

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF****GENERAL OCCURRENCE HARDCOPY**GO# HS 2013-53692 REFERRED TO OTHER
AGENCY

ASSIST-1 ASSIST OTHER AGENCY

General Offense Information

Operational status: REFERRED TO OTHER AGENCY

Reported on: Jan-27-2013 (Sun.) 930

Occurred on: Jan-27-2013 (Sun.) 930

Approved on: Jan-27-2013 (Sun.) by: 726 - Balaban, Donald M

Report submitted by: [REDACTED] - Luft, Kathie A

Org unit: Day B Squad [REDACTED] D4

Address: [REDACTED]

Municipality: RUSKIN

District: D4 Beat: K04 Grid: HS3825

Bias: None (no bias)

Special study: Applicability - N/A (Not Applicable)

Family violence: NO

Offenses (Completed/Attempted)

Offense: # 1 ASSIST-1 ASSIST OTHER AGENCY - COMPLETED

Location: Parks/Fields/Woods

Offender suspected of using: Not Applicable

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Related Person(s)**1. Complainant # 1 - REEDER, TOM****(Case Specific Information)**

Sex: MALE

Race: WHITE

Address: 38.55,W82-31.26 Apartment: LAT/L

Municipality: PALMETTO, Florida [REDACTED]

Phone Numbers

Business: [REDACTED]

Particulars

Additional remarks: MANAGER AT AIRPORT MANATEE

Linkage factors

Resident status : Non-Resident

Statement taken : YES

Age range : Unknown

Access to firearm : NO

2. Witness # 1 - BURTON, BILL**(Case Specific Information)**

Sex: MALE

Race: WHITE

Date of birth: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Municipality: PALMETTO, Florida [REDACTED]

Phone Numbers

Cellular: [REDACTED]

Particulars

Occupation: FLIGHT INSTRUCT

Citizenship: America, United States of

Ethnicity: Not of Hispanic Origin

Language(s) spoken: English

Height: 5'08 Weight: 180 lbs.

Disability: No

Build: Medium Complexion: Medium

Handed: Right Handed

Hair color: Gray or Partially Gray/Salt and Pepper

Additional remarks: WELLS BERRY (CO-PILOT [REDACTED])

Master Name Index Reference

Name: BURTON, BILL

Sex: MALE

Race: WHITE

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Date of birth: [REDACTED]

Ethnicity: Not of Hispanic Origin

Address: [REDACTED]

Municipality: PALMETTO, Florida [REDACTED]

Phone numbers

Cellular: [REDACTED]

Linkage factors

Resident status : Non-Resident

Age range : 65-98 Years

Access to firearm : NO

3. Injured # 1 - MASSA, EUGENE**(Case Specific Information)**

Sex: MALE

Race: WHITE

Date of birth: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Municipality: BRADENTON, Florida

Phone Numbers

Home: [REDACTED]

Particulars

Place of birth: New York

Occupation: RETIRED

Height: 5'07

Eye color: Blue

Hair color: Gray or Partially Gray/Salt and Pepper

Hair style: Short

Master Name Index Reference

Name: MASSA, EUGENE

Sex: MALE

Race: WHITE

Date of birth: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Municipality: BRADENTON, Florida

Phone numbers

Home: [REDACTED]

Linkage factors

Resident status : Non-Resident

Statement taken : YES

Age range : 65-98 Years

Access to firearm : NO

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Related Text Page(s)

Document: INVESTIGATION

Author [REDACTED] - Erwin, Steven D (Terminated / Resignation / Retired)

Related date/time: Jan-27-2013 (Sun.) 947

On 1/27/2013 at 0947 hours I responded to a airplane crash call. The plane was located in a field approx 1500 yards from Hw 41 S, just over the Manatee County border. The address at the street was [REDACTED] I helped Dep.Cathy Luft# [REDACTED] with securing the area. I took names of all persons who entered the scene. I stood by the scene until I was relieved by Dep.Cathy Luft. The following persons entered the scene.

At approx 0955 hours:

Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office

Dep.Cathy Luft# [REDACTED]

Dep Crystal McClelland# [REDACTED]

Dep Steve Erwin# [REDACTED]

Dep Rick Navarro# [REDACTED] (off duty)

Hillsborough County Fire Dept

Engine #17

Capt B Hayes

Driver Herndon

Firefighter Ponson

Fire Rescue #17

Lt West

Paramedic Brown

North River Fire Dept (#1 and #25) (Manatee County)

Chief Ken Cluley

Capt Mort Thorton

Driver David Murphy

Firefighter Drew Griffon

Firefighter Ryan Yanuzzelli

Bill Burton (pilot that located the wreckage)

Wells Berry (was with Bill Burton when the wreckage was located)

1135 hours

FAA Inspector Dave Bear#8184

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Related Text Page(s)

Document: INVESTIGATION

Author: [REDACTED] - Luft, Kathie A

Related date/time: Jan-27-2013 (Sun.) 1356

On 01-27-13 at 0930 hrs, a plane crash occurred in a cow pasture approximately 1700 yards east of 41 Hw, just south of Valroy Rd. The plane was an experimental, fixed wing, single engine plane occupied by the pilot only. The pilot was medivacked to the Blake Manatee Hospital where he is listed in stable condition.

I was dispatched to the area of Hw 41 and Valroy Rd in reference to a plane crash. I observed a helicopter and a plane circling in the area. I made contact with a motorist on Valroy who was parked on the side of the roadway. He identified himself as the manager of the Airport Manatee. He was at the airport, which was approximately 1500 yards south of the scene and had observed the plane having engine trouble. He witnessed it going down in the cow pasture somewhere in this general vicinity.

Within 2-3 minutes, Deputy McClelland was searching the area as well further south on 41 Hw and received information that the crash was inside a cow pasture beyond a gate that was marked as [REDACTED] Manatee Emergency units were at the scene with Deputy McClelland and they entered the pasture and located the plane approximately 1700 yards east of 41 Hw.

Two separate sets of barbed wire fence line and posts had to be negotiated in order to access the crash site. This area was also determined to be in the path of the landing/take off flight pattern of the Airport Manatee, which was approximately 1500 yards south of the scene.

After negotiating the fencing, emergency units were able to access the wreckage. There was only one occupant and it was the pilot, who identified himself as Eugene Massa. I also positively identified him through his D.A.V.I.D photo. Mr. Massa was penned in the wreckage from his knees down. His head and torso were exposed and he was conscience and talking. Once he was removed from the cockpit, the injuries to his knees were visible. Both knees had lacerations across his legs just above his knees. The flesh and bones were visible. No bones were protruding however, and his legs did not appear to be broken or severed.

Both the airport manager and the pilot gave accounts in their separate statements that there were engine problems with the plane prior to its crash.

I took digital photos of the scene, the pilot, his injuries, the blood, the

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debris, the gouge marks in the ground, the separated engine, gas tank, propeller and fragments of propeller, battery, etc., and placed them into the VeriPic System. I noted that the gas tank was empty, but it was reported that emergency units had moved the tank from its original resting place in the pasture.

Plane: Experimental
Model: GB-1
S/N: N-27-CE
Tail: N27CE

I contacted the weekend on call detective, Det. Cooper [REDACTED] and provided him with information pertaining to this crash. I spoke with PIO Debbie Carter and made contact with Captain Launikitis.

Sgt. Hendrickson of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office was on scene and was coordinating the next of kin notification. The next of kin was determined to be Anthony Massa, [REDACTED], Bradenton, FL, phone [REDACTED]. At approximately 1539 hrs, I received information that next of kin had been notified.

The property owner of the cow pasture was notified and she responded to the scene. Her information is as follows: Jan Ropetto, phone [REDACTED].

See Dep. Erwin's supplement for additional information in reference to the emergency units that responded to the scene.

FAA Investigator Dave Bear, (5601 Mariner St, Tpa, FL 33609, phone (813) 287-4900 or [REDACTED], responded to the scene and took over this investigation.

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Related Text Page(s)

Document: INTERVIEW-COMPLAINANT

Author: [REDACTED] - Luft, Kathie A

Subject: REEDER, TOM

Related date/time: Jan-27-2013 (Sun.) 1557

Mr. Reeder stated that he was the manager at the Airport Manatee. He was at the airport when this occurred and had watched Mr. Massa take off in the Experimental airplane. Shortly after take off, he heard the plane's engine making noises indicating that it was having some sort of engine malfunction. The plane then went down just north of the airport.

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Related Text Page(s)

Document: INTERVIEW-VICTIM

Author [REDACTED] Luft, Kathie A

Subject: MASSA, EUGENE

Related date/time: Jan-27-2013 (Sun.) 1600

Mr. Massa stated that he was the only one in the plane. He took off from the Airport Manatee and had reached 300 feet. The plane began to experience some sort of engine trouble, "the engine was messing up." He crashed in the cow pasture just north of the airport.

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Clearance Information

Agency: Hillsborough County

Cleared status: Not Applicable - Not Applicable

Cleared on: Jan-27-2013 (Sun.)

Cleared by Officer 1: [REDACTED] - Luft, Kathie A

Org Unit: D4402 - Day B Squad 402- D4

Complainant/Victim notified: NO



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*** END OF HARDCOPY ***