



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Michael Huhn
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: April 17, 2016
Person Contacted: Mr. Nick Paz (Eyewitness)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR16LA093

Narrative:

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Mr. Paz in a telephone conversation on this date:

- He had flown to KAVX in his C-172 from Cable airport (KCCB) with a friend Marvin Weston
- Before boarding for departure from KAVX, they took the opportunity to watch and photograph some airplanes approaching & landing
- Mr. Weston was the photographer
- They observed the subject airplane on approach to runway 22
 - They were standing someplace between the ramp and the runway 22 threshold
- Mr. Paz thought the airplane appeared too low, and possibly slow as well
- The airplane began to descend below the local airport horizon, and then banked steeply to the right
 - The witness thought the pilot was attempting an escape maneuver since it was too low to land or clear the terrain
 - He listened for but did not hear an increase in engine power
 - Even prior to the bank, he doubted that the airplane would be able to successfully recover from its position due to its altitude and proximity to terrain
- The airplane reached a right bank angle of about 90 degrees- the left wing was pointing "straight up"
- The airplane completely disappeared from view
- The witnesses listened for the sound of impact or the appearance of smoke, but saw nothing; they did not see the airplane re-emerge into view, but had no indications of an accident either
- They then informed the airport manager that they believed that the airplane had crashed
- They departed and conducted a quick aerial visual scan for the airplane but did not detect it

- They then heard the airport manager/ops radio another airplane that the USCG had detected an ELT signal "0.7 miles SE of the airport," and then ask that airplane to look for the wreckage
- The witness (Mr. Paz) believed that the airplane was not in the area cited by the USCG, but instead north of the airport
- They returned to the area and began a visual aerial search
- They successfully located the wreckage, and guided ground personnel to it
- The wreckage was in a ravine, inverted near the NE end of the airport, approximately 200-400 yards from the runway
- Mr. Weston photographed the site from the air and provided the photos to the NTSB