



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Who: Kyle Steele

When: April 24, 2017

RE: ERA17FA135

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Steele stated that he had previously worked for Cessna as a mechanic at one of their Cessna Citation Service Centers and later as a mobile service unit technician for 9 years. He separated from Cessna in January 2016 and started his own independent aviation maintenance business in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Steele said the owner of N8DX, Mr. Robert Westlake, had contacted him in early 2016 and hired him to maintain the airplane. Mr. Steele said Mr. Westlake only flew the airplane once or twice a month, and wanted to keep the airplane in Atlanta versus having to fly it anywhere for maintenance. At the time of the accident, Mr. Steele had only been maintaining N8DX for about one year. He would visit the airplane about every two weeks and perform maintenance as needed per the CESCO maintenance program. Mr. Steele said he never saw the airplane's maintenance logbooks, and would prepare maintenance entries in CESCO and also give the physical entries for the logbooks either directly to Mr. Westlake or leave them in the airplane for him.

Mr. Steele said he conducted the last big phase-inspection last year, after which, Mr. Westlake and Wayne Luginbuhl performed the post-maintenance flight test. The only two items that came up after the flight test were a strobe light and an ITT gauge.

Mr. Steele said that he last talked to Mr. Westlake about 2 weeks before the accident. At that time, Mr. Westlake told him "The airplane was flying better than ever!" There were no squawks. Mr. Westlake never mentioned any maintenance issues regarding the autopilot, any gyro instruments, the Garmin 650/750, or the flight controls. Mr. Steele said the only time Mr. Westlake ever mentioned the Garmin 650/750, was when he had asked him to help find a pilot in the Atlanta area that would fly with him to help him become more comfortable using the units.

Mr. Steele said that he did not know Mr. Westlake personally...only professionally. He said Mr. Westlake was very polite, approachable and responsive. Mr. Westlake enjoyed

his airplane and wanted it to be maintained well. Costs to maintain the airplane were never an issue.

Leah D. Read

Sr. Air Safety Investigator

National Transportation Safety Board