[cs15lsp23ms@ieng6-201]:stringsearch:392\$ grep -r "instructions" stringsearch-data/technical/911report/chapter-1.txt

At that same time, American 11 had its last routine communication with the ground when it acknowledged navigational instructions from the FAA's air traffic control (ATC) center in Boston. Sixteen seconds after that transmission, ATC instructed the airc raft's pilots to climb to 35,000 feet. That message and all subsequent attempts to contact the flight were not acknowledged. From this and other evidence, we believe the hijacking began at 8:14 or shortly thereafter.

The Vice President stated that he called the President to discuss the rules of engagement for the CAP. He recalled feeling t hat it did no good to establish the CAP unless the pilots had **instructions** on whether they were authorized to shoot if the plane would not divert. He said the President signed off on that concept. The President said he remembered such a conversation, and t hat it reminded him of when he had been an interceptor pilot. The President emphasized to us that he had authorized the shootdow n of hijacked aircraft.

At 10:39, the Vice President updated the Secretary on the air threat conference: Vice President: There's been at least three instances here where we've had reports of aircraft approaching Washington-a couple were confirmed hijack. And, pursuant to the President's **instructions** I gave authorization for them to be taken out. Hello?

SecDef: So we've got a couple of aircraft up there that have those instructions at this present time?

General David Wherley-the commander of the 113th Wing-reached out to the Secret Service after hearing secondhand reports that it wanted fighters airborne. A Secret Service agent had a phone in each ear, one connected to Wherley and the other to a fellow agent at the White House, relaying instructions that the White House agent said he was getting from the Vice President. The guidance for Wherley was to send up the aircraft, with orders to protect the White House and take out any aircraft that threatened the Capitol. General Wherley translated this in military terms to flying "weapons free"-that is, the decision to shoot rests in the cockpit, or in this case in the cockpit of the lead pilot. He passed these instructions to the pilots that launched at 10:42 and afterward.