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Subject: CEN25LA049, Law Enforcement Incident Reports

Contact: Monnett Police Department, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Auroa Police Department

The law enforcement agencies involved with the accident airplane, N6575W, on November 24, 2024, provided incident reports detailing their interactions with the pilot of the accident airplane, Joshua Strouse. Below are the summaries from the incident reports that detail the events and interactions with the pilot.

Aurora Police Department:

On November 24, 2024, at about 01:05 local time, Joshua Strouse made a phone call to Lawrence County 911 center requesting a wellbeing check on his wife. Strouse stated that his wife was suicidal. Upon interacting with Strouse's wife, the responding police officer determined that she was not suicidal. The responding officer was informed that at about 18:00 local time on November 23, 2024, Joshua Strouse made statements to his wife saying he was going to get in his plane, and it would "be his last flight." These statements were reported to the Urbana Police Department. The responding officer was informed that Mr. Strouse and his wife were getting a divorce and she no longer wished to speak with him.

Later, Mr. Strouse contacted officers and stated that he was going to be getting into his airplane, flying to Aurora, and dropping a pillow onto his wife's house. Mr. Strouse Admitted to officers that this would be his "last flight." He demanded to speak to his wife and about 01:40, Mr. Strouse entered the airspace above Aurora. Mr. Strouse admitted to flying while in an intoxicated state and drinking Smirnoff alcohol. After about 2 hours, Mr. Strouse agreed to land the airplane at the Jerry Sumners Sr. Aurora Municipal Airport (2H2). Mr. Strouse aimed the airplane towards Law Enforcement on the property during his descent before initiating a climb. He admitted to not being confident in his landing skills due to his level of intoxication.

Monett Police Department negotiator attempted to get Mr. Strouse to land the airplane. He eventually left Aurora airspace and flew back towards Camdenton. At approximately 05:39 local time, he crash landed near the Camdenton Memorial-Lake Regional Airport (KOZS).

During the 5 hour flight, Mr. Strouse mentioned not hurting anyone but himself.

Camden County later apprehended Mr. Strouse.

Monett Police Department:

On November 24, 2024, at about 03:00 local time, Monett Police Department Negotiator received a request from Aurora Police Department and Lawrence County Sheriff's Office to assist with an intoxicated and suicidal pilot who was flying near Jerry Sumners Sr. Aurora Municipal Airport (2H2).

The negotiator arrived on scene at 2H2 and began gathering information before contacting the pilot, Joshua Strouse. The Aurora officers and Lawrence County Deputies had been in contact with the pilot via cellular device. Officers on scene advised the negotiator that Mr. Strouse made several comments about this being his last flight and that he was demanding to speak with his wife once last time. Officers advised that Mr. Strouse had stopped communicating with them and that he was not answering his cellular device anymore. Prior to the arrival of the Monett Police department negotiator, Mr. Strouse had flown over the officers at a low altitude and yelled "wee woo, wee woo", as he flew overhead.

During the initial conversation with Mr. Strouse, he requested that officers had his wife call him. Mr. Strouse told the negotiator that he was flying the airplane while he was drunk. The negotiator requested that Mr. Strouse land the airplane, but he refused until he spoke with his wife. The negotiator stated that during his conversations with Mr. Strouse he observed that he was highly intoxicated.

The negotiator continued to have off and on contact with Mr. Strouse through phone conversations and text messages. Mr. Strouse stated that he not hurt himself until after his wife called him. Communication then stopped for a short time.

Mr. Strouse then contacted the negotiator and informed him that he had crash landed the airplane in a field full of horse. He continued to demand to speak to his wife before turning himself in. Mr. Strouse stated that he sustained injuries to his face and that the airplane crashed because the heaters quit working, causing the plane to crash.

Camden County Deputies located the unoccupied airplane as the negotiator continued to communicate with Mr. Strouse. After a period of on and off communication, Mr. Strouse later turned himself into the custody of Camden County peacefully.

Missouri State Highway Patrol:

On November 24, 2024, at about 05:39 local time, the Highway Patrol Officer was notified of an airplane crash in Camden County. He was advised that the pilot had been flying for about 4 hours, made suicidal statements, and had been flying erratically.

At 06:05 local time, the crashed airplane was located, and the pilot fled the accident site. The pilot was then located and when asked how the crash had occurred, he said, "My carb froze up." Mr. Strouse stated to the officer that he was trying to land the airplane when he crashed. The officer stated that he observed that Mr. Strouse's eyes were watery and bloodshot, but he did not smell any intoxicants on him. Mr. Strouse was then transported to Lake Regional Hospital.

The Highway patrol officer stated that the cockpit door was found open and on the ground below the door was an empty six pack container of Mike's Hard Strawberry Lemonade and an unopened bottle of that alcohol. Inside the cockpit, on the floorboard, were two open bottles of the Mike's Lemonade. He then stated that there was an occasional drip of fuel from the damaged right wing near the fuel tank.

When examining the airplane, he observed that the left wing tank was empty and had no odor of fuel. The right wing tank was elevated and at an angle. The officer observed that over half of the tank inside was empty and that he could not see the rest of the fuel tank. The right wing tank had an odor of fuel in it.

The officer later interviewed Mr. Strouse at the hospital. Mr. Strouse stated that "he was going in for a landing and my carburetor froze up." When asked how much fuel he had left he told the officer he was not sure, but he believed he had "maybe 45 minutes of fuel left." When asked about his erratic flying, he stated that he was "cruising around."

The officer questioned Mr. Strouse about the container and bottles of Mike's Hard Lemonade that were found. Mr. Strouse stated he had been drinking prior to takeoff but had finished all of them around 20:00 local time the night before on November 23, 2024. When asked if he was drinking while flying, he did not respond. Mr. Strouse stated that he had a private pilot's license, and that he did not feel like he was intoxicated while flying. The officer attempted to complete the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus test but was unable to complete the entire test. Mr. Strouse declined to submit a blood sample and asked for an attorney.

The officer contacted the insurance company and was told that the airplane was not airworthy and was not supposed to be flown.