

06/06/2005

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Detail Format

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SECTION I - Rec Id : SW17200409360 Insp Code : FGF Record 3 of 3
 Insp Name : FORTMANN, FRANK G Phone : 210-308-3379
 Activity # : 1703 Far : 91 NPG : Planned : N
 Callup Date : Start Date : 08/20/2004 Closed Date : 08/20/2004
 Status : C Results : C

Designator : Affil DSGN : OTNA Office :
 Arcft Reg # : N804DL Depart Point : SAT Arriv Point :
 Flight # : Complaint # :
 MMS : AERSTR-S60-S60A Occurence # :
 Sim/Dev ID : Incident # :
 Insp Unit : U1 Insp Type : ASI EIR # :
 Accident # : FTW02LA270

Last DO Update : 08/27/2004
 Down Office : Process Date: 08/31/2004
 Related Record ID:
 Orig Insp :

Non-Cert Act Name/Company :
 Airman #/Name: 461337838 SPRAGUE, STEVEN C. Foreign #:
 Examiner #/Name:
 Appl. #/Name:
 RI #/Name:

Pass/Fail : Exam Kind : 8430-13 # :
 Tracking : Misc : OPS Num Misc :
 Local Use : Regn Use : Natl Use :
 Act Time : .0 Travel Time : .0 Trav Cost :

Triggers : Geographic : N Foreign : N

SECTION IV - COMMENTS

Record ID: SW17200409360

CMNT CODE: B711U

INSPECTOR'S

STATEMENT||

AUGUST 18, 2004||

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ON AUGUST 12, 2004, AT APPROXIMATELY 0800 CDT, MR. MICHAEL JORDON REQUESTED THAT I EVALUATE AN EXSISTING INCIDENT FILE. THE FILE CONCERNS A CRASH AND INJURY ON THE 12TH OF JANUARY 2002. ||

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WHILE MEETING WITH MR. JORDON WE TELEPHONED MS. ANDERSON , WHO LED THE INQUIRERS, SHE DESCRIBED HER EXACT NEEDS AND WE ADVISED HER OF OUR INTENT.||

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IT WAS REVEALED THAT THE ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION WAS CONDUCTED BY INSPECTOR DAVID WAGNER. THE INCIDENT REPORT FILED IN 2002 DID NOT CONTAIN EVIDENTIARY MATERIAL TO ASCERTAIN A DETERMINATION OF THE INCIDENT FILED. ||

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ON AUGUST 12, 2004, I VISITED WITH RECORDS PERSONNEL AT THE BROOKS ARMY MEDICAL CENTER. THE PERSONNEL VERIFIED THE ADMISSION AND SEVERITY OF THE INJURIES SUSTAINED TO PASSENGER MARCIE COOK. THE MEDICAL RECORDS DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT RELEASE ANY DOCUMENTS WITHOUT MS. COOKS' PERMISSION. THE AIRLIFE DISPATCH ALSO VERIFIED THE TRANSPORT OF MS. COOK. I ALSO TELEPHONED MR.

STEVEN SPRAGUE AND DISCUSSED THE ACCIDENT WITH HIM. MR. SPRAGUE VERIFIED THAT HE INDEED CRASHED THE BALLOON INTO WIRES AND MS. COOK WAS INJURED. (THIS IS ALSO IN LETTERFORM ON THE INTERNET IN RESPONSE TO A MS. COOK WEB SITE) MR. SPRAGUE STATED HE DID NOT SEE THE WIRES AND THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE INJURIES TO MS. COOK QUALIFIED THE EVENT AS AN ACCIDENT. HE DID VERIFY THAT MS. COOK WAS UNCONSCIOUS AT FIRST AND THAT SHE HAD BEEN AIRLIFTED. HE FURTHER STATED THAT MR. WAGNER SPOKE WITH HIM ON THE TELEPHONE AND DID NOT REQUEST ANY FURTHER INFORMATION. I ADVISED MR. SPRAGUE THAT THE FAA WILL COMPLETE AN ACCIDENT FILE ON THIS AND AS SUCH SHOULD EXPECT THE OFFICE TO REQUEST REEXAMINATION OF HIS PILOT CERTIFICATE. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND

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HE WOULD "E" MAIL A STATEMENT BY THE END OF THE WEEK. ||

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MS. ANDERSON WAS CALLED AND BROUGHT UP TO DATE. ||

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ON AUGUST 16, 2004, AFTER MANY CALLS I CAME INTO CONTACT WITH TROOPER BRYAN JARZOMBK. TROOPER JANZOMBK ORIGINALLY RESPONDED TO THE BALLOON ACCIDENT. TROOPER JANZOMBK REMEMBERED THE EVENTS AND RELATED HIS SURPRISE WHEN INSPECTOR DAVID WAGNER TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD NOT BE COMING TO THE CRASH SITE AND JUST WANTED TO SPEAK TO THE PILOT. TROOPER JANZOMBK FAXED A COPY OF HIS REPORT.||

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ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 16,2004, I VISITED WITH MS. MARCIE COOK SHE SUPPLIED COPIES OF THE MEDICAL REPORTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF INJURIES-AND A PICTURE OF THE OVERALL LANDSCAPE OF THE CRASH AREA. MS. COOK FURTHER RELATED HER MEDICAL DIFFICULTIES AND THE FOLLOW UP THERAPIES AND OPERATIONS. SHE FURTHER RELATED THAT DURING HER SUIT AGAINST THE PILOT, STEVEN C. SPRAGUE, SHE DISCOVERED WE HAD NOT FILED AN ACCIDENT REPORT ON THIS CRASH. ON OR ABOUT MARCH 28, 2004, MR. AND MRS. COOK VISITED THE SAN ANTONIO FLIGHT STANDARDS DISTRICT OFFICE AND SPOKE WITH INSPECTOR TOM HENNESSEE. THEY RELATED THAT MR. HENNESSEE TOLD THEM THE CASE WAS CLOSED AND THERE IS NOTHING MORE TO DO, HE THEN REQUESTED THAT THEY LEAVE THE OFFICE.||

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ON AUGUST 18, 2004, I INITIATED A LETTER OF INVESTIGATION AND A REQUEST FOR REEXAMINATION OF PILOT STEVEN C. SPRAGUE. AS OF THIS DATE AND TIME I HAVE NOT RECEIVED A STATEMENT FROM MR. SPRAGUE.||

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ON AUGUST 18, 2004, MR. HECTOR CASANOVA OF THE NTSB WAS CONTACTED AND A REQUEST WAS MADE FOR AN ACCIDENT ASSIGNMENT NUMBER. THE ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY WAS CONTACTED AS TO REQUEST THE POWER INTERRUPTION REPORT FOR

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1-12-02||

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ON AUGUST 19, 2004 AND AGAIN ON AUGUST 20, 2004, I MET WITH SEVERAL NEIGHBORS AND THE FIRE CHIEF, KIP WORKMAN. STATEMENTS BY SEVERAL WITNESSES INDICATE THAT THE BALLOON PILOT AND CREW DID NOT WANT THEM TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT THE EVENTS WITNESSED. THE SITE OF THE ACCIDENT IS REPORTEDLY APPROXIMATE THE SAME AS SEEN ON JANUARY 12, 2002. ||

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THE AREA OF THE CRASH CONSIST OF A SMALL RURAL FIELD WITH A TREE LINE TO THE

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WEST AND POWER LINES ALONG TWO SIDES. THE POWER LINES ALONG OAKVIEW DRIVE ARE UNOBSTRUCTED IN VIEW. THERE ARE MANY OPEN FIELDS IN THE AREA DIRECTLY FORWARD OF THE CRASH SITE.||

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ON AUGUST 19, 2004, I RECEIVED AN ACCIDENT FILE NUMBER FROM THE NTSB AND ENTERED IT ON THE 8020-23. THE FILE WAS COMPLETED WITH THE AVAILABLE DATA AND SENT FOR PROCESS. ANY ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS, STATEMENTS AND POWER COMPANY DOCUMENTS WILL ENTER THE FILE WHEN RECEIVED.||

||

FRANK G. FORTMANN||