



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

NTSB Accident Number: ERA14LA164, Vicksburg, Mississippi

Excerpts from Mr. Paul Suffern, NTSB Meteorologist, email of June 26, 2014:

At 1635 CDT: METAR KVKs 212135Z AUTO 24009G15KT 10SM CLR 26/04 A2994

At 1615 CDT: METAR KVKs 212115Z AUTO 23008KT 170V260 10SM CLR 26/04 A2994

At 1555 CDT: METAR KVKs 212055Z AUTO 22012KT 10SM CLR 26/04 A2994

At 1535 CDT: METAR KVKs 212035Z AUTO 21006G13KT 10SM CLR 26/05 A2995

Visible imagery at 1545 CDT and 1615 CDT don't show anything out of the ordinary. Just some high clouds. And the Mississippi river shows up in the sunshine too.

The lowest 2,500 feet msl of the atmosphere were very unstable. Given it was so dry one would not expect thunderstorms, rain showers, clouds; however, thermals would have been quite prominent. Any differences in vegetation on the ground could have made for some differences and therefore caused thermals in some spots and not in others.

With Vicksburg so close to the Mississippi River and the air temperature being relatively warm that March day that could have played a difference thermal properties. Given the cooler temperatures of the river there could have been a slight increase in wind and some wind shear right near and around the river. The upper air soundings suggest the air would have been able to move up and down very easily given how unstable things were between the surface and 2,500 feet msl. So some light wind shear and turbulence could be expected and maybe some up and downdrafts in areas where the vegetation changed quickly, like from the river to large asphalt covered parking lots.

Paul R. Cox
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