

Fox Todd

From: Fox Todd
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 11:28 AM
To: Huffman, Benjamin J (FAA)
Cc: Fox Todd; Rutt Brian; [REDACTED]@robinsonheli.com; Harsanyi, David
Subject: RE: N40506, Conversation with Laury Weitzel, CFI

Importance: High

Inspector Huffman,

Thank you for the email summary for your conversation with Mr. Laury Weitzel, the helicopter flight instructor who Mr. Lindsey contacted after he purchased the helicopter in 2016.

I will include this conversation summary with our public docket materials associated with the accident investigation.

Sincerely,
Andrew Todd Fox
NTSB, Air Safety Investigator

From: Huffman, Benjamin J (FAA) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 9:56 AM
To: Fox Todd [REDACTED]
Subject: N40506, Conversation with Laury Weitzel, CFI

Mr. Fox, here is a summary of my phone call with Laury Weitzel, a CFI and owner of "Flight Schools USA Corporation"; located at the West Texas High Planes Airport, a private airport Northwest of Meadow Texas.

An invoice found at the scene of the accident showed the pilot of N40506 was billed for 2.2 hours of instruction on August 12th, 2016. On Tuesday May 16th 2023 I spoke briefly with Mr. Laury Weitzel over the phone about his experience with the pilot of N40506, Mr. Arthur Lindsey. According to this instructor Mr. Lindsey met him at the West Texas High Planes Airport for a consultation on getting flight instruction in N40506, a R-22 Beta Mr. Lindsey claims he just bought. Mr. Lindsey showed some pictures of the helicopter, but Mr. Weitzel wasn't willing to give instruction in the helicopter because he only wanted to use his flight school's helicopter. The two of them talked for some time about what would be involved in getting a pilot certificate. Ultimately, the two of them couldn't come to an agreement on a training course. The biggest reason they couldn't do business being Mr. Weitzel's unwillingness to teach in Mr. Lindsey's helicopter, N40506. I asked Mr. Weitzel if Mr. Lindsey talked about trying to teach himself to fly. Mr. Weitzel said Mr. Lindsey asked if anyone had ever done it before, and eluded that he wanted to. In closing our conversation, Mr. Weitzel wanted to make it clear to me that he tried to convince Mr. Lindsey not to teach himself.

Benjamin Huffman

Aviation Safety Inspector, General Aviation Operations
San Antonio Flight Standards District Office
[REDACTED]