

Joshua Young
Air Safety Investigator
AS-ERA

Date: 7/27/2023

Subject: ERA23FA313, Witness Interview

Contact: Kevin Hess, Airport Manager, Harford County Airport

Mr. Hess was interviewed in person on the afternoon of July 27, 2023, by the NTSB IIC and another investigator. Below is a summary of that conversation.

- Mr. Hess was asked about any work that was done to the airplane by the maintenance shop on the field.
 - He reported that the airplane had just had an annual inspection completed, new interior installed, and a new 3 bladed propeller installed.
 - He also noted that during an engine run after the installation of the new propeller and annual the airplane pulled so much while at full power that it began to move even under full braking.
- He reported talking with the pilot the morning of the accident and that the pilot was frustrated that the airplane had taken so long to have the interior installed as he was planning to take the airplane to Florida the following morning to have new avionics installed.
- Mr. Hess was asked if he knew the purpose of the flight.
 - He reported that the pilot just wanted to do a couple pattern flights with the new propeller installed.

- He reported that the weather earlier in the day had not been good for flying but by the evening the weather had cleared up.
- When asked if he recalled which runway was in use, he reported that the winds were out of the north and runway 1 was in use that day.
- He stated the airplane had not flown since the oil was changed and that the airplane had been in the maintenance shop waiting on the interior carpeting to come in.
- He reported leaving the airport around 6:50 pm, and that the pilot was doing his preflight checks when he left.
- He reported that when he got calls about an aircraft accident near the airport he returned to the airport and met the pilot's wife who stated she was watching the flight on Foreflight and had seen the aircraft takeoff, climb to 400 ft and then the dot disappeared so she came to the airport to see what was going on.
- Mr. Hess was asked if the airport had any surveillance cameras which may have seen the airplane take off.
 - He stated they did have cameras, but he wasn't sure if they had recorded anything.
- A review of the camera recordings from the day of the accident showed that the accident flight was not recorded due to the cameras being motion sensing for the ramp area and not the runway.

Mr. Hess was thanked for his time and help with the investigation.