



Investigator Name: Leah D. Read
Title: Sr. ASI
Division: ERA

Date: April 3, 2023

Subject: ERA23FA164

Contact: Renee Patterson, Pilot's wife

According to Mrs. Patterson, he husband had traveled to Sun 'n Fun on numerous occasions and was familiar with the route of flight between Machias, Maine and Lakeland, Florida. He departed Maine around 0800, and landed in Tarboro, North Carolina about 1800. Mrs. Patterson said she talked to her husband the night before the accident. He had ordered food via Uber Eats and was staying on a couch in the airport's pilot lounge. Mrs. Patterson said her husband always carried camping equipment and guitars, and staying overnight at airport's was normal for him. During their conversation, the pilot never mentioned that he was tired – just that it was a long day due to weather. She said he was very cautious about flying in weather and had even thought about canceling the trip due to weather conditions along the route of flight. He had been monitoring the weather right up until the morning he departed.

The pilot made a short video with his iPhone before he departed Tarboro. In the video, he said that from the time he landed to the time he got up, he never saw anyone at the airport except for the guy that delivered his food around 2000-2030. Mrs. Patterson said that her husband would normally call her before he departed, but he did not call her or anyone else that morning. It was very unusual for him not to call her. However, he did text the friends he was meeting in Florida the day before the accident to let them know that if he encountered weather en route, he would be delayed.

Mrs. Patterson said her husband kept his phone turned off while flying to avoid being distracted. She said the airplane was equipped with ADS-B. They had a receiver in their home in Maine and she was actively tracking him. Mrs. Patterson watched the accident in real-time and knew that he had crashed. In fact, she is the

one that called 911 and the airport to confirm if he did indeed crash. Mrs. Patterson said she also received a call from the Air Force that the ELT was going off.

Mrs. Patterson stated her husband would normally go to sleep around 9-10 pm and be up early, make coffee and get their children ready for school. Normal sleep was 6 -7 hours. He was in good general health and liked to run for exercise on the weekends. He took medication for high blood pressure and cholesterol.

Mrs. Patterson said that she and her husband owned a boat chartering business in Cutler, Maine. She said he seemed happy despite the stressors of owning a business.