



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

SUMMARY OF CONVERSATIONS

Who: Jennifer Otto, Pilot's girlfriend

RE: ERA19FA181

According to Ms. Otto, she had been dating the pilot for 11 years. She and her daughter had been camping with the pilot in Kentucky the days prior to the accident. Ms. Otto said that she drove home to Newbury, Ohio, and the pilot flew her daughter to LUK, so she could catch a commercial flight from the major airport in Cincinnati. Ms. Otto said the pilot landed at LUK about 1800, and his departure was delayed due to weather. She said he was "very cautious" about the weather. The pilot texted Ms. Otto at 2209 and said that he was on his way with an estimated time of arrival of 2330. At 2226, he texted Ms. Otto and asked about the weather. This was the last communication she received from him. Ms. Otto said she fell asleep and woke up around 0200-0230. She texted the pilot but there was no response. She then looked at FlightAware and saw that he had gone off course and she contacted authorities.

Ms. Otto said that she was not aware of any recent mechanical problems with the airplane except for the landing gear where some hydraulic lines were replaced. She said that if the pilot had to make an emergency landing, he would have tried to land on the water or a highway.

Ms. Otto said that the pilot was not taking any medications and was in good health.

Ms. Otto said that the pilot had meetings scheduled for the following day, and he didn't want to take any more time off from work. However, if he missed them, it was not a big deal. The pilot was also supposed to fly to Georgia on May 31, 2019, to close on a house they had just purchased together.

Leah D. Read, Sr. ASI