

Frietze, James A., DPS

From: B DYER <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 11:07 AM
To: Frietze, James A., DPS
Subject: Plane Crash Statement August 27 2014

Lt James Frietze

On 27 August 2014, Around 5:50pm I was in route to the Las Cruces International airport to meet a party at the Army National Guard hanger. As I traveled west on I -10 I noticed a white twin engine aircraft fly over the interstate to make a landing at the Las Cruces Airport.

As I exited the Interstate turning right on to Airport Port road heading towards the airport I noticed a second aircraft coming in from one of the runways this aircraft was red and white in color it was a twin engine aircraft a Cessna type King Air I believe the aircraft had that type of body style, I did not notice the N numbers on the aircraft, I watched the aircraft taxi in and made the comment the aircraft looked nice with that color scheme the aircraft looked to be a newer plane, the time was around 6:20pm.

After I watched the aircraft taxi in, I went on to the National Guard hanger to meet with the party, I was in the hanger about 15 to 20 minutes, as I was leaving the hanger I caught a view of the red and white aircraft taken off, I did make the comment the aircraft sounded louder that it should taken off and it had a little different sound than most type of twin engine turbo prop aircraft I have heard before.

Around 6:40pm I was leaving the airport I caught one more view of the red and white aircraft between the buildings and water tower, The aircraft was heading west and seemed to have a smooth slight bank to the left. The landing gear looked to be up from what I could see I did not notice anything that was out of place, as I drove west to make a left turn on to Airport Road to head back to I-10, I lost the aircraft from view and did not thing nothing of it, In the few minutes I was driving and cleared the water tower at the Airport.

Around 6:40 - 6:50 pm I saw a huge cloud of black smoke like nothing I have seen before to my right, at first I thought something was on fire at the Southern New Mexico State Fair grounds. I was on the over pass and turned west on the frontage road to head that way to see if someone needed help are needed to call 911, In route I noticed a fire ball with in the smoke cloud, I arrived at the fair grounds and noticed the smoke was in the desert behind the fair grounds, I turned left into the fair grounds, on the raceway entrance when I noticed a New Mexico State Police unit license plate 220 on scene with a US Border Patrol unit, I could see them in the distance out where the smoke was coming from.

A few seconds later a second Border Patrol unit came in two officers got out with fire extinguisher and headed towards the smoke , I backed out and parked at the entrance to the road to not block units from getting to the smoke, I looked around and thought where is that red and white aircraft I saw, At that time around 7:10 - 7:15 pm I called New Mexico State Police Lt, James Frieze to ask if there was a report of a plane crash, and to tell him where I was and what I saw, I was told to stay on scene and I would need to give a statement to what I saw. I did what I was told and waited.

While I was waiting a person with a red shirt came up and asked what I was doing I told him I was there to give a statement on what I saw, and was waiting for the New Mexico State Police, I think this person was with the Dona Ana County Sheriffs office from the writing on his shirt, I asked if the aircraft was red and white in color he stated that is was a small dark colored aircraft coming in from the west at low level, I tried to tell him I think it was the Red and White aircraft, I saw leaving the airport around 6:40 pm when the person just walked off to talk on his CB.

I went back to seat in my vehicle and waited for the New Mexico State Police, Around 8:50 - 9:00 pm I made contact with Lt, James Frieze I was told I would need to write a statement of what I saw, I told him I would and I left the fair grounds around 9:01 pm.

This statement is to the best of my knowledge of what I saw, If you need anything else are have any question please feel free to contact me.

Baron Dyer