

RECORD OF ☒ VISIT ☐ CONFERENCE OR ☐ TELEPHONE CALL		TIME 12:30 PM	DATE 05/15/2018
NAME (S) OF PERSON (S) CONTACTED OR IN CONFERENCE AND LOCATION Airman Frank Gregory Riess, [REDACTED] Wallkill, NY		ROUTING	
		SYMBOL	INITIALS
Mr. Riess's wife, Ms. Riess.			
SUBJECT Aeronca - N84396 accident			
DIGEST FAA inspectors Dennis Brown and Luis Luciano visited airman Frank Gregory Riess at his home to receive his two recent logbooks to review and make copies of a range of logbook pages requested by the NTSB IIC. The logbooks were turned over to the inspectors. Two identical "Chain of Custody" FAA Form 1600-70 (1-90) were signed by both parties. One went to the airman, the other went to the inspectors.			
Though the visit was not to interview the airman, on his own will, Mr. Riess started voluntarily discussing what his recall and thoughts of the accident was. Mr. Riess stated he remembers arriving at the airport about 08:30 am for an appointment with airman Aaron Panken (accident fatality) to give him an aircraft checkout, and a flight review. He recalls that he had difficulty finding the right entrance to the ramp of the airport, and when he got through the opened gate of the airport, he asked someone where to park and he was there for the flight check with Mr. Panken. Mr. Riess recall that during the pre-flight walk around, he noticed a fabric crease on the left trailing edge of the aircrafts rudder. He took a picture of this to discuss it with Mr. Panken after the flight review. Mr. Riess provided via email a picture of this rudder to the inspector. Mr. Reiss continued to say...			
CONCLUSION, ACTION TAKEN, OR REQUIRED Pilot logbook pages will be copied and reviewed. Record of conversation will be provided to NTSB IIC and FAA IIC.			
DATE 05/15/2018	TITLE Aviation Safety Inspector	SIGNATURE	

...that he recalls they got in the aircraft and that he was sitting in the back seat. He then recalls they did an aircraft run up (mag check), etc, and proceeded to takeoff. He does not recall any other event of the flight or accident after that. He stated that he continuously goes over in his mind what possibly caused the accident. He said he does not recall, but wonders if somehow the forward pilot slumped over/fell on the controls and that he was unable to overpower/correct the flight controls. Mr. Riess made a statement more than once that he has a recurring dream that the aircraft went into a diving left bank that Mr. Riess was unable to recover from, prior to impact he said "oh #%&!" and put his hands in front of his face just before impact. Again, this last statement was a recurring dream he has, he is not sure if it is factual. Mr. Riess asked the inspector's if they had any evidence yet of what happened. The inspectors stated that the investigation was on going, and there was not yet any definitive evidence that can be discussed. Mr. Riess asked that he please be informed if/when the cause of the accident was determined. The inspectors replied that they will keep Mr. Riess informed if there was evidence that could be shared with him.

Prior to Mr. Riess discussing what he remembered, etc. He was made aware that the inspectors did not expect him be interviewed about the accident until he felt comfortable to do so. Mr. Riess commented his neurologist he visited yesterday [REDACTED] (REDACTED) commented that Mr. Riess may not be able to recall what happened. Ms. Riess commented that part of her husbands injury was associated Tramatic Brain Injury.

Other comments: Mr. Riess stated that he was not taking any prescribed pain medications. He also comment about a engine failure on an aircraft similar to the Aeronica where the aircraft had an engine failure and the aircraft was landed safely in a field. Another comment made was that his son who is a certified pilot questioned his dad why the aircraft went into the trees rather than the two fields that were adjacent to the fields.

The inspectors continued with some social/small talk for a few minutes. Operations inspector Dennis Brown asked that if there was any possible new memory that came to him about the accident, to feel free to email inspector Brown with that information. Mr. Riess willingly agreed to do so. The inspectors wished the best for Mr. Riess to have a full recovery. And stated they would be in touch with him in the future.