



FAA

Aviation Safety

Memorandum

Date: April 19, 2021

To: Wayne Fry, Manager, AFG-500

From: Lewis Gonzales, Manager, North Texas FSDO, SW19

Prepared by: Baker Nase

Subject: Fatal Accident N801EC, Longview, TX

Overview/Summary: On April 19, 2021, at approximately 1346 CST, N801EC, a Cessna 340A, crashed approximately 9 miles east-southeast of Longview TX at coordinates 32.35369-94.54111. The aircraft impacted the ground at a vertical angle from 2,750 ft. Occupant deceased. The weather was clear with visibility greater than 10 miles with light winds. The aircraft was owned and operated by William J. Weatherspoon. The pilot flew under a Third-Class medical certificate. An Inspector from the North Texas Flight Standards District Office, as well as Jennifer Barday, Textron Representative, and NTSB Investigator Alex Lemishko, were on scene.

Background: William Weatherspoon, owner of aircraft, had maintenance completed on the Autopilot system and was flying the aircraft to do a functional flight test.

Details:

Date/Time of Accident: April 19, 2021 1346 CST

Location: 9 miles East Southeast of Longview, TX.

Aircraft: N801EC Serial #340A0312, 1977 Cessna 340A

Registered Owner/Operator: William J. Weatherspoon
[REDACTED]
Longview TX 75605

Pilots: William J. Weatherspoon
Airline Transport Pilot, Flight Instructor, Ground Instructor, Flight Engineer,
Certificate [REDACTED]

Basic Medical date [REDACTED]

Accident Description: Pilot was performing a functional test flight for the Auto Pilot system after maintenance was completed. Aircraft took off from Longview airport (KGGG) at 1340 CST headed East. Pilot requested 3000 FT altitude and proceeded. At 1346 aircraft dropped from tower radar and was unresponsive. A plume of smoke was seen in the direction of flight path. Aircraft was discovered and reported to 911. Tatum Fire Department and DPS Troopers first on scene.

NTSB, FAA, and aircraft/engine representative conducted an on-scene investigation. The aircraft remains have been removed and transported to Dallas Air Salvage.

Political Considerations:

None