because of the ....the ah....ah....organizational chart or the structure or the way who was president and who wasn't type of thing ah....they decided to split off on their own so they could be the king of their own little kingdom. And ah....to my knowledge .....and as far as I know too, they all had basically the same beliefs as far as anti-government sentiment and that sort of thing. But ah....as far as I know that's the only reason I know of that they had the different splintered off groups.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well did they....were they all militant?

**BARRY CAVER:** They were all anti-government ah....I'm not sure you would call them militant ah....to that point. I mean they were awfully close ah....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And of course I'm assuming you were watching all three groups, or the two in your area and I'm assuming B was in Dallas.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah, we had a lot of intelligence ah....from the Dallas area that....that....yeah they were being monitored whether they knew it or not.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....okay.... I may be jumping ahead of myself here a little bit. Well let's just go to the ah....the first....when they made the ah....kidnapped the ....well let me come ....let me come back to that. Ah....they threatened this possible use of forced arrest of one of their own presidents and Archie Lowe and Captain Richard Lee Ray ah....was....when was their first time that you were aware of threatened use of violence....of force to get what they wanted?

**BARRY CAVER:** I guess... of course they made several threats against Dan Morales, at that time Texas Attorney General, they made several threats against Governor George W. Bush at that time, but they never really followed through with any of the things. So I guess the first

ah....first actual violence that occurred was the Ft. Davis standoff where they kidnapped Mr. And Mrs. Rowe. Up to that point it was just verbal threats, they never had carried out any of them.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What was their reasoning for kidnapping and attacking ah....the Lowes?

**BARRY CAVER:** The Rowes?

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I mean the Rowes, I'm sorry.

**BARRY CAVER:** They were basically accused the Rowes of being ah....spies for the Sheriff there, which in essence I guess they were. Ah....because they were feeding the Sheriff information. Because they lived out there amongst them, I mean....it was ....they all lived there in the Davis Mountain resort area. And they would ah...again if they saw any suspicious activity ah....they all ....you know....McLaren was inundated with....with ah.....supporters would come out there on the weekends to train, do some shooting and that sort of thing. They did a lot of trespassing on other people's land to do their shooting. And the Rowes would again feed the Sheriff this information. So ah....that was the..... I think the main reason they decided to kidnap them. The other reason, there's only one road leading into this resort area and the second....the first residence on this road off the highway belonged to a border patrol agent. The second residence was the Rowes and from a logistics standpoint, you know, militarily type ah....it was up on a hill ah....again there's only one road in and one road out. You could see forever, it was a two story house ah....logistically from that standpoint it was a just a good place to overtake to control everything that occurred within that resort. So to me that was the two main reasons that they decided to do that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay, when they kidnapped them, I think this is Jeff.....this is Jeff County.

**BARRY CAVER:** Jeff Davis County.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Jeff Davis County and Sheriff Steve Bailey was the Sheriff there.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....did he have any kind of ....did he call you immediately?

**BARRY CAVER:** About February of 1997, Steve came to see me in my office in Midland and of course he had been receiving a lot of these threatening documents as well ah....he had been.... I think he actually had some meetings with McLaren face to face and ah....they didn't like Bailey, for whatever reason. And he knew that they were drumming up support, seemed like their....as time went on their threats got a little bit more ah.... I guess their threats became escalated ah....and he was getting concerned that if something did happen, if they did try to ah....do some of the things that they were talking about doing, he knew that he and his department could not handle it. Ah....you know this is the second largest county in the State of Texas and there's the Sheriff and a Chief Deputy, that's it, two man department. Ah...they had a couple of ah....non paid reserve deputies that helped, but ah....he knew right away that you know, again he couldn't handle it. So he came to me and asked that if something happened, would I be willing to assume control or take command of the situation. And I said sure. Of course I, you know, called my bosses in Austin, at the time Chief Castillo, and visited with him about it. And...and he certainly ah....agreed as well, that yeah, we'd take control of it. And ah....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** The....the Assistant Chief was Gene Davis and he was your successor I believe in Midland?

**BARRY CAVER:** Gene Powell.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Yeah, Gene Powell.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....had Gene had any dealings with this group?

**BARRY CAVER:** No ah.... I think they had been there during Gene's tenure, but ah....again ah....none of their threats ....or it hadn't really escalated to the point that they did after I got there. So it was just one of those ah....freakish deals that happened right after I got there.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I said Gene was your successor, he was your predecessor.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...and what day did this kidnapping happen on?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah...April 27, 1997.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay....how ....you were already aware of them of course. Was you putting any special ....not necessarily just for them, but for anybody, with the April 21<sup>st</sup> date....April 19<sup>th</sup> date.

**BARRY CAVER:** April 19<sup>th</sup>?

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** The anniversary of Waco and Oklahoma City were law enforcement in general and the Rangers in particular taking any special note of that date?

**BARRY CAVER:** Not with this group, no.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Or any group?

**BARRY CAVER:** We had no idea that this....they were going to revert to this point....this type of violence. It was just all of a sudden ah....again other than the verbal and the paper threats that they had made, we had no indication that they would actually follow through with anything like that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....well did ah...did you take very seriously when they was making their threats, like "if your willing to die for your freedom you don't deserve it" and "we will fire upon them, a civil war will erupt" and all that kind of stuff, before the kidnapping?

**BARRY CAVER:** We didn't put a whole lot of faith in...in what they were claiming. I mean, again, it was just a ah...what we call a paper war, it was just an obvious ah...threat on paper to try to get ah...what they wanted to accomplish without actually having to follow through with any of it. So we...we kind of took it with a grain of salt, considered the source and didn't really take it too seriously at that time.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well around this April ah...19<sup>th</sup> date again, it's not the exact date, but in that area, I read where supposed, and it all turned out to be innocent, but a truck load of heavy weapons, 50 caliber machine guns, 81 millimeter mortar and ammunition and a truck load of 4 unarmed US Air Force missiles disappeared. Were ya'll alerted to that and you know especially...once again around that April 19<sup>th</sup> date.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah, we definitely were made aware of that. Ah...we were ah...putting our feelers out, obviously all the Highway Patrol were looking for the vehicles involved. Ah...we were...we were putting that into context with the...with the Oklahoma City bombing obviously, but we never ah...really linked it with the ROT to speak of at that particular point and time.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And of course it all turned out innocently, one driver's satellite system went out and the other one I don't remember, but it was all innocent.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...ah...and of course McLaren and he's still making these wacky statements like to the Houston Chronicle that he had ordered all Federal Judge, legislatures, IRS agents, etc. around the state to be arrested. But ah...well once the kidnapping happens, they are locked in, you've been brought in to head it...but do you remember off hand...let me back track

...how many....you've said Jeff Davis County is the second largest county in the state, do you remember approximately how many square miles it is?

**BARRY CAVER:** I do not. I don't know off hand.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....your notified...the Sheriff notifies you of the kidnapping?

**BARRY CAVER:** Actually the ah....my Ranger David Dunkin there in Alpine called me at my house to tell me what had taken place.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And you immediately....

**BARRY CAVER:** I immediately called my Lieutenant and all the Company E Rangers, asked them to go ahead and pack their equipment and clothing and go and head towards Ft. Davis. I then called Chief Castillo to tell him what had taken place. Ah...and immediately I then contacted Highway Patrol Captain there in Midland and we made arrangements to get with our helicopter pilots there and go ahead.....and he and I flew down there to get a jump on everybody else, to figure out what we had as quick as we could, to determine what other manpower, equipment, anything else we were going to need to handle that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Who was the Highway Patrol Captain?

**BARRY CAVER:** David Baker.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** B A K E R?

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....well did you....did you ever consider these religious zealots or just pure...mil...ah....ah....militants? And the reason I'm asking this question because, like at Waco and as far back as .....(?) and the Jews and the Roman times, these are just zealots, they don't mean to come out alive.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I mean history has proven over and over and over, they mean to die. Did you ever look at these people as religious zealot types?

**BARRY CAVER:** No they....religious ....religion was never even ah....mentioned that I can recall. Ah....you know you hear of all....all kinds of fanatics, anti-government type fanatics that you know.....and ....and later on after this thing had happened, I was very concerned in the fact that they may want to die as martyrs to further their cause. So yeah, that was in the back of my mind later on.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...well, who made the original ....okay, you....you've got all of Company E there. Eventually there's going to be Rangers from just about all over the state there at one time or another.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....I'm going to jump ahead a little bit here but, how many Rangers ended up serving out there during this?

**BARRY CAVER:** I believe a total of about 35.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay. Ah....who made the first contact with McLaren?

**BARRY CAVER:** I guess you could say I did ah.... I made first contact with two of the hostage takers initially.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Who were?

**BARRY CAVER:** Who were Richard Keyes and Greg Paulson. Ah...I eventually talked to McLaren that same day ah....but he....he wasn't really ah....he denied any knowledge or any....he would only agree that yeah, these were a couple of....you know, some of his people, ROT members, but he...he wouldn't take credit for actually ordering the kidnapping to take place.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did ah....did the FBI get involved and the ATF?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah....the FBI was there ah.... I don't recall ah.... I don't think we had any ATF agents there. Ah....you know FBI as well knew of the ROT before this particular incident happened because McLaren had been filed on in Federal Court in Pecos with Judge Lucious Bunton out there.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Lucious?

**BARRY CAVER:** Lucious Bunton....B U N T O N....Lucious is L U C I O U S I believe. Ah....because of some of the bogus lawsuits that he had filed ah....he was prosecuted in Federal Court for that. Ah....Judge Bunton told him to cease and desist filing any more of these type of things. He....he disregarded Judge Bunton's order and as a result the Feds actually had a ....a ah....contempt of court order against McLaren when this thing happened. They were very hesitant and didn't want to ah....take any enforcement action at that time because of the ghost of Ruby Ridge and Waco and everything, they did not want to see another type of incident happen like that again. So they didn't....they were going to wait until there was some clear cut, substantial violation of the law before they took any action.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** So they didn't come in and try to take over?

**BARRY CAVER:** No, they did not. As a matter of fact, it was just the opposite, they...they were there willing and able to assist me in any way that they could. But what was ironic about it later on, Janet Reno the....of course the US Attorney General, found out about it and she basically ordered all the federal agents to leave, even though they did not, I'm glad that they did not. Ah...there was ah...small contingent of FBI agents that stayed there ah....a lot of Border Patrol agents were there to help us ah....so ah....and it was obvious to us that Janet Reno didn't want any part of that either. Knowing ah...that the federal government had already received two

black eyes, for Waco and Ruby Ridge, and she couldn't stand another ah...ah...hit like that. There was some ah....Reservist ah....I'm not sure if they were National Guard or State Guard, there were some ah....folks out of Ft. Bliss U.S. Army there with ah.....supplied us with Media helicopters....Black Hawk helicopters ah....that sort of thing, just basically as a support role to give us and provide us equipment and that sort of thing.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....describe ah....describe the "Texas Republic's Embassy".

**BARRY CAVER:** This was a ah....about a 1950's model travel trailer that had been added on to with a little lean-to shack. Ah...I mean it.... I guess that's what made this whole thing so absurd and so ah....in a way funny, because of the....you know, surely it didn't help their legitimacy any when you got an Ambassador to the Republic of Texas and this is the Embassy in some, you know, run down shack. I mean I've been in deer camps in East Texas that were a lot better and nicer than this place.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....they were ....they being the ROT, was demanding the release of two ah....prisoners that had been charged with a misdemeanor. Who were the two prisoners and what were the charges?

**BARRY CAVER:** The only one I can think of off hand is a lady called Jo....JoAnn ah....Turner, who was also held I think some where around Austin, for the same type of violation that McLaren had done. She had also ah....had filed some bogus liens against some folks and she to was held in contempt of court for not honoring the Judges' orders and ah.... I don't recall who the other person was.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** A guy named S C H E I B T.

**BARRY CAVER:** Oh okay, Scheibt, now he was the one ....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What was his first name?

**BARRY CAVER:** Robert Scheibt.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay

**BARRY CAVER:** He was the person that was arrested by Sheriff Bailey on the morning that this thing happened. He had left the Davis Mountain resort area, Sheriff Bailey had made a traffic stop on him and arrested him for some minor traffic violations, no insurance ah....carrying.....unlawfully carrying a pistol and some illegal knives I think. And he was demanding his release as well.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay, and....before we proceed with this....you had a headquarters set up and the best I was able to tell, you moved it.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Can you describe the first one and why you moved it and the second headquarters.

**BARRY CAVER:** The first command post was set up at that first residence I mentioned earlier that belonged to a U.S. Border Patrol agent by the name of Johnny Wofford, W O F F O R D. Ah...Johnny agreed to let us use his little bunkhouse area and anything else that he had there that we could use. Ah....we set up there because again, this was the first residence within the resort and the next residence was the Rowe residence, which was about a half a mile away. So this was the closest place we could get to without putting ourselves in harms way and also had telephone, electricity and that sort of thing. So we set up there, we stay there approximately ah....twelve ....at least twelve hours I know and dealing with the hostage situation. And once that was resolved around midnight that night and the ROT members retreated back into the resort, some eight or ten miles back into the resort, we decided we needed to move closer, because we didn't

know ....we didn't want to take the chance of them kidnapping some other innocent person along the way to where they were going back into the resort. We also again didn't want to get too close ah....that would endanger our personnel as well. So we....we moved on up to the ah....ah....Davis Mountain volunteer fire department and took over a second command post there, moved everything from the first one to the second one. This happened on the.....on that Monday. The SWAT team arrived with equipment and we were able to determine it was safe to move our personnel without endangering anybody, so we moved the next day.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** The SWAT team would not have been Rangers?

**BARRY CAVER:** No.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Cause Rangers years ago had a SWAT team, but would of just been the Department of DPS?

**BARRY CAVER:** Yes, this was DPS SWAT team out of Austin.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....okay....in your first....that first interview ah....you talked to only McLaren briefly. What demands did they make in that first interview....or first negotiation? I hate to use the word negotiation with these people but for lack of vocabulary.

**BARRY CAVER:** Well that's what it was, yeah. Really they didn't really have much demands, which was awfully strange. Because when I got there, I talked with Sheriff Bailey and Ranger Duncan and said, "Well has anybody made contact with them to see what's going on, what they want", and the answer was no. So I took it upon myself at that point and time to use Mr. Wofford's bedroom, one of their spare bedrooms, which had a telephone in it and called into the Rowe residence. And one of the ah...hostage takers, Paulson, answered the phone. I identified myself, he was always extremely polite and courteous and respectful to me, ah.... I told him why I was calling ah....he never would really go into any detail as to what ....again what they wanted,

why they did this. Ah .....he said he would only take orders and instructions from Robert Scheibt, who they considered to be their Commander of their security forces there at the Embassy. And again Robert Scheibt was the person that Sheriff Bailey had arrested earlier that day. So at that point and time ah....we made arrangements with ah....of course Jeff Davis county doesn't have a jail, they have to carry all their prisoners to Marfa which is in Presidio County, which is about 50 miles away. So we had to make arrangements with a couple of my Rangers to go to Marfa, get Mr. Scheibt out of jail, bring him back to where we were and try to figure out again, how to resolve this thing. And in an effort to make sure that Mr. Scheibt didn't ah....basically see the manpower and everything that we had there, I instructed ah...Ranger Johnny Allen to ah...

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Johnny...?

**BARRY CAVER:** Johnny Allen out of Del Rio to take a pillowcase, put it over the guys head ah....that way he didn't see where we were, again, what kind of equipment, manpower, resources that we had available there. Ah...once we brought him into the house we took the pillowcase off, I visited with him awhile to tell him what had transpired. He....he tried to claim....he had no knowledge of it even happening and ah...tried to....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well did you know he was one of the abductors at this time?

**BARRY CAVER:** Well he was not one of the abductors.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Oh, okay.

**BARRY CAVER:** And....and he was the guys, again, that initially stopped by Sheriff Bailey for the traffic violations, he didn't have anything to do with the hostage deal. Ah....and he tried to, again, to claim that he had no knowledge that this....this was going to take place. I explained to him how important it was for him to help. I told him that ah....his ....Paulson and Keys would

not take any instruction from anybody except him. He said he would be willing to help us in any way he could to resolve this....this problem with the hostages.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** All right, now ah....also one of the....the ah....who were ah....Albert Valadez, V A L A D E Z, and Terrence O'Rourke, O' R O U R K E and what was their involvement in the negotiations?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah....the first guy is Albert Valadez, V A L A D E Z, he was the local District Attorney out of Ft. Stockton who had jurisdiction over Jeff Davis county. Ah....Terrence O'Rourke was another lawyer out of Houston that McLaren had dealt with in the past to help him try to resolve some of the legal issues that they were trying to accomplish through the ROT. Ah....O'Rourke was somewhat familiar with the jargon and lingo that these guys tried to use and all these ah.... legal documents that didn't make totally....didn't make any sense to me whatsoever. So we felt like O'Rourke ah....once he showed up on the scene could help us interpret and understand what it was that they were trying to ask for.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay, before we get on into negotiations, by...how long....by the time this is over, and how quick did you bring 'em in....ah..... I know I'm skipping around here a little, but I'll....ah....about how many people did you have and from what departments. I know there was ....I've read there was Rangers there, Highway Patrol, TDS intelligence, Border Patrol, FBI, US Marshall and Sheriff's office and Texas Forrest Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife and even the FAA. What were some of these.....like the Forrest Service and Parks and Wildlife, what were they doing?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah...actually ah....the Forrest Service was probably one of the most valuable resources that we had there believe it or not. Ah...they...they fight ....obviously fight fires all over the nation, they go to other states and help fight wild fires. They've got a system in

place called an Incident Command System that they use to ah....keep up with manpower and resources as to scheduling ah....you know, when the guys have been relieved, when they need to take breaks, when they ought to be replaced. And they immediately came....and I had never heard of this system before until this happened. They came out and took control of that ah....started handling all the manpower issues that obviously that we had with 300 + folks there, it was a manpower nightmare and a scheduling nightmare. Ah... in addition to that, at certain points and time that we dealt with McLaren, he at one point threatened to ah....set the ah....the canyon and the valley on fire. Ah .... I got with the Forrest Services folks there and they gave me their expert opinion as if that occurred, what are the wind currents going to do, what's it going to do to us where we were. And so they gave me a lot of ah....knowledge and not to mention all the equipment that they brought, with the bulldozers and tractors and that sort of thing, to cut wind rows and cut ah....fire fighting ditches and that sort of thing. So they were just totally invaluable. Ah...as far as the ah....who was the other person?

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Parks and Wildlife.

**BARRY CAVER:** Parks and Wildlife, the game wardens ah....you know, they're just trained in outdoor ah....tracking ah....survival, that sort of thing and this was an extremely remote ah....terrain and area and we felt like because of their expertise and especially the guys that were stationed in that area, they could be nothing but of value to us as well. So we used every ....every possible source that we could imagine to use to help further our needs and to help us with the situation.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well what about the FAA, Federal Aviation?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah....the only thing I'm aware that the FAA did was ah...put up what we call, no fly zones or restricted air space. Ah....but to my knowledge there was nobody actually there from the FAA.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah... a lot of this I'm going to get rid of before we get back into the meat of this. But I just kind of ah...to set it up, but what was Mt. Media?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah....this was a particular area on the highway that was located in a little small picnic area that we basically isolated. We had road blocks set up there to where any....there was no one could access any further than that. And obviously with the situation like, again, after Waco and Ruby Ridge it was a big ah...ah....publicity hype. So we knew that we were going to have a lot of influx of media people there. We had to ah...basically put them in a certain location to be given news briefs, information as to what was going on and so forth. And ah... plus again this particular location was so isolated away from where we actually were, we didn't want their long lens cameras and that sort of thing to give up again, what strategically we were trying to do to deal with the ROT people.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....we talked about communication people, what kind of communications did you have to work with?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah...just the basic ah...police type radios, walkie talkies ah...cell phones were somewhat limited. But what came to play probably the most important, we were able to monitor ham radio traffic. Ah....we knew that McLaren and them had ham radios that they communicated with each other. Ah...we got some of these volunteer ham radio groups to come in and set up like a base station. We hooked up recorders to this equipment and constantly monitored their jargon and talking amongst each other. So that was ah....came....came to be very important later on.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** One other thing that....that I'm sure you had there, that most people wouldn't off the top of your head think about. You had to have medical facilities set up, not just for the possible obvious gunshot, but that's pretty remote territory, like I said, you got snakes and everything else to deal with out there.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right. That's why we asked ah....the Army ah....medavac helicopters there, they came up and set up ah....ah....first aid tents, we had a lot of EMS and fire personnel on the scene as well, to set up little triage units and that sort of thing. We had the medical end of it set up pretty well.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Was anybody from a non-violent position injured, you know snake bite, falls whatever?

**BARRY CAVER:** No, not that I know of, there could have been some minor things that I wasn't aware of.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well I mean enough to you know, bring to your attention.

**BARRY CAVER:** Not that I know of.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...during this, how were the residents of ah....Ft. Davis reacting?

**BARRY CAVER:** They were actually glad that we were there ah...they felt like it was long over due. This McLaren had....had not only ah....you know, terrorized us basically, but he had terrorized everybody that lived out there, made threats against them and so none of the neighbors had any use for him either. So they wanted him out there, they were glad to see us there and they were...other than a couple of supporters of theirs, they were just....bent over backwards to give us anything that we needed to help us.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....how many people was in the Embassy?

**BARRY CAVER:** Well initially we didn't know, that was part of the problem. We didn't know who was in there, how many, what kind of weapons they had and so forth. You know as it ended up there was a total of eight, after it was all said and done.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay, would ah....who were the original ah....before the negotiations or....which we'll get into in a minute, who were the....would have been the original six?

**BARRY CAVER:** Well actually five I think. There would have been Richard McLaren, his wife Evelyn McLaren, Robert "White Eagle" Otto, who was kind of the second in command, Mike Matson who's the guy that ended up getting killed later on. Ah ....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I've got that here somewhere myself.

**BARRY CAVER:** Let's see, seems like there's one more I'm leaving out.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well we'll....we'll come....I've got it here somewhere, but I don't know where it's at. But ah....I'm real organized here. Anyway ah....okay they're in there....hang on....Richard Keys.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah, he was one of the hostage takers.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay, he was in there.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah, right and Greg and Karen Paulson.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Yeah, Greg and Karen Paulson. All right, let's go back to the negotiations, now when do they start making their actual demands and what they've got to have to release the Rowes.

**BARRY CAVER:** Once we got Mr. Scheibt back out there, like I mentioned earlier, and started to tell him what had happened ah....we allowed him to call, actually get on the phone and call Greg Paulson to tell him, look I'm out here ah....basically what's going on, what's happened, what's transpired. And Paulson sort of told him and ah....you know they started giving these

codes and I was afraid something like that might happen where his code was “A hat has three corners”, which that don’t mean nothing to me, I’m not real sure what that means still today. But ah.... He told him that I guess as a code to tell him everything was okay, I don’t know, other than that. But anyway, he basically ah....Scheibt agreed to....whatever.... whatever I told him we wanted to do, he was willing to do that. And I told him we had to get those hostages released. And he kind of hem hawed around and said, well you know, said if that happens then I need to go back in there. And .... and I ....you know that’s just basically unheard of when you....in any kind of text book and hostage negotiation, you just don’t make ah....deals with terrorist basically and....but that’s what we were doing.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And you’re going to get a lot of heat for this?

**BARRY CAVER:** I .... I did later ah....but the thing about it was Mr....we knew that Mr. Rowe was shot ah....he was....had just had heart surgery about two months prior to this and he was a very....very much a health risk. And we did not want him ....he didn’t need to lose anymore blood, so we...we felt like we had to get him out of there as soon as we could, to make sure he survived. And ah....after I told Scheibt what we wanted to do, he agreed to do it, but he wanted his van back, who the Sheriff had impounded, he wanted all of his weapons and ammunition back, who the Sheriff had also impounded. Ah .... I .... I explained to him I could give him his van back because of the distance he would have to drive ah....you know we weren’t too worried about it at the time, because he was actually going back into the resort, again there was only one way in and one way out. He wasn’t going anywhere, he was only under arrest for several misdemeanor violations, he would have been able to post bond out of jail the next day anyway. So I felt like I needed to use that to my advantage, I don’t think he knew....really realized that at the time. But I explained to him too, that I could not give him his guns or ammunition back,

because of everything that had taken place. And he didn't really offer much ....you know, argument over that, he agreed, that's fine. Ah .... then we tried to work out the logistics on how the exchange would actually take place, and that was my biggest fear then, is to make sure that they didn't double cross me in the process of not only Scheibt going back, but them maintaining control of the hostages too. So that was the....probably the climax of the whole thing, to make sure that it went like it was supposed to.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well did you ah....let Scheibt go back in or was there a second person?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah... I let him go back in the van ah.... followed by an ambulance to get Mr. Rowe out and followed again by the Sheriff, by a Ranger and a couple of deputies in one patrol car.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Who....do you remember who they were?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah...no I don't... I .... I just remember the Sheriff and Ranger Duncan, I don't recall anybody else.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** But there wasn't a second ROT member sent....allowed to go ....this Jo Ann Turner, whatever her name was?

**BARRY CAVER:** No, huh uh, no....we....we would not agree to the release of her.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay

**BARRY CAVER:** No.... I told him that we had no control over what they did at Austin, I could not make that happen and I wasn't going to make any promises that I couldn't keep.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....so you do make the switch, Rowe has got out and his wife got out....

**BARRY CAVER:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And I'm assuming that....

**BARRY CAVER:** Everything went as planned ah....what was kind of funny, whenever the Paulson and Keys rushed Mr. Rowe's residence, they had an old ah.... I think it's an Ambassador station wagon of some sort. They block a cattle guard on this one... one little old road and they shoot the tires out of it. So now they're ready to leave and have no way to leave, you know, they done disabled the only car they got. And it's about eight or ten miles back in there, where they need to go back to. So they managed to get it cranked and move it off the road and just left it along the side of the road. And then as Scheibt drives his van through that area they all jump in the vehicle with him and they continue on back toward the Embassy. So it's kind of funny.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Yeah...

**BARRY CAVER:** We're not dealing with a bunch of rocket scientist.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....McLaren would claim that 5,000 militants from all over Texas were headed for Ft. Davis and then on top of that some citizens ah....or some....Carl Weathers, Captain of Company C out of Lubbock and four of his Rangers arrest seven men at the Flying J Truck Stop in Pecos ah..... I suppose headed to the ROT.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** So how much credence did you give to this 5,000 ?

**BARRY CAVER:** Well I think he was definitely exaggerating his numbers again to try to scare us into thinking that there's going to be that many people try to help him. Ah...but my biggest fear was these guys, the Highway Patrolmen out on these remote road blocks, if they were to....you know there's usually only two of them out there on any given time. If this happened, you know, there was going to be somebody get killed I was afraid. So ah....you know that

obviously weighed a lot in my mind. And we really didn't feel like there would be that much support until this particular thing happened.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Carl....do you remember the Rangers that was with Carl?

**BARRY CAVER:** The only two I remember off hand is Gary Henderson and Larry Gilbreath. I don't recall the others.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** G I L....

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah....G I L B R E A T H.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And what all did they ah....they arrested seven men and what kind of armament did they have? Or did they?

**BARRY CAVER:** They had a.... I think around eight or ten weapons, mostly long guns, high powered rifles ah....food, MRE type meals, they had some medical supplies and even a....even a little marijuana to go along with it.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did you have any other incidences of taking people trying to get in?

**BARRY CAVER:** No that was the only one that we had. But you know, again, once this happened ah.... it really got our attention because we knew that ....that he had an influx of people coming in on the weekends to again, do their training and ...and ah.... have their meetings and all this kind of stuff. And ah....until that happened we really didn't take a whole lot of stock into that. But ah....yeah just kind of brought us back to reality I guess and told us how much of a danger that really was.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Make a little commentary of my own because I hadn't really give this any thought until you just mentioned about those two Highway Patrolmen at these road blocks and that, as you say, you have to be a....have gone out there to realize how remote that area is.

**BARRY CAVER:** That's true.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** But I have been out there and I could imagine that comprehension that they felt and you know, some of those incidents could have turned deadly real quick and maybe even innocent people ended up hurt.

**BARRY CAVER:** Absolutely.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** So they showed a lot of restraint, the Highway Patrolmen did out there....out there you know, cause you could imagine what could be going through their mind.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** You know, every time a vehicle is coming down the road, especially after this deal with Carl.

**BARRY CAVER:** After that happened, that's right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Just for the record, where did Robert "White Eagle" Otto get that nickname?

**BARRY CAVER:** I have no idea. If he dressed kind of in Indian type clothes, I don't know if he was a real Indian or not. I mean he didn't look like an Indian, but he could have some Indian blood.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah...you eventually appointed, I understand, Jess....Ranger Jess Malone to do most of the negotiating. Why?

**BARRY CAVER:** Well, of course at the time this happened I had some hostage training, about 20 years ago and ah....never really ....really remembered much about the training that I'd had. And of course now, the number one rule is ah.... you can't be a Commander and be a negotiator at the same time, it just can't happen.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Is that directly because of this?

**BARRY CAVER:** No, that's just one of the basic rules in what they teach now.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay.

**BARRY CAVER:** And after actually going through it, I can understand why. Because you can't do that, because if, you know even watching TV and things where you deal with negotiators, they have to have a boss to go to ask ....you know, to try to.....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** A buffer.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right, to meet their demands and so forth. And if you are the Commander, you can't do that, the buck stops with you.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Yeah.

**BARRY CAVER:** So it's not a good situation, not to mention having to handle all the other logistics that would go along with something like that. Ah....after I ...again after we got the negotiator or....or the ah....hostages released ah.... I figured that out, I .... I mean I couldn't even go outside, go to the little port-a-potties that they had set up, without getting asked twenty thousand questions, some minor insignificant stuff that I didn't really care anything about. So after....after that happened I realized ah.... I couldn't do both. So that's why I asked Jess to take control of the negotiation after....after we got the hostages released, so I could tend to everything else that needed ah....tending to.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Had he had recent training in negotiations?

**BARRY CAVER:** No ah....he hasn't, to my knowledge didn't have any. But I knew the type of person Jess was, he's real ah....real low key, real ah...he could be articulate if he needed to be, he could talk to ....he's they kind of guy that could talk to anybody on any level. Ah...he's very calm, I just knew he would do a good job at it.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....ah.....Gary ah....Noesner, N O E S N E R, he's one of the FBI's chief negotiators, did he help ya'll?

**BARRY CAVER:** He helped us a lot. Gary was the FBI's chief negotiator out of Quantico, Virginia. He was also ..... I had actually met Gary during the Branch Dividian siege in Waco. Ah ....Gary, at that time, was also their chief negotiator and he dealt with ....with ah....David Koresh and that....some of those folks. Ah....Gary was extremely helpful in giving me ideas ah....giving me advice on if I do certain things, this might happen. He did not want to see my partic....me or this incident end the way that Waco did. So he was there to help me in any way he could and since then his friendship it means a lot to me.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How big a shadow did Waco cast on this whole thing?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah... I guess it depends on whose perspective ah....as far as mine goes ah... it was always in the back of my mind because I knew that all the repercussions and everything that happened as a result of what the FBI did, or the way that situation was handled and all the flack and bad press that they got out of that. I did not want to see this happen to me or the DPS or the Texas Rangers ah....get a black eye like the FBI did. So you know, I wanted to do everything I could possible to resolve this thing peacefully without that happening, but I was prepared to do that if it got down to that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....after....did you ever really consider a direct assault on the Embassy?

**BARRY CAVER:** Yes. We come very close to it.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Are you at liberty to discuss....

**BARRY CAVER:** Well it just got to the point after a week of listening to this guy ramble on and make his threats, no progress appeared to being made, I got tired of it. Ah .... I had all the people there that I needed, all the....all the resources with the tanks, the eight armored personnel carriers, I knew that I could go in there and the deal. But it was just whether or not I wanted to

face the heat that was going to go along with it. But I got to the point to where had they not surrendered that Saturday morning I was....had already kind of prepared to start doing something that afternoon.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay, did you have ah.... I know at that time ....or as best I remember, I was by coincidence I was at Company B's headquarters in Dal...Garland....Dallas and Cap....or Lieutenant Sweeney at that time, was gathering up some ....some vests, bullet vests and what not, to send out there with ya'll. I guess ya'll....today does all the Rangers have vests and....cause I don't guess you did then? Or you didn't have ....

**BARRY CAVER:** We had....right, we had regular body armor, but did not have what they call Level Four body armor, which will stop ah....a 308 round or a 30.06 round. At that time we only had ....we had I think four sets per company and they were located at each company office. And whenever this thing happened and we knew that we were going to need more manpower they immediately drove from wherever they were stationed to our location. So they didn't have time to go by the company headquarters and get the equipment. So they loaded up ah....some vans from some of these other company offices to transport all that equipment out there for us so we'd have it.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did you ever consider you might have to bring in more than thirty-five Rangers, bring 'em all?

**BARRY CAVER:** We were prepared to bring as many as needed. But with all the other agencies there and all the ....you know regular DPS troopers ah.... like I say, there was over three hundred officers there. So we knew we had plenty of help.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....let's see ah....

**BARRY CAVER:** You know since this time all the Rangers are issued the Level Four vests too.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well and that....probably I hopefully from this.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....at this time, you know, the Colonel came in, I think it was Dudley Thomas, ah....Senior Ranger Captain Bruce Castillo came in, you know, they're both your bosses.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Did they put any suggestions or give any....try to take any of command or .....

**BARRY CAVER:** No ah.... I talked to Bruce quite a bit about what had....what we had done already, what need....what I felt like needed to be done. He was very supportive, they were there, you know, as I found out later, really just to help us, to show support for all the DPS people that were there and to provide us with whatever we needed to get the job done. Ah... they never ah....tried to take over command or tell me I had done a bad job on anything. Which made me feel good that they were allowing, and had enough confidence in me and my ability to do what I needed to do.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well at this time too, back it up just a little bit, you are the youngest Texas Ranger Captain in history since the reorganization in 1935, you were how old when you made Captain?

**BARRY CAVER:** Thirty nine I believe.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And how old....and how long had you been Captain when this happened?

**BARRY CAVER:** About six months.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** So you was getting an initiation and bap....right off the bat. Ah.... what ah..... okay, what was ah....the DPS dive recovery team and what did they do? Out there in the middle of the desert.

**BARRY CAVER:** It's kind of odd, yeah, but actually what they had done, they had formed this team several years ago and they'd actually been doing some training with the SWAT team. And it got to the point to where we were there so long that the SWAT team needed relief, so they felt like that the dive team could in and give them some relief because they knew the basic maneuvers, they knew some of the training, so it was just a good mix for them to come in and relieve the SWAT team to give them some relief.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay, well now ....that did kind of ....what....what....out in the middle of the desert, what was the dive team doing there. Ah... you sent three men up on top of the ridge to ....and who....what....to do what and do you remember who they were?

**BARRY CAVER:** Buster Collins out of El Paso, Bobby Grubbs out of Brownwood and I know Ronnie Watson was with DPS Special Crimes, he was there with them and I think Johnny Billings out of Snyder was there. They were there because of....again the location of this Embassy it was surrounded by high mountains and it was kind down in a canyon. So we felt like if we could get somebody up on top of the mountains looking down into the canyon, they could be our eyes and kind of be able to see what was going on, what they were doing and that sort of thing. And ....and come to....you know, later on it really helped out a lot, because they were able to monitor their comings and goings and that sort of thing.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well when you sent 'em up there though, was you 100% sure there wasn't anybody up there?

**BARRY CAVER:** No I .....no we didn't have any idea. Again, we didn't know how many people were there, so it was....it was a very tense moment on every move that we made. Because we didn't have any idea who we were going to come across.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Is it true that McLaren had sent you a message demanding that you surrender to him? That's one of the stories I heard, that ....that he....he left you ....that he relayed you a message demanding that you do the surrendering. Or is that one of those stories that just spring out of.....

**BARRY CAVER:** Well to be honest with you, I really can't recall, you know there was so much rhetoric and jargon that he was talking, I mean it could of happened, I really.... I just don't remember at this point and time.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** On the sixth day I understand, you started moving in even closer to the compound. Can you describe .....

**BARRY CAVER:** Like I said earlier, I was getting to the point where I was getting frustrated and I was getting tired of....of....of you know, fooling with this guy and we felt like....again this was an approach that Gary Nesner with FBI had talked about ah.... that what had...we....we had reached a stymie in the negotiation. He got to the point where he got mad, he wouldn't even talk to us. So the only way we knew to break that barrier of communications was to make him call us. And ....and what we decided to do was move in closer with some of the tanks and some of the APC's that we had to make him get on the phone and call me. And it worked, he did, he was....and one of the....one of the ....if you listen those ah.... mayday call that I gave you, that was a result of what the mayday call was about. He felt like we were fixing to invade him right then.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Yeah, that tape is ah....those army personnel carriers, they came from ....

**BARRY CAVER:** Smith County.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Tyler.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I'll tell you a story about that a little later. Ah...nothing to do with this, it's just a humorous story. Ah....and by this time you had the compound completely sealed except by, I think what we call the back door over the mountain and the desert.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....and that was extremely rough terrain, so ah....when did you involve Julie Hopkins, H O P K I N S and Lisa Rutledge, R U T L E D G E, step-daughters of McLarens?

**BARRY CAVER:** They were....they were both Evelyn's daughters out of ..... I think they were both out of around Dallas. And obviously .... I mean we started getting phone calls from McLaren's tennis coach, from all kinds of people wanting to call and help, I'm not sure if that's what their true intentions were, other than to gain publicity for themselves. But anyway, both their daughters ended up driving out there, showed up at one of the road blocks, wanting to talk to their mother. They felt like ah....they could talk some sense into her to giving up, you know with....with their grand.... I think they had some grandchildren you know, and that sort of thing. And we really thought that would be a good idea ah....you know, again another rule of negotiation, you normally don't use a third party to negotiate for you, but it had gotten to the point to where at this point I was almost willing to try anything that might work. And ah....so we finally decided to let them ah.... we were going to do a three way conference call, get them on the phone and then call in and let them talk to their mother. Ah... we talked to Evelyn ah.... I guess it was earlier that day and told 'em...told her that they were there, they wanted to talk to her and we were going to allow that. Ah... she said, well let me think about it for awhile. So she

...she thought about it for a few hours and called us back and she decided not to do it. I think that she was that....that if she talked to them that it would ah....you know, touch her heart and she would end up going against McLaren and come on out. And ah....the daughters were devastated obviously, they felt like that ....they almost accused us of not, you know, not letting 'em do it because we didn't want 'em to do it, you know, and that was certainly not the case and we tried to explain that to them. But that was their role ah....at that time.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....well you...did they have full utilities at the Embassy and did you ever cut 'em all off?

**BARRY CAVER:** You know again, that's one of those ah.... (unintelligible)...was in full affect, we ....we'd try to take over the phone lines, we try to take over the electrical lines ah ....we never were able to do that. Ah....this particular junction box, the way the electrical lines were scattered out....we thought that we did, we cut off somebody's electricity, but obviously it wasn't theirs. We did finally manage to get their ah....internet ah....access revoked or unplugged basically, so they couldn't communicate with outside world over the internet. And we did finally capture their phone lines, but still did not gain access to their electricity, even though we knew they had....they had power generators, so it really wasn't going to accomplish a whole lot.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Up until the first surrender, is there anything in there that should be added that I haven't asked about?

**BARRY CAVER:** On the first surrender?

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Up until....between ah....where we talked to, until they start coming out?

**BARRY CAVER:** You talking about the ROT guys coming out?

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Yes

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah....there's one....there's one part to where it's kind of....again another funny moment I guess. Robert Scheibt who we originally released from jail, who drove back in, picked up the....you know, Paulson and Key and drove them back to the Embassy. On Friday, he ended up walking up the road supposedly to deliver one of these diplomatic pouches that we were constantly dealing with back and forth on communications basically. And every time these pouches would contain just volumes of a lot of this legal jargon and all this stuff, it didn't mean anything to me. But he told McLaren he was going to deliver this diplomatic pouch to us, leave it in the middle of the road, which was how we did it all week, they'd leave it in the road, we'd send our armored personnel carrier down to pick it up and bring it back to me. We didn't even know he was coming out to bring this pouch and all of a sudden he comes walking up to one of our ....our road blocks and it surprised everybody. And they weren't prepared for anything like that, I mean it scared everybody. And we didn't know what was happening. Of course we immediately took custody of him, stripped all of his clothes off and the only thing we had available was we had some TDC guards there and had some extra uniforms, so we put this guy in a TDC uniform. And put everybody on alert around the compound....or around the command post because we felt like, you know, if he can walk up there without anybody knowing, I mean what's....what's going to prevent the rest of those guys from ambushing us you know and attacking us. So we went on full alert then and put out guards and posts and everything and of course, again, it was funny, you know he....he finally came and told us, he said, man said, I had enough of this, said, I could see the handwriting on the wall what's fixing to happen next and I don't want no part of that. And of course McLaren was furious after he found out that he came up and basically gave himself up to us.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And then....then the first crack ....that was the first crack in McLaren's so called armor.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What was the next?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah....that was Friday, like I say when Scheibt turned himself in. Again we kept working on Evelyn, we felt like she was the weak link in the bunch and if we could convince her to come out, then the whole thing would crumble. And sure enough ah....we talked to Evelyn late into Friday night and told her, you know, about her daughters being there and all this stuff and she said, you know, said, let me sleep on it, said, I'll give you an answer in the morning. And so I....I'm assuming she talked to McLaren about it and got everything worked out. So we get....you know, she said, well I'll call you at eight o'clock in the morning. So we, you know, here at eight ....eight rolls around and we hadn't heard from her, nine o'clock, it got close to ten o'clock and still hadn't heard from her, so we finally pick up the phone and call her. She said..... you know what are you...what are you doing, what are going to do. She said, I'm going to come out, said, I've just been....you know, typically ladies stuff, she was in the bathroom primping, doing her hair and her makeup and all this stuff. She said, well I'm fixing to drive out. So of course we had to .....you know, she got in her little ....one of these little S-10 Blazers, started driving up the road to where our first ah....our....our....what we call a forward command post was located. And of course she was bombarded with .....with ah....Rangers and other officers there to make sure that....that vehicle wasn't booby trapped, she wasn't carrying any weapons or explosives or that sort of thing. But the biggest thing was with McLaren then is that she be treated with dignity and respect, and she was not mistreated at all. I assured him that would be the case, we wouldn't disrespect her at all. And come to find out later, that was a big

factor in the whole deal and I gave him my word, again I wasn't going to promise him anything that I couldn't live up to, I told him that we would .....we would have to handcuff her, I said, but that's just standard procedure, I said, we're not going to slam her on the ground or on the hood and search her and all this kind of stuff. And ....and like I say, once we got in custody, we brought her out just like I told him that we would. Ah ....we were able to ....you know she wanted ....or McLaren wanted her to call back on the phone and tell him she made it out okay and kind of give him a ....a report of how she was treated and that sort of thing. And I knew that was going to be a real important role and sure enough ah....it was, you know, she told him everything happened just like I told her.....told them it would and we allowed her to call back in. And at that point and time ah....she tried to convince him again, you know, you just need to go ahead and give up. And at that time is when she brought the final paperwork out, again, all these legal documents with this cease fire agreement. Ah....you know, Terrance O'Rourke was there, met with her also and I tried to tell him, I said, look she may be your client, but we're fixing to interview her without you, I don't care anything about her rights at this point and time, this is something that we've got to do whether you like it or not. And we went through the deal, I looked at these ah....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:**What was his response?

**BARRY CAVER:** Well he....he....you know I was.... I was....he was there just as my ....even being there was a generosity on my part, I didn't have to let him even be there. Ah...he didn't really comment much. Ah...we went over the cease fire agreement, there was something like twenty something ah....stipulations in this agreement. And I looked at those, I said...you know... I said, there's no way that I can.... I can do every one of these, I don't have the authority, I don't have the jurisdiction, I don't have the power to do this. I don't even recall what

some of them were, but it was just totally un...un...out of my ah...you know, area. And ah...so I got with the DA, Mr. Valadez and....and I talked to Chief Castillo again about it, he was already gone at that time, I called him on the phone and we went over these different stipulations. And basically we marked through everything I couldn't do. Ah .... I talked to her after we did that, I said, look this is what ...this is what I can do, this is why I can't do these other things, I said, I'm going to sign it right now. She called back in and she says, you know, he signed it.....we won basically is what she thought. And that's all it took, that's all he wanted to come out. And after that it was probably a couple of hours later, he came out, he and ah ....Otto started walking up the road to give them selves up. And after we got them into custody, I said, well....you know, where's everybody else, where's the two Paulsons and Keys and Matson. He said, well...said they didn't want to....they didn't want to give up the way we did, said, they want to do it in a military fashion. Which was sit down by the flag pole, put their...their weapons in a semi-circle, I wasn't in the military so I don't know, but that's supposedly some kind of military ah....way of doing it. And ah....sure enough I got with my guys up on the top of the ridge and they could see them, they were doing exactly what they said they were going to do, with the exception of two of them, they starting you know, running out the back.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** That would be Matson....

**BARRY CAVER:** Matson and Keys. And ah.... I decided, you know, there's nothing I could do about it at the time, let's take what we can get, take control of that and then we'll deal with those two guys later.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....okay describe....two....as far as I have been able to tell, only two of your people were injured. Ah... trooper Billy Horton and a Sylvia Cardona? Ah...they were....

**BARRY CAVER:** I think.... I think they had a wreck....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** They had a wreck yeah.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah, I forgot about that, that's right they did.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And they...they...it was just minor injuries there.... Yeah.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right. I think one of them had a broken arm is the most severe.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay, what does ah...McLaren say, he drives out and he surrenders. Do you have a conversation with him?

**BARRY CAVER:** I met them as they drove up to the command post, he wanted ah...meet me, he wanted to shake my hand, he was very cordial, very respectful again to me. There was actually one photo that I have of my shaking his hand, even though his hands are handcuffed behind him, he wanted to shake my hand. Because again, I lived up to everything I promised him I would do and he appreciated that. The respect and the dignity issue came in affect again, so ah...and White Eagle did the same thing, they were both very ah...ah...didn't resist at all, they were very helpful ah .....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And ....but its not over, you still got Matson and Keys.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What's happening with these two?

**BARRY CAVER:** Well the problem was, at that time now we were already aware that they had booby traps scattered around the compound or that Embassy area because of some prior ah...video footage from some news people that showed some gasoline type bombs and pipe bombs. So we knew we had to deal with explosives. We had already called the EOD ah...from Ft.....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** E...?

**BARRY CAVER:** Explosive Ordinance Disposal team out of Ft. Bliss.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Which is in El Paso.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yes, El Paso... and they came out to assist us in dealing with the explosives. We also had a guy by the name of Andy Glasscock with Midland PD and another guy from Ector County Sheriff's office who were bomb techs.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Do you remember who they were?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah....Andy Glasscock and I don't remember the other guys name ah.... I can get it for you. He still works there. Ah...anyway they came out to help us and Paulson agreed to stay behind because he .....he was primarily the one that built most of the bombs and actually placed them in various locations. He agreed to stay behind to show all of our people where the bombs were so they could ah....either detonate them or disable them. And ah....sure enough, you know, had we gone in like I wanted to do, we probably would of got some people hurt. I don't know how severely, again you know, we had the armored carriers, but still ah.....they tell me ah....there was one bomb in particular that was placed right along side the roadway, that was like a five gallon propane bottle with a pipe bomb attached to it. And we....the experts told me had that gone off, it may not have killed anybody, but it would certainly would have disabled that APC and probably give them some bad headaches to say the least.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well APC stands for...?

**BARRY CAVER:** Armored Personnel Carriers. So we couldn't....we couldn't ....because of the bomb issue, we couldn't go after Matson and Keys right away because we had all that stuff to deal and we didn't know where all the explosives were.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay let's then...let's follow Matson and Keys for awhile. Ah....what happens with Matson?

**BARRY CAVER:** This was....again, this ended on Saturday, I guess it was.... I think it was Sunday, we got on the trail with.....TDC had their tracking dogs there, I deployed Ranger Coy Smith and Calvin Cox to go with the tracking dogs with the TDC personnel so they could, you know, in the event that they came across these guys, they could deal with it. Because normally TDC folks, they're armed, but they're not really licensed peace officers, we wanted somebody there that could....that was trained in dealing with these type of folks.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Texas Department of Corrections, they run the prisons.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right. And ah....so they .....they got on a trail and actually ended up flushing Matson out.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Yeah, he had fired on some dogs I believe.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yes.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** The tracking dogs?

**BARRY CAVER:** After they flushed....yes, after they flushed him out ah...some of the dogs found him and took off and tried to... obviously tried to bite him. And ah...he started shooting at the dogs and actually killed one of the TDC dogs. And ah.... at that point and time we heard the gun fire, we tried to zero in on their location and again, this is so....such rough terrain and mountainous and trees, we couldn't exactly pin point where they were. So we had a helicopter flying over with Gene ....Ranger Gene Kea in the helicopter with his mini 14 ....ah....223 rifle. And when we finally pin pointed and could see where they were, again, you're still hearing the gun fire, which is a very eerie sound coming from a place you don't even really know where it's coming from, I mean, you can hear the echoes. Ranger Key returned fire ah....

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Is that K E Y?

**BARRY CAVER:** K E A.....he returned fire in the area where Matson was. I guess Matson, according to the people on the ground, looked up and saw what was happening, so he starts firing at the helicopter and that's when ah....a guy by the name of Eric Pechacek who works for TDC ah...on the dog team actually fired the fatal shot from I think it was a 270 deer rifle that killed Matson.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And I think you spell his name P E C H A C E K.

**BARRY CAVER:** Something like that, it has a strange spelling, but it's pronounced Pechacek.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** So anyway ah...Matson's down, he's dead. Now Key.

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah....we look for a couple more days, can't find anything to.... I mean can't find Keys anywhere and it's kind of like finding a needle in a haystack, I mean it's almost impossible. There were a lot of....again a lot of snakes, a lot of treacherous terrain, I was afraid we were going to get somebody else hurt just looking for the guy. And I decided just to call it off, he'd eventually surface ah... later, we knew that there was some ah....sympathizers in the area that lived there also and felt like they would try to help him. And ah....about four months later ah ....he was finally captured in ah....just outside of Huntsville on I-45.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I think wasn't it around Sam Houston State Park?

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** I remember.....a personal comment, I think I was in Houston during this four month period and I was visiting with the Rangers there and one of them said, well if he got out of the desert alive, we know where his folks are at, he will show up sooner or later. And sure enough he did.

**BARRY CAVER:** Sure enough he did.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....did not McLaren call upon Keys to surrender? That's.....

**BARRY CAVER:** Umm....not that I can recall.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Okay.

**BARRY CAVER:** No.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....let's see ah....just out of curiosity now for myself, what ever happened to the flag that they were flying there at the Embassy?

**BARRY CAVER:** It was taken down ah....by the SWAT team once they finally ah....infiltrated that ....that area and it was placed into evidence along with everything else.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Do you know where it's at now?

**BARRY CAVER:** I...I guess it's with all the other evidence in the District Clerk's office.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Once it's adjudicated, I'd like to see it go to the museum. But anyway, from start to finish, how long did the standoff last?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah....the initial thing lasted seven days and we stayed a couple more days looking for Keys, so about nine days all together.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How did the media act during this? And your relationship with them?

**BARRY CAVER:** Of course, you know, Mike Cox was the DPS public information officer who dealt with them directly. Ah....Mike would come in for daily briefings, I would give him what information I wanted him to have to relay to the press. Ah... but for the most part I think it went pretty well. Ah... of course you know, the press is never satisfied, they always want more, and be able to see more. Ah... he finally made arrangements to have a contingent of ....of four or five, however many it was, to actually come down to the command post to actually film some of the things that were going on and to see some things. But it was kind of, you know, one of those deals where if you don't feed the sharks something, they're going to start making it up on their own.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well on the whole, do you think the media treated it fairly?

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah, I really do, like I say, I did catch a little critics later for dealing with the terrorist as far as making the exchange of prisoners for the hostages, but ah.... you can't argue with the results. I would....that....that heat didn't last long.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well I'll reiterate what you said, where were they going to go.

**BARRY CAVER:** Right.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And he could have been out the next day on a misdemeanor bond anyway.

**BARRY CAVER:** Exactly.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** And where was he going to go.

**BARRY CAVER:** Once we put it to them like that, they knew that....you're right, you know, they didn't think about that either.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....okay ....were they tried in Federal or State court?

**BARRY CAVER:** They were all tried in State court.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah....what kind of sentences did they end up with?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah.... I believe McLaren got ah....life imprisonment with a \$10,000 fine. White Eagle Otto got 99 years with a \$10,000 fine. Ah....the Paulson's both I believe got ah.... I think Greg Paulson got 99 because he's the one that actually shot Mr. Rowe, his wife got 50 years I believe and Keys I think got ah.... I think 99.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** What about Scheibt?

**BARRY CAVER:** He actually was not prosecuted because he....he ....obviously he wasn't there when it happened, he was in jail. And then whenever he went back in and then ended up surrendering himself later, he wasn't really involved in it.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Ah.... I teased you one time that you run them out of West Texas into our back yard over in Overton, Texas which is right outside Longview, deep East Texas. Is this part of the same ROT or....?

**BARRY CAVER:** Again, it's one of those splintered factions of them, but they're....as far as I know they're all basically the same, have the same beliefs and that sort of thing.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** We really appreciate you doing that Barry.

**BARRY CAVER:** Had to run them out of West Texas.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** How....law enforcement in general and I guess Rangers in particular, how are you looking at ....is the militia a problem today?

**BARRY CAVER:** Ah....of course they pose a threat to a certain extent, but I don't think that, you know, with...with international terrorism the way it is right now, I think that's our primary focus now.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well that's a whole different story. Ah....any comments you'd like make, cause that's about all I've got.

**BARRY CAVER:** You know there's a lot of lessons that I try to relate to the other police officers that I talk to about this ah....and the fact that you can never ask ....don't ever be afraid to ask for help when you need it, don't let your egos get in the way of making good decisions. Ah....obviously it's....it's ....you've got to be able to share intelligence information about these things or anything else for that matter. And I think that, you know, unfortunately after 9/11 the FBI and the CIA have certainly caught the brunt of a lot of that problem. And I think that as we work as a team in law enforcement, it's not....it's not me against you, it's not my department against your department, it's us in law enforcement against them the terrorist. And if, you know,

as long as we continue to think that way ah....we've got to be able to work together and share information to solve the thing, that's the only way it's going to happen.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Were you given any special awards?

**BARRY CAVER:** No, I did not receive a single thing.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Yes you did, and the public doesn't know about it. I by....right after that at the Texas Ranger reunion ah....Governor Bush....then Governor George W. Bush came down and gave a speech. After the speech there was a long line to shake his hand and what not. By pure chance I was standing right behind you in that line and when we got to Bush....to Governor Bush, he leaned over and spoke to you quietly, I remember it just like it happened yesterday, shook your hand and said, Barry thank you for what you did.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah, now I did....as a matter of fact I actually talked to him on the phone ah....that Saturday after it ended, he called the command post and I visited and he told me then that he appreciated the job that we did and that was....that meant a lot.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well I remember that like it happened yesterday, he leaned over from the waist, shook your hand and said, Barry thank you for what you did.

**BARRY CAVER:** I think my parents were actually in line with me as well, I forgot about that.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Well I was standing back....pure chance I was standing directly behind you when that happened.

**BARRY CAVER:** Yeah.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Captain, that's all I've got. If there's anything else, if not I really do appreciate it.

**BARRY CAVER:** No problem, I can't think of anything else.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Thank you. (pause in tape....then it starts again)...

**BARRY CAVER:** There's one other accolade that I forgot, me and Sheriff Bailey and ah....the Woffords all went to the State Legislature ah....we both got a ah.... I don't know if it's a House proclamation or Senate proclamation, maybe one of each, that mentioned ah....ah.....the job that I did personally and the job that we did as a whole there at that particular event. And it praised us for everything that happened and I still....like I say, I have those documents somewhere in my memorabilia at the house and ah....of course obviously those mean a lot to me as well.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** As they should, you did....speaking for everybody, Texans and all, you sure did a fine job that we didn't have another Waco. Cause we wouldn't have needed that for sure.

**BARRY CAVER:** No, no.

**ROBERT NIEMAN:** Thank you Barry.