



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Central Region – Arlington, Texas

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Who: Robert McCurdy, Chief Pilot Flying Tiger Aviation, LLC

When: July 20th and September 22, 2013

I spoke with Mr. McCurdy on two separate occasions; once on the day after the accident and then in a follow up telephone conversation. This is a summary of those conversations.

Mr. McCurdy stated that Jonathan Whiteacre had recently completed his instrument training at Flying Tigers on July 1, 2013, and just started the Agricultural Aviation Basic Operations course with the flight school.

Mr. McCurdy stated that Ed Collins was employed at Flying Tiger Aviation, LLC as a flight instructor on an "as needed" basis. He provided Jonathan Whiteacre's instrument flight instruction. Mr. Collins was not an agricultural pilot and had no aerial spraying experience; however, he did give ground instruction on how to use the Lite Star II GPS when spraying and how to execute an ag-turn, but was not authorized to provide flight instruction for agricultural operations. The only aspect of ag-training that Mr. Collins was authorized to do was tail-wheel endorsements. Mr. McCurdy was not sure why Mr. Collins was flying with Jonathan Whiteacre on the day of the accident.

Mr. McCurdy said Mr. Collins wanted to start instructing agricultural students. Since the Mr. Collins did not have any aerial application experience, the chief pilot flew with him the day before the accident in an Ag-Cat, and performed aerial application maneuvers. Mr. McCurdy said the instructor "did not fly well at all" and thought he would fly the airplane much "smoother" than he did considering on his overall experience as a pilot. He was not sure why the Mr. Collins did not fly well that day.

In regard to Jonathan Whiteacre, Mr. McCurdy said he was amicable and had a good disposition. He had not heard anything negative about him or his health.

Leah D. Yeager
Sr. Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board