



## RECORD OF CORRESPONDENCE

**Michael J. Folkerts**  
**Aviation Accident Investigator**  
**Central Region**

**Date: May 25, 2017**  
**NTSB Accident Number: CEN17FA169**

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Mr. Robert Garrett, the Flying Tiger Aviation (FTA) manager, provided the following information and perspectives:

- The field where the accident occurred was not a designated practice field for FTA.
- Immediately to the right of the field was a prison, with inmates outside in the yard at the time of the accident.
- The flight instructor was a West Point graduate and an Army trained helicopter pilot.
- After his military career, the flight instructor worked outside of the aviation industry for 15-20 years. He flew recreationally during that time and earned his fixed wing ratings.
- The flight instructor completed the FTA Basic Ag course in 2012 and began working as an aerial application pilot in both fixed and rotary wing aircraft.
- He approached FTA with an interest in earning flight instructor certification, which he obtained on April 1, 2017.
- FTA was established in 1998 as an aerial application flight training school. FTA developed into a primary flight school for FAA pilot certifications as a supplement to the aerial application training.
- In 2014, FTA entered into a contractual relationship with Louisiana Delta Community College as a workforce training program specializing in ab initio training for aerial application pilots.