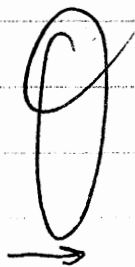


Paul Gaworecki
[REDACTED]

On Tuesday 8/2/16 our workgroup was standing on the beach at the edge of the stairs at the back of the Back Porch Restaurant. I was facing west looking down the beach when I heard an airplane overhead. I looked up to see a twin-engine, white to grey bottom plane flying over the approximate center of the restaurant. The engines were running without misfire, sputtering, or mechanical noises. I thought the low height, approx 150-200 ft was due to a close runway and didn't think too much about it. I believe the landing gear was down but can not be 100% positive. I looked away after it passed, about just above the end of the beach. I looked back at the plane when Geoff Brühl mentioned "That plane is really banking hard". At that point I looked back at the plane that was already in a large right-hand bank. The plane seemed to be nearly vertical in the bank, I assume approx 70-80° banked. I could see the top of the plane and followed it right down to the water. There was a green light on the top. The sun was setting so I could barely see the plane but saw the splash as it hit the ocean. There was a large splash and we could tell the plane hit very hard. I could not see



the wreckage floating.

I called 911 at 8:25 pm 8/2/16.

I estimated it was about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile off shore and

approx $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of the restaurant.


8/5/16

Jim Hingst
08/05/2016

We were waiting on a reservation at The Back Porch restaurant. Five of us were standing in a circle at the bottom of the staircase on the beach.

I was facing the ocean. When the plane first flew over I looked up and watched it for a few seconds. It appeared low but I knew it had just taken off from the airport behind (North) of me. I would guess it was flying at

200ft going just east of south. I didn't see anything suspicious about the plane; no landing gear.

I looked away after it was a few hundred feet over the water. Geff made a remark and

I looked back at the plane. At which point

~~it~~ it had made a sharp turn and was

now traveling parallel to the shore about a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile

out. It was going down towards the water at a 45° angle ^{to the horizon} and not slowing down or pulling up.

~~It~~ I could really just see the green flashing light.

It crashed, made a large white splash, and a

couple seconds later I heard the sound. I

estimate this was 8:24pm 08/02/2016. From

where we were standing we pointed a couple feet

to the left of the beachside volleyball net post

as the crash site.

I was standing on the beach at the Back Porch restaurant with my back turned to the ocean. I saw and heard the plane fly overhead directly over the restaurant. It was up at a normal height ^{approximately 300 ft} compared to other planes that flew over. The plane was a twin engine prop plane, white in color. I stopped watching the plane after it flew overhead, but after a little time passed it started to get a little louder. I turned around and saw the plane banking to the right and diving quickly. It was now pretty dark and you could only see the green marker light on the wing. You could see a faint gray splash from the water and a few seconds later I could hear the impact, a thud in combination with a splash sound. We then called the police and told them everything we could.

Casey Dietrich

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

GEEK BLOTH

I SAW THE PLANE FLY OVER THE "BACK PORCH"
~~RESTAURANT~~ RESTAURANT. IT LOOKED LEVEL IN
FLIGHT AND ENGINES SOUNDED NORMAL. IT FLEW
OUT APPROX $\frac{1}{2}$ TO $\frac{3}{4}$ MILE AND BANKED HARD
RIGHT. IT APPEARED TO BE ~~PARALLEL~~ PARALLEL
OR SLIGHTLY TOWARDS SHORE. FOR A VERY
SHORT DISTANCE IT APPEARED TO BE LEVEL
OR SLIGHTLY ANKLED DOWNWARD THEN
WENT INTO THE WATER AT ABOUT A
 45° ANGLE NOSE DOWN.

IT WAS DUSK AND THE PLANE WAS A
SILHOUETTE AT THE TIME IT WENT DOWN.

THE PLANE APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 200' UP
AS IT PASSED OVER THE BACK PORCH. IT CLIMBED

SLIGHTLY UNTIL THE PLANE BANKED RIGHT.

* I DID NOT NOTICE IF LANDING GEAR WAS
UP OR DOWN.

August 5, 2016

Official Statement by Alex Breckner

On the evening of August 2nd, 2016 at approximately 8:30 p.m. I had visual and verbal contact with airplane N2735A departing runway 14 out of Destin Airport. I was flying a 10 mile Introductory Tour with 3 passengers aboard helicopter N [REDACTED] and was approximately 1 mile Southwest of the airfield on an extended left base for Runway 32. As most of my radio calls typically go, I inform area traffic that I will be turning left base to final for Runway 32, remaining West of the active runway & landing Taxiway Alpha. During this radio call, Airplane N2735A was departing Runway 14 and made the appropriate radio calls informing of intentions departing to the Southwest. I responded to the call with something along the lines of "I have the departing aircraft in sight & will remain well West of the active runway." Airplane N2735A responded back with, "Have the helicopter in sight, thank you." At this response, it looked like Airplane N2735A was close to the numbers of 32 and approximately 300-400 feet altitude. I then proceeded to land mid-field on taxiway Alpha.

I did not hear any more radio calls over CTAF from Airplane N2375A.

Upon my next and last tour flight with passengers aboard, Eglin App contacted my helicopter via Destin CTAF and ask if I had visual on the departing aircraft over the gulf. At this time, I was approximately 1.5 miles Southwest and heading East along the coast at 400 ft and setting up to land again Taxiway Alpha, West of the active runway. I responded with confirming visual on the departing aircraft during my previous flight, however, negative visual on the aircraft at this time.

I scanned out to my right in the Gulf for other air traffic, and then proceeded to turn Final for Taxiway Alpha.

[REDACTED]
Alex Breckner
[REDACTED]

5 Aug 2016