



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Lynn Spencer
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region, Office of Aviation Safety (ERA)
National Transportation Safety Board

Date: 6/23/2020
Person Interviewed: Eric Santana
NTSB Accident Number: ERA20LA207

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the above-named individual:

- I asked Eric if he knew any more about the CG issue they were experiencing with airplane prior to the accident. He stated that the “CG was not perfectly centered last time they flew together. It was too tail heavy.”
- He said his father asked the owner if they could put some weight in the front.
- On the day of the accident, he stated that they were taxiing and going down the runway at high speeds to test the airplane to see if it “acted right.”
- He was not aware of any other issues they might have had with the airplane.
- He stated that the airplane departed on runway 23 and yawed left (did not bank). He said that they were intending to go flying and he did not think that their plan was to stay in the pattern or turn left.
- When the airplane was over the trees, it sounded like they pulled back the power.
- He stated that he was not sure who was flying, but his dad was sitting in the back seat.
- He stated that the airplane was equipped with seatbelts and shoulder harnesses.

Witness Statement

Date: 06/06/2020 **Time:** 12:35pm **Location:** N82

Witness: Eric Santana

Mr. Santana stated: What I saw was, a month before the accident they flew it once. They had some issues, it was pretty much tail heavy, the CG was off, they took it off, tried it, didn't climb to much kept going then my dad just turned back and landed on opposite runway from where they just took off. Then they changed the CG more forward, they put about 10 lbs. in front of the nose to keep it in CG. They kept taxiing checking it, everything was well. Yesterday my dad taxied it and checked it and he saw a screw, bolt, was bent attaching the wings, so he replaced it he checked it, taxied two more times checking everything well. Did his preflight, of course. When they took off, right off of airborne they slowly yawed to the left, kept going to the left, didn't have no controls to the right. Like 90 degrees kept turning toward the grass runway toward the mountain here. Kept going really low over the trees didn't get much altitude. That engine for me didn't sound as healthy as it needed to be so I think maybe there was an engine problem or something but it, the plane was not climbing. Suddenly, I just see the plane it keep going and I don't see it from the tree line anymore from where I was standing. I just waited until the impact where it was heading in, where I heard the sound. Suddenly you just hear a branch just fell off from impact and when it hit the ground. And then I went to check and I couldn't find anything, so then I went to my house right across the street right here with the handball court. I went to my mom and said call, call 911 to get some help. So then I went back to see at least I could indicate where it was to make 911 see where to find it easier, but I couldn't find it. One of the pilots took the tow plane up and circled, looked, looked until he saw a reflection of the sun off the tail and that is where it was. Then I went with him together and we saw it upside down. Yeah that is pretty much what happened. **Interviewer:** *You said the engine didn't sound like it was generating power, but did it stop at any point?* **Mr. Santana stated:** It didn't stop but it was sounding like "ba boom boom boom" it did not stop, but it wasn't healthy.

SUPPORTING DEPOSITION (CPL § 100.20)

PAGE ____ OF ____

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
—VS.

DEFENDANT(S)

LOCATION OF INCIDENT:

STATE OF NEW YORK _____ COURT

COUNTY OF _____

OF _____

LOCATION OF DEPOSITION:

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF SULLIVANTOWN OF MAMAKATINGOn DATE: 06-06-20at TIME STARTED: 11:30 AMI, FULL NAME: ERICK SANTANA - 02/01/03

state the following: ABOUT A MONTH AGO, MY DAD, EDDY SANTANA, WAS HELPING OUT HIS FRIEND RAY ELLERY WITH A CHALLENGER 2 SEAT EXPERIMENTAL ULTRAUGHT, THAT RAY OWNS AND KEEPS AT THE WURTSBORD AIRPORT. THAT DAY, THEY TAXIED THE PLANE A FEW TIMES, AND TOOK A SHORT FLIGHT, BUT THE CENTER OF GRAVITY WAS MAKING THE PLANE TAIL HEAVY, SOME TIME AFTER THAT, THE ADDED ABOUT 10 POUNDS OF SANDBAGS IN THE NOSE TO ADDRESS THE CG. YESTERDAY AT ABOUT 7:30 PM, MY DAD AND RAY WERE WORKING WITH THE PLANE AGAIN. THEY TAXIED THE PLANE A FEW TIMES AND MY DAD SAW SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT. THERE WAS A BOLT THAT ATTACHED THE WINGS THAT WAS BENT. MY DAD CAME BACK TO THE HANGAR AND REPLACED THE BOLT. THEY TESTED IT OUT AGAIN; TAXIED A FEW MORE TIMES, AND THEN PREPARED TO TAKE OFF. I WAS WATCHING FROM THE TAXI-WAY. THEY WERE ON RUNWAY 2-3 AND TOOK OFF TO THE SOUTH, RIGHT AFTER THEY WERE AIRBORNE, THE PLANE BEGAN TO YAW TO THE LEFT, VERY SLOWLY. THE PLANE CONTINUED TO SLOWLY TURN LEFT, AND THE ENGINE DIDN'T SOUND RIGHT. THEY BEGAN TO

NOTICE

(Penal Law § 210.45)

In a written instrument, any person who knowingly makes a false statement which such person does not believe to be true has committed a crime under the laws of the state of New York punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor.

Affirmed under penalty of perjury

this 6TH day of JUNE, 2020

- OR -

* Subscribed and Sworn to before me

this _____ day of _____, _____

* This form need be sworn to only when specifically required by the court

(SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT)

(WITNESS)

INV. JOHN VENDY

(NAME OF PERSON TAKING DEPOSITION)

TIME ENDED: _____

SUPPORTING DEPOSITION (CPL § 100.20)

Page of

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

vs

DEFENDANT(S)

LOSE ALTITUDE AND I LOST SIGHT OF THE PLANE OVER
 THE TREELINE. I HEARD A LOUD SOUND THAT I THINK WAS
 THE PLANE HITTING THE TREES. I THEN HEARD ANOTHER LOUD
 SOUND THAT I THINK WAS THE IMPACT. I WENT TOWARD
 THE CRASH. ~~AND SAW THE PLANE FLIPPED OVER.~~ I RAN HOME
 AND HAD MY MOM CALL THE POLICE. LATER WE FOUND THE
 PLANE NEAR THE GRASS RUNWAY FLIPPED OVER. ~~FC~~

NOTICE

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Affirmed under penalty of perjury

this _____ day of _____, 20 _____

- or -

*Subscribed and Sworn to before me

this _____ day of _____, 20 _____

(SIGNATURE OF DEPONENT)

(WITNESS)

INV. JOAN VANDY
(NAME OF PERSON TAKING DEPOSITION)TIME ENDED ☐ AM ☒ PM
12:00