

Kurt Gibson
Aviation Accident Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

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Subject: ERA24LA216
Contact: Andrew Tobal – Remote PIC (RPIC)

The following is a summary of a phone interview with the RPIC of an Apellix B1 Washing Drone (FA33N7WLTR) that was involved in an accident in Orlando, FL on 02/20/2024.

The RPIC was asked to clarify his position in relation to the hospital at the time of the accident. The RPIC responded that he was on one of the roofs and the accident flight was to reposition the sUAS. The RPIC was then asked if the sUAS did not appear to be receiving commands from the control station or if the sUAS appeared to move when commanded, just not in the direction commanded. The RPIC responded that the sUAS appeared to move when a command was sent; however, it would move in a random direction of travel and not the direction commanded.

The RPIC was asked about the training he received in the operation of the Apellix sUAS. The RPIC responded that since he had prior experience with other power washing drones, that he went through an abbreviated course with the Apellix manufacturer. The RPIC was asked if the instructor had taught him about any type of emergency disarm system. The RPIC responded that he was told that if he brought the sticks inward and down, that would disarm the motors of the sUAS in an emergency. The RPIC also reported trying to perform the motor disarm function; however, the sUAS did not respond to the command. The RPIC was asked if he had been provided with an operator's manual for the Apellix B1 Washing Drone when he worked for the operator. The RPIC responded that he had been provided with an operator's manual.

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