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Office of Aviation Safety - Western Pacific Region

Date: February 1, 2023

Subject: WPR22FA068 - Witness Statements

Below are statements received from various witnesses located nearby the accident site.

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Angela Smith -

Statement: (sent via email)

It was just after 7pm at night and me, my boyfriend, and my father were planning on going to Albertsons to pick up some ingredients for dinner, my dad told me he had an Albertsons gift card in his wallet which he left in his car parked in our driveway. He then proceeded to walk outside to go get it while me and my boyfriend stayed in the living room, a few moments later we heard the sound of a plane, which is not uncommon however it was a lot louder than usual, my and my boyfriend looked at each other at the sound got alarmingly loud and the house began to shake a little. We then heard my dad scream outside "oh no" to which I had enough time to look out the window to see the plane crash into the ground, my father however saw the plane come over the hill of our trailer park, tilt sideways and barely clear the tree next to our house before crashing into the street. We live at [REDACTED] which was right next to the incident.

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Natolie Robina Columbus -

Statement: (sent via email)

I want to report what I heard and saw incase it's helpful to the investigation. I was located at 1526 Sundial Terrace, El Cajon; the home is on flight path and close to Gillespie airfield, but more importantly it's on a hill as well. I was seated in quiet kitchen, my sister arrived home, hadn't sat down when we heard the plane fly over, staring at each other, the plane sounded much closer then usual; sitting facing airfield (west) it sounded immediately above us slightly to the right. The two unusual sounds were so strange we looked at one another puzzled and froze, as it flew over the house I heard two separate unusual sounds from the aircraft, before short quiet and the impact explosion. Ran outside immediately and saw the flames, another explosion with flames and several little "firecracker" explosion sounds alongside. View from our deck on hill was clear. The two unusual sounds as it flew over is what I thought was pertinent and should share.

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Don Gastineau
Statement: (sent via email)

Good morning, my name is Don Gastineau and I live at [REDACTED] El Cajon, Ca. 92021. Myself and brother were sitting on my front porch which faces North west toward Pepper Drive. We heard the jet coming toward my house from behind and when it went over the house it was extremely low and seemed to be going very fast as it headed toward Pepper it made a very hard steep left turn toward the airport around the hill, the wing was basically pointing straight down to the ground a second later it crashed. I've lived there for 25 years andd don't recall any aircraft using that route to prepare to land. I have no video or photos but watched it happen.

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Jaes Michael
Statement: (sent via email)

NTSB,

As you're examining evidence from the crash of N880Z, owned by MedJet, LLC., I thought I would provide you with a quick look at the visual landscape above 800 feet, as I feel that publicity available videos of the crash depict visual conditions on the ground as foggy but still manageable for VFR conditions.

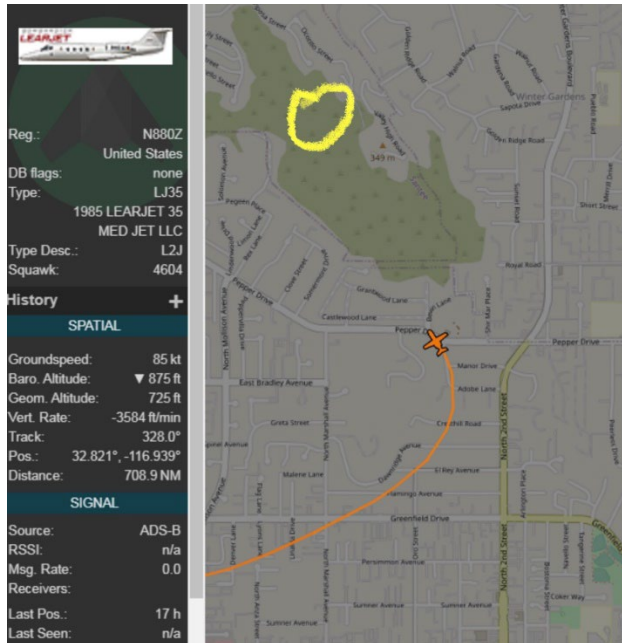
I live at the top of the mountain directly adjacent to Gillespie field in a community called Sky Ranch. From approximately 6:30pm to 9:00pm an extremely heavy bank of fog rolled in creating zero visibility beyond 50ft. Attached is a photograph I took for

reference at exactly 8:48pm on Monday, December 27th. Also attached is a photograph from my Ring Doorbell camera at approximately the time N880Z went down; both photographs contain heavy visual-obstructing fog. Finally, I attached a 3rd photograph with my geographic location circled on an overhead map. I also visually witnessed the bright flash resulting from the crash of the aircraft. The flash was bright enough to cut through the fog.

If I can be of any further service, you can contact me at [REDACTED]

Best,
Jaeson Michael





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Steve Wilson

Statement: (sent via email)

Hi, sorry, I don't have audio or video recordings, but I was at Home Depot (off of Fletcher Parkway) last night. I picked up some products from the Home Depot lockers at 7:12 pm. And while I was jogging to my truck (it had just started raining pretty hard) the plane flew right over the parking lot. And something didn't feel right about it. I sat in my truck for a few seconds watching the path of the plane. And then about 15 seconds later I saw a blue pop in the sky. I considered driving in that

direction to see if I could possibly help, but I figured I would just be in the way of any fire and rescue crews. If I can help in any way, I can be reached by email and/or phone. My cell is [REDACTED].

Steve

Steve Wilson

[REDACTED]

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Sheilah Hansen

Statement: (sent via email)

Below is a picture my Wyze camera took on December 27, 2021 at 6:52pm (the last picture before the power went out). It was taken 23 minutes before Lear jet N880Z crashed on Pepper Drive. The camera was at [REDACTED] El Cajon, CA 92021, which is half way up a hill and the crash was below us. The camera is pointing North to the next hill over from us. Pepper Drive is in between our two hills. As you can tell the clouds were all the way to the top of the hill in this picture, so there was no way the jet could fly over this hill and not go into the clouds. Unfortunately, I'm unsure of the cloud level on my hill, but it was raining at the time and foggy off and on. Everyday we have planes and jets flying into Gillespie airport mostly from the east, but sometimes planes (not jets) also circle our hill or the other hill. The aircraft mostly fly above the hills. Weather here is sunny, most days, so fog and rain is unusual, that said, I would think Gillespie tower would not allow any aircraft to attempt a landing visually when the visibility was so bad as it was on December 27th 2021. If the cloud deck was higher over the airport then by us maybe the airport needs to put sensors on our hills, just a thought.

This crash has shaken us all to the core. We were so lucky this time. A few feet either way could have caused a mass casualty event. It was a miracle and a wake up call for us all. This should not have happen, and if something is not done there will be a next time and we may not be so lucky, so please help us.

If you have any questions please feel free to call our phone our number is [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Sheilah and Dave Hansen, [REDACTED] El Cajon, Ca 92021

