Narrative

Beaufort County Sheriff's Office
Incident Narrative

SYNOPSIS:

At approximately 0940 hours on 03/05/18, Deputies responded to 39 Airport Circle, Ladys Island SC, 29907, in reference to a report of a Plane Crash. Subsequently, a report of the incident was filed.

OFFICER ACTIONS/OBSERVATIONS:

Upon arriving to the above incident location, I observed an aircraft (2014 Gyrocopter bearing tail #N221YT) with severe damage laying in the grass at the end of Runway 25. As D/S Boltin and I approached the scene we were met by (4) individuals (identified as Lieutenant Colonel Baxley, Andrew Torrey, Philip Hart, and Andrew Schmidt) who were actively rendering aid to the pilot (later identified as Sam Dollenmeier). Dollenmeier was pinned beneath the fuselage of the aircraft and was unconscious with shallow agonal breathing. D/S Boltin, who is also a certified Paramedic, then began to render aid (See Supplement). Upon arrival of Ladys Island Fire Department and EMS personnel, the aircraft was lifted, allowing Dollenmeier to be extracted, at which point he was transported to Beaufort Memorial Hospital for treatment of life threatening injuries. D/S Boltin accompanied EMS personnel during transport. SSgt Denham arrived on scene, at which point all appropriate notifications were made and Capt Purdy, Lt Arbelo, and investigators Sgt Malphrus and Cpl Duhamel responded to the scene. Additionally, due to fuel leakage from the fuselage, DHEC was notified and responded to the scene. I then conducted field interviews with witnesses of the incident. (Below)

CONTACT AND INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW TORREY:

Torrey stated he was driving Northbound on Sea Island Parkway when he observed the aircraft "floating" over Sea Island Parkway heading towards the Airport. Torrey stated the aircraft "flipped upside down and then crashed." At which point he parked his vehicle and contacted BCSO to report the incident. Torrey then ran to the scene to render aid.

CONTACT AND INTERVIEW WITH PHILIP HART:

Hart informed me he is an off duty Rescue and EMT for Swain County NC. Hart stated he was traveling Northbound on Sea Island Parkway when he observed the vehicle pull over in front of him near the Ladys Island Airport. Hart stated he observed the driver of the vehicle begin to run across the field toward the runway, at which point he observed the wreckage. Hart stated he then ran towards the scene and rendered aid until EMS personnel arrived on scene.

CONTACT AND INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW SCHMIDT:

Schmidt stated he was in the parking lot of Walmart (265 Sea Island Parkway) watching the Gyrocopter "fly over the parking lot and do touch and goes." Schmidt stated he then "heard the impact." Schmidt advised he is an off duty Firefighter and EMT, and he ran towards the airport, where he made contact with Lt Col Baxley, at which point they went to the scene in an attempt to render aid to the pilot.

CONTACT AND INTERVIEW WITH THOMAS OLIVA:

Oliva stated he was on the runway in his aircraft when he heard over the radio that "he (Dollenmeier) was going to do a simulated engine out." [redacted] stated he then observed the aircraft crash at the end of the runway and saw multiple people running to help. Oliva then parked his aircraft and stood by to help.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of the original document on file with the Office of Sheriff for Beaufort County.
Chief Deputy, Beaufort County Sheriff's Office