



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

Record of Conversation – WITNESS

Who: Craig Mulligan

Date: June 8, 2020

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Mulligan stated that he was a pilot for JetBlue and was at Lake Oconee (Georgia) when he first observed the airplane. It was on fire and spinning counterclockwise as it was descending. Mr. Mulligan estimated that when he first observed the airplane it was about 2,000 ft above the ground and below the existing cloud layer. He watched the airplane descend before it went out of view behind trees. Mr. Mulligan said the airplane appeared to be intact and he did not see anything separate from or trail behind the airplane as it descended. He was also not sure how far away the airplane was from his position.

Leah D. Read, Sr. ASI



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

Record of Conversation – WITNESS

Who: Jan Mullis

Date: June 10, 2020

In a telephone conversation, Ms. Mullis stated she was sitting on the back porch on June 5, 2020, when she heard a “very high decibel” “horrific buzz or spiral sound.” She then stood up and went out into her yard (a matter of 1-3 seconds total time) when she heard a very loud explosion. Ms. Mullis said this caused her to look up to the north-northwest where she saw “two distinct balls of fire” falling from the sky. She could not tell if the airplane was spinning, but the fires were falling beside each other and falling at the same speed. The airplane then disappeared behind a line of trees.

Leah D. Read, Sr. ASI

From: J Lee
To: eyewitnessreport
Subject: Piper crash Eatonton Ga
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 9:18:07 PM

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Hello. I was writing to you to let you know that I was a witness to the Piper aircraft that crashed in Eatonton GA on the 5th of this month.

I was crossing through the intersection of Harmony Road and Hwy 44 when I saw a bright light off to my left and very high in the sky. It looked like a meteorite at first but it was traveling very slowly. I pulled over about an 1/8 mile down the road and after exiting my vehicle I witnessed what appeared to be an aircraft with the tips of both wings on fire, falling straight towards the ground. There was a considerable smoke trail higher up in air which led me to conclude that the plane had been falling for a bit before I first saw it. As the plane continued falling, the 2 separate flames at the tips of both wings grew larger and larger until they merged into one large flame, and obscured the view of the rest of the aircraft. The smoke trail also became much darker. Right at about this time I heard an extremely loud boom. My memory fails me here, but somewhere just before or just after the boom I recorded this short Video. (The video will only stream at 1080P, but if you download it, it is 4K and you can see a bit more detail.) The aircraft continued falling but the flame slowly grew smaller and smaller until it appeared to be just on the tips of the aircrafts wings again. After several more seconds the aircraft disappeared behind the trees.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Tom Mertz
To: eyewitnessreport
Subject: Putnam County GA Plane Crash
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:14:55 AM
Attachments: Video.mov

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find the attached video of the recent Putnam County GA plane crash for your review. I was golfing at Cuscowilla Club in Putnam County when we witnessed a fire ball pass over us heading southwest. I reached for my phone as it started rapidly descending on the southwestern horizon. We heard a loud explosion right after I started recording and the plane appeared to be in a flat spin right after that. I tried to follow it down and then heard the impact on the ground. Please feel free to contact me with any questions via this email address or mobile phone at [REDACTED]

Tom Mertz

Sent from my iPhone...please excuse typos.

From: Shane Seabolt
To: eyewitnessreport
Subject: Putnam County plane crash
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 10:26:12 PM
Attachments: Video.mov

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I don't know if this will be of any help but I was on Lake Oconee Friday and witnessed a portion of the plane crash. I probably observed about 20-30 seconds of the plane descending and could see that it was on fire. I could see two distinct "fire balls" during my observations. I was driving my boat and didn't hear the "explosion" like others have reportedly heard. I will also include a video that a friend recorded from his boat as he was traveling approximately 1/2 to 1 mile behind me. I can give you his contact information if you need it. I think he observed the descent for a longer time period than I did. If I can be of help please let me know.

Sincerely,
Shane Seabolt



Sent from my iPhone