

WITNESS STATEMENTS:

Witness #1: Vanessa Barajas

On Monday, November 25, 2019, at 2015 hours, I contacted the original reporting party (RP), to this incident, Vanessa Barajas, via telephone to determine exactly where she was when she reported the plane crash and her observations. Barajas told me the following information:

On the evening of Monday, November 25, 2019, Barajas was driving eastbound on I-10, about sixty miles east of Indio and heading to Arizona.

As she was driving, she observed a lighted object in the sky that she initially thought was a "shooting star." The object flew directly from her peripheral vision to the south. Barajas realized it was an aircraft after seeing the airplane silhouette, the blinking multi-colored and stationary white light emanating from it, and the steep decent of the aircraft. Barajas drove to the side of the road at mile marker 113, which is about 2-miles west of the Corn Springs Road exit and observed the aircraft crash about 300-yards south of the freeway into the desert followed by a ball of fire. Barajas did not hear any noise from the airplane engine and the pilot made no attempt to correct the steep descending flight path.

It should be noted that Deputy Ekdahl also interviewed Barajas regarding this incident as referenced in Deputy Ekdahl's supplemental report.

Witness #2: Deborah Estrada

The below witness statement is from Riverside County Sheriff's Department Communications Supervisor, Deborah Estrada (#[REDACTED]), sent to Sergeant Rozich on Wednesday, November 27, 2019, at 1444 hours. During her written email statement to Sergeant Rozich, Communications Supervisor Estrada reported the following information [Sic:],

"...I had worked mandatory OT on Monday, 11/25 0800-1630. I live in Anza and was driving down the road within a mile of my home and saw what I believed to possibly be a plane on fire falling from the sky. I was driving northbound and it was in the north eastern sky from my point of view. The time was between 1740-1750. It appeared to be falling in an easterly direction. Of course, at the time I was unsure what exactly I was seeing, but I knew it was NOT a falling star because I see a lot of those during my commutes. It was an orange ball of fire and it was falling much slower than you see a shooting star move. I did not call to report it because I was in the mountains and I lost visual after it went below the ridge of the Santa Rosa Mountain range that I live west of. I figured lots of other people that were seeing it may see the impact area. I learned that it was actually a plane that crashed when I got to work today and read the press release."

After reviewing the CHP Dispatch log list of witnesses to this incident, I delegated myself and Deputy Ekdahl to contact each witness listed via telephone and obtain a recorded statement. The below listed individuals are the witnesses that I personally interviewed.



1 *Witness #3: Raye-Lynn Adams*

2
3 On Monday, December 02, 2019, at 1948 hours, I contacted Raye-Lynn Adams via telephone and
4 obtained a recorded statement from her as follows:
5

6 On the evening of Monday, November 25, 2019, Adams and her husband were driving eastbound
7 on the I-10 driving from Vacaville, CA to Tucson, AZ.
8

9 Adams' husband was driving their vehicle and she was sitting in the front passenger seat. Adams
10 looked up and observed a small aircraft, "nose down at an odd angle" and not far above and ahead
11 of them as they were driving. The aircraft was directly above the freeway flying front of their
12 vehicle. Adams noticed the aircraft because she said, "it was flying so close to the freeway, flying
13 lower than a normal airplane would fly, and coming down at a steep angle." The aircraft then
14 crossed the freeway heading in a southeast direction. Adams then observed an, "orange colored
15 mushroom cloud" in the distance and she knew the airplane had crashed. Adams said she and her
16 husband were about 1.5 miles to 2 miles west of the Corn Springs Road exit. Adams and her
17 husband kept driving because other vehicles and a big-rig tractor trailer had stopped along the
18 roadway to observe the incident. Adams called 9-1-1 to report the plane crash.
19

20 Adams said that prior to the plane crashing, she could observe the silhouette and the lights of the
21 aircraft, but she did not notice the tail number or any other identifiable features because it was
22 getting dark. The darkness prevented her from determining how high the aircraft was flying above
23 but she said, "it wasn't that high." Adams stated it looked as if the pilot had no control of the
24 airplane because it appeared no effort was made to pull-up or correct from the steep and rapid
25 descent.
26

27 Adams described the lights on the aircraft as white or a yellowish white that were constantly on
28 and not blinking. She did not hear any noise from the aircraft engine, and it appeared to be gliding.
29 She did say, however, that because of the inclement weather, her vehicle windows were rolled up
30 and the thermostat was on.
31

32 Adams said that because her husband was busy driving their vehicle, he did not observe this
33 incident and had nothing further to add. I provided Adams with my contact information and
34 instructed her to notify me if she remembered any further information regarding this incident.
35

36 *Witness #4: Dennis Dunion*

37
38 At 2018 hours, I contacted Dennis Dunion via telephone and obtained a recorded statement from
39 him as follows:
40

41 On the evening of Monday, November 25, 2019, Dunion was driving his vehicle eastbound on the
42 I-10 and he estimated a few miles west of the Corn Springs Road exit. Dunion's wife and son were
43 passengers in the vehicle and they were traveling from Mission Viejo, CA to Phoenix, AZ.



1 Dunion and his family noticed a bright light coming down from the sky at a steep angle just a few
2 hundred feet in front of his vehicle and about 100-feet in the air. Dunion and his family initially
3 thought the lights were from a shooting star or some type of rocket testing or military flight
4 experiment but feared it might be a small aircraft in distress. Dunion realized the lights were much
5 closer and more consistent with an aircraft. He described the lights as blue and red airplane
6 navigation lights consistent with the lights on the tips of airplane wings.

7
8 Dunion also observed one constant bright white light towards the fuselage of the aircraft. He
9 estimated the lights to be about 300-yards south of the freeway from his vehicle when he observed
10 the light source burst into flames.

11
12 Dunion did not hear noise from the airplane engine or even the sound of an explosion. He described
13 the airplane as gliding with no motor noise at about a, "5-o'clock" steep angle descent. It did not
14 appear that the airplane tried to correct itself and no change on the steep descending trajectory
15 angle. After observing the airplane crash into flames, Dunion thought to himself, "there's no way
16 anyone could survive."

17
18 Dunion said he and his family talked extensively about the plane crash and that neither wife nor
19 his son had anything further to add to what he observed.

20
21 I provided Dunion with my contact information and instructed him to notify me if he remembered
22 any further information regarding this incident.

23
24 *Witness #5: Richard Kinder*

25
26 On Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 1715 hours, I contacted witness Richard Kinder via telephone
27 and obtained a recorded statement as follows:

28
29 On the evening of Monday, November 25, 2019, Kinder was driving eastbound on I-10 driving
30 from Santa Monica, CA to Tucson, AZ. He stated he was east of Indio, CA and approaching Corn
31 Springs Road. He was driving in a dust storm and other inclement weather when he received a
32 weather alert text message on his cell phone warning him of low visibility. As Kinder continued
33 eastbound on I-10 towards Corn Springs Road, he observed, "either a blue light or a couple of blue
34 lights" descend at a steep downward angle but not quite vertically. He described the descent of the
35 lighted object at roughly a "5-o'clock" downward angle descent. Kinder said he did not know what
36 the object was but surmised it was an aircraft. He then observed the aircraft crash and explode in
37 a fireball south of the freeway. That is when he pulled his vehicle to the side of the road and called
38 9-1-1.

39
40 Kinder said it was too dark outside and poor visibility for him to positively observe the shape or
41 silhouette of the airplane but knew it was smaller than a commercial jet liner. Kinder stated the
42 aircraft was at a low altitude but he couldn't determine how high the airplane was in the sky when
43 it flew in front of and above his vehicle when he observed it pass in front of his windshield.
44



1 Kinder remembers observing flashing lights on the airplane and maybe trees or shrubs that backlit
2 the airplane before it crashed. He then observed the airplane crash followed by a fireball in the
3 distance about 300-yards south of the freeway. After the crash and observing the flames, Kinder
4 thought there is no way anyone survived the crash and he worried about secondary explosion.
5

6 Kinder did not think that the airplane was on fire while in the air and he only remembered
7 observing the blue airplane navigation lights. He further did not hear any noise from the airplane
8 engine and the airplane did not try to correct itself and flew in a steep, downward descent.
9

10 *Witness #6: MacKenzie Lokare*
11

12 On Monday, December 02, 2019, at 2053 hours, I attempted to contact witness, MacKenzie
13 Lokare, regarding this incident with no avail and left her a voice message.
14

15 On Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 1710 hours, I attempted to contact witness, MacKenzie
16 Lokare, a second time regarding this incident with no avail and left her a voice message.
17

18 On Sunday, December 15, 2019, at 1839 hours, I contacted MacKenzie Lokare via telephone and
19 obtained the following recorded statement from her:
20

21 On the evening of Monday, November 25, 2019, Lokare and her boyfriend were driving westbound
22 on the I-10 from Arizona to California. Lokare was sitting in the front passenger seat and she said
23 it was extremely windy outside and she felt nervous driving in a car because of the high winds.
24 She was looking out the passenger window to her left because she observed something falling from
25 the sky but didn't know what it was. Lokare's initial thought was that the object was an asteroid
26 or a meteorite. Lokare told me she observed a blue flashing light emanating from the object and
27 she followed it with her eyes in the sky. She said the object appeared to be flying out of control.
28 Lokare said she did not observe any other lights on the object.
29

30 Lokare thought the object might be an airplane because it was traveling slower than an asteroid and
31 because of the flashing blue light. She could not determine how high the aircraft was flying because
32 it was dark outside, but she knew it was going down because of the steep downward trajectory.
33 Lokare estimated the downward descent angle of the aircraft flying at about "1-o'clock" to the "9-
34 o'clock" position. She said the aircraft was basically at a 45-degree angle and may have been in a
35 complete nose-dive just before it crashed. Lokare then observed the aircraft explode and catch on
36 fire in the distance south of the freeway after it crashed. Lokare stated she did not hear any engine
37 noise from the airplane.
38

39 Lokare could not determine the distance of the crash from freeway but estimated it to be no more
40 than 5-miles away. She knew it was relatively close, however, because she was able to see the
41 explosion and flames. Lokare and her boyfriend kept driving because they knew there was nothing
42 she or her boyfriend could do except to call 9-1-1 to report the incident.
43



1 Lokare said he and her boyfriend talked extensively about the plane crash. She said her boyfriend
2 had nothing further to add than what she had observed because he was more focused on driving
3 during the high winds.

4
5 I provided Lokare with my contact information and instructed him to notify me if she remembered
6 any further information regarding this incident.

7
8 This investigation will be forwarded to the Colorado River Station Investigations Bureau for
9 further disposition.

10
11 **CASE STATUS:** Open/CA-2
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44

