



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Brian C. Rayner
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

January 18, 2018

Subject: ERA17LA071 Wreckage Exam
Name: Brian Humphrey -FAA Aviation Safety Inspector

Mr. Humphrey was the FAA inspector who examined the wreckage at the site, and all major components were accounted for at the scene. Examination of the engine compartment revealed wires connected to the battery solenoid exhibited thermal damage. When the damaged wires were moved, the navigational gyros energized, the lights illuminated, and the flaps deployed. The examination of the airplane was then suspended.

Detailed examination by the NTSB revealed the wire (part number: PA5, 4 gauge) that connected the battery solenoid to the starter solenoid displayed chafing and thermal damage to the insulation along a 3-inch section of its length. The wire was placed in its approximate normally-installed location, and the burned area corresponded to the round shape of the right rear muffler. Multiple 18-gauge wires in the area also exhibited melted insulation. The back plate of the right muffler was no longer attached to the muffler and exhibited evidence of corrosion. It could not be determined if the back plate of the muffler had separated due to corrosion or impact forces.