

What Brought Down the Towers?

By David Chandler

Some people have proposed exotic mechanisms for taking down the Twin Towers and Building 7 in the World Trade Center complex, such as mini nuclear weapons or “energy beams.” There is no actual evidence for any of these, and good reason to believe no such mechanisms were involved.

The smallest nuclear weapons, to public knowledge at least, might take out a few city blocks, but could not be confined to the interior of an individual building. They would melt, if not vaporize, pretty much everything in sight. Steven Jones, in a letter to the Journal of 9/11 Studies, said, “We do not need to endlessly discuss hypotheses that have been ruled out by empirical data.” He went on to point out that the radioactive tritium in the WTC debris were trace amounts on the order of nano-Curies, whereas even the smallest nuclear devices would put out billions of Curies. He summarizes, “Thus, tritium is a tracer for hydrogen bombs, the ‘smoking gun.’ Can proponents of the WTC-mini-nuke hypothesis explain how large releases of tritium did NOT happen on 9/11/2001?” He goes on to consider, and rule out, other telltale signs of nuclear explosions.

Similarly, the idea that some kind of ill-defined energy beams destroyed the towers is completely speculative and does not match the visual evidence. The tremendous energy needed to rip the building apart would have to be generated somewhere else and transmitted via some kind of beam of particles or radiation (not specified by the proponents) without being detected. We don’t see holes burned into the sides of the towers. Generating this amount of energy in sudden bursts on satellites is unfeasible and no one has proposed a terrestrial site for this kind of event. This is a prototypical “hand waving” solution.

We don’t need to invoke exotic weapons whose very existence is questionable, at best. What we see, in the case of the Twin Towers, are hundreds of localized explosive events originating inside the buildings detonated in timed sequences following the descent of the buildings. These explosions can be explained in terms of known demolition materials. The most exotic of these is nanothermite, which has been identified, both in terms of unexploded flakes of the material and in the end products of the reaction, in the dust spread all over lower Manhattan. Nanothermite leaves easily identifiable fingerprints: molten iron, which, in the presence of a blast environment, formed billions of iron microspheres, and aluminum oxide, visible as white smoke. Note the copious amounts of white smoke emitted from the surfaces of falling beams. The identification of nanothermite was confirmed by direct observation and lab analysis in the red layer of numerous red-gray chips found in the dust. This does not mean nanothermite is the only explosive material used. Other explosives do not leave such obvious fingerprints, and NIST admitted they didn’t look for any explosive residues.

I have attached several videos that show the sequences of timed explosions racing down the towers ahead of the falling debris. Pay attention to the white smoke being generated along the surfaces of the falling steel beams. If these were wooden beams we could understand the generation of the smoke as being due to burning, but steel beams don’t burn. The smoke must be coming from some material on the surface of these beams.

One of the videos shows a chunk of falling debris that explodes with a puff of white smoke into two pieces, then each of the pieces explodes again. Another video shows a horizontally moving chunk of debris suddenly stop and fall straight down. This would seem to violate the conservation of momentum, but no violation of the laws of physics is going on here. We can rule out collision with another piece of debris because to stop it would require the equivalent of a head-on collision with an

equal mass going the other direction, whereas all the material is moving outward from the building along essentially parallel trajectories. What we are most likely seeing is an internal explosion in the debris fragment which throws one part forward, carrying off the horizontal momentum of the original whole, while the smoke-generating half stops and falls, performing a right angle turn. The video shows other large debris fragments racing downward ahead of the general curtain of falling debris while trailing large volumes of white smoke. I call these “rocket projectiles” because something had to propel them downward faster than they could fall due to gravity alone.

All of these video clips illustrate the fact that what we are dealing with in the disintegration of the towers are numerous, relatively small, localized explosions, not a massive single event, such as a nuclear detonation, or a ray of some kind burning through the towers.

Science requires a phase of expansive, creative thinking to imagine the possibilities, but these numerous hypotheses must be winnowed: subjected to scrutiny to reject the hypotheses that are faulty or lack solid evidence. We, as a movement, should present to the world facts that are provable if we want our message to be believable. We can privately suspect other things that may also be going on, but we must have the self discipline, as individuals and as a group, to apply critical thinking and rely on evidence as the final judge. NIST did not do this. They presented a contrived explanation that is not supported by the evidence. That is why their message is so transparently false, to anyone who looks at it seriously. Our message, on the other hand, is rock solid, as long as we stay with what we really know and don't indulge in flights of fantasy, at least not in public.

North Tower Exploding <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSApOavkHg8>

Downward Acceleration of the North Tower <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjSd9wB55zk>

South Tower Smoking Guns <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DChR1XcYhlw>

South Tower Smoking Guns (Follow-up) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMX7qHGEOds>

South Tower: Exploding Projectile <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnR4A4zb8B0>

Rockets at the World Trade Center http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvw0_i1rGns