

From: [eyewitnessreport](#)
To: [Baker Daniel](#)
Subject: FW: Superstition mountain crash witness
Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 6:53:15 AM

FYI Dan

From: Zach Hubbard [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 9:35 AM
To: eyewitnessreport <eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov>
Subject: Superstition mountain crash witness

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A friend of mine and I were hiking out of the supers at 7:30-7:45 the morning of the hike. We saw the planes approach from the west in a 3 way formation. They approached the westernmost edge of the range, made a south turn, and sped up. As they rounded the southern edge, the plane leading the formation banked east. It was an aggressive turn, over 90 degrees, closer to 110-120. As I watched this, I commented to my friend about the severity of such inputs at such a low altitude when headed into a canyon. The second plane followed the first, but less aggressively. The third followed as well but higher and with even less aggressive of a turn.

I did not see or hear an impact after they disappeared from view. About two minutes later, two of the planes flew over the mountains from the east on a westward heading until they disappeared from view.

Not sure if this helps, but this is what we witnessed.

- Zach Hubbard



Dan Baker
Senior Air Safety Investigator
AS-WPR

Date: June 10, 2023
Subject: WPR23FA223, Witness Interview
Contact: Tim Barnes, Apache Junction, AZ

Mr. Barnes stated he saw three airplanes flying south along the west side of the Superstition Mountains. He said the airplanes were flying fast to the south and followed a course along the cliffs and towards the east. He said the third airplane was lagging behind the other two airplanes. He said the airplanes were flying "lower than normal." They appeared to be approximately "half way up the west face of the [mountains]".

Dan Baker
Senior Air Safety Investigator
AS-WPR

Date: June 10, 2023

Subject: WPR23FA223, Witness Interview

Contact: Kathy Baldwin, Apache Junction, AZ

Mrs. Baldwin stated she outside her home near N Sunset Road and E Roosevelt Street, Apache Junction, AZ, and heard and observed three airplanes flying close to the mountain. She said they were "flying a little crazy." She did not see an airplane impact the ground, but did see "a poof" of smoke on the mountain.

Mrs. Baldwin allowed investigators to view security video footage from an east facing camera on her home that captured when the accident occurred. The camera was located about 2.8 miles west of the accident site and no airplanes were identifiable in the video prior to impact. The video showed that the west facing slopes of the mountains were shadowed and terrain features were not defined. The following screenshot capturing the moment of impact was taken from the security video.

