



Memorandum For Record

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The following digest was cut and pasted from an e-mail from Master Trooper Townsend of the NC State Highway Patrol, Troop F, District 3 in response to questions from NTSB. The e-mail was received on August 17, 2019, at 1203 EDT.

He was asked for a brief interview of himself to determine his time of arrival and the weather conditions encountered when he first arrived and he provide the following response, “Newton, Highway Patrol Communications received the call from Watauga Communications at 09:02 and I received the call at 09:04. I was in court in Boone, NC and was contacted by cell phone from Highway Patrol Communications in Newton. I arrived on scene at 09:24. The sun was shining, mostly clear skies with some clouds. No fog that morning, light winds, temperature was probably around 70 degrees by that time, it was hotter than normal that day.”

He was asked was it determined [what] seat the pilot had been in. He responded, “I was not able determine anything about the [airplane]. Lorri with the FAA could probably help with that.”

He was asked if he prepared a typed summary of what the pilot said or record the pilot interview and he “No summary was prepared, I just took notes on a piece of paper (Voluntary Statement form) see photos. I just wrote down what he said. I did not record an interview. I briefly spoke to the pilot after he was loaded into the back of the Ambulance at the scene just before they left with him. He was severely burned on the face and was covered from the neck down with packaging material from the carry out. I asked Mr. Dunn if he remembered what happened, He was having a hard time speaking, but said that he was “circling to land and the engine bogged down”. Mr. Dunn had a private grass runway strip at his residence when was about 1,000 yards from the plane crash.”

He was asked how the pilot was transported and to what hospital and he responded, “Mr. Dunn was transported by Ambulance (Watauga Medics) from the scene to the [landing zone] in Wilkes County at Mt. Pleasant Church to meet AirCare Helicopter that flies out of NC Wake Forest Baptist Hospital. Wings Helicopter from Johnson City, TN said they couldn’t fly due to weather.

AirCare said they couldn't fly to Watauga due to weather. We were not sure why they couldn't fly because the weather was sunny and clear. He was flown by AirCare to NC Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem, NC."

He was asked if the pilot got out of the airplane on his own, and he responded, "The pilot did get out on his own and had crawled approx. 300 to 400 feet down the hill away from the airplane. Rescue/Fire had to carry him out to the Ambulance."

He was asked if any witness made any written statements and he responded, "There was one witness, Carl Lewis, address [REDACTED] Boone, NC phone- [REDACTED] He was an elderly gentleman that was a neighbor to Mr. Dunn. I did not get a written statement, just his contact info and told him that the FAA would be getting in contact with him. He stated to me that he saw the plane circling and heard a loud boom. He said that he knew he had crashed when he heard the boom. He said he went to locate the crash. Another lady, Molly Hodges, address [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was close to this location and was a 911 caller. Phone # [REDACTED] [Information] provided by deputies on scene. Watauga Sheriff's Lt. Toby Ragan made contact with Mr. Dunn's daughter, Trina Dunn, cell # [REDACTED] and notified her that her father was in a plane crash."

He was asked if anybody interviewed the pilot at the hospital and he responded, "I am not aware if anyone interviewed Mr. Dunn at the Hospital."

He provided the following information –

"The plane was so burned that the tail number was not visible on the airplane. Watauga County Fire Marshall, Taylor Marsh was on scene with the patient, Mr. Dunn and asked him if he knew the tail number. Mr. Dunn verbally told Mr. Marsh the tail number was N2050X. That number did not come back registered to this area. After Mr. Dunn was taken by Ambulance, I spoke to Watauga County Sheriff's Office Captain Justin Woods and Lt. Toby Ragan who advised me that they had gone to Mr. Dunn's residence [REDACTED] Boone, NC which was visible up on the hill from the crash site. They advised me of the garage where the airplane was kept and a white dry erase board with the number 5020X written at the top. That number was ran and did come back registered to Mr. Danny Dunn from Hardin Rd. I was contacted by Mr. Timberlake with the FAA in Charlotte and he told me that a crew from the FAA would be enroute and should be there within about 2 hours. I did [locate] the property owner where the plane crashed from Watauga County Communications. Property owner was identified as Donna Vannoy Houck, address [REDACTED] phone # [REDACTED]

I do have an in-car video of myself responding to the crash scene showing the clear skies. The audio is hard to hear with 2 different radios talking inside the car. I can make a copy of that if you would like a copy of that. You might be able to hear me talking to Mr. Dunn in the back of the Ambulance very briefly. He was having a hard time talking so I only asked him what happened and his respond that he was circling to land at his private air strip and the engine bogged down."