



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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Eastern Region, Office of Aviation Safety (ERA)
National Transportation Safety Board

Date: 8/20/2021
Person Contacted: JOE MITCHELL (Friend of Pilot)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21LA295

Narrative:

The individual noted above provided the following information via telephone. The below contents are a summary of what was reported:

- Mr. Arant FaceTime messaged Mr. Mitchell while airborne during the accident flight. Mr. Arant stated to him, "We just got fuel, headed your way" and further stated that his estimated time of arrival was one hour.
- It was Mr. Mitchell's understanding that he was going to land at Manteo Airport. [Dare County Regional Airport, Manteo, NC]
- Mr. Arant was in a "good mood" and "everything seemed fine."
- Mr. Arant did not mention anything about weather conditions.
- There were no further calls that Mr. Mitchell received from Mr. Arant.
- Mr. Mitchell recalled about the time that they expected Mr. Arant to arrive, there were "torrential downpours" in the Outer Banks area, within 2-3 miles of the Manteo Airport.
- Mr. Mitchell recalled conversations that he had with Mr. Arant pertaining to his flight training. Mr. Arant had told him he had been taking flight lessons. Mr. Arant said he was "good to go on his own" but said he needed more hours to get his "actual license." Mr. Arant expressed to Mr. Mitchell that he could not fly people for hire yet. Mr. Mitchell was not sure whether or not Mr. Arant was aware that as a student pilot he could not fly passengers under any circumstances. These conversations occurred about a month prior to the accident.

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