

Pending Approval

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MAR 22 2002

Garfield County Sheriff's Office

NTSB - DEN

INCIDENT/INFORMATION REPORT

SEARCH AND RESCUE

CASE REPORT NUMBER 02-0953

Officer Name Middleton,Bill

Date of Report 3/13/02

Location Flat Tops Area: 39 Degree North by 107 Degrees West-NE of GI

Date and Time Offense Occurred			
From Date	From Time	To Date	To Time
3/12/02	2:58	3/12/02	16:00

☐ Drug Violation  
☐ Domestic Violence  
☐ Use of Force

Victim - Witness - Complainant

Person Victim Type Last Name, First Name Middle Name

Witness

Date of Birth Sex Race Hair Eyes Height Weight Drivers Lic No State  
Male

Home Address City State Zip Code Phone

Civil Air Patrol Eagle CO

Employer Name Phone Address:

Work City State Zip Code

Person Victim Type Last Name, First Name Middle Name

Victim INDIVIDUAL Elliott, Jerry W.

Date of Birth Sex Race Hair Eyes Height Weight Drivers Lic No State  
Male White

Home Address City State Zip Code Phone

Grand Junction CO 81501-

Employer Name Phone Address:

Work City State Zip Code

Summary

On 031202 at approximately 0610 hrs I was advised by Sgt. Spencer of the Garfield County Sheriff's Department that he had received information from dispatch that a single engine plane had crashed in the northeast part of Garfield County, near Deep Lake, Forest Service Road 600. Sgt. Spencer advised that Civil Air Patrol would be sending a helicopter out at 0630 hrs in an attempt to located the crash site.

On 031202 at approximately 1030 hrs, the Colorado National Guard located the crash at 39 degrees north by 107 degrees east, near the area of Craine Park and Deep Creek Canyon. They advised that there was severe damage and it did not appear from the air that anyone would have survived the crash.

On 031202 at approximately 1600 hrs I was advised that search and rescue crews along with coroners office returned from the crash site with the victim. This case has been turned over to the NTSB for further investigation.

Case closed to other jurisdiction.

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#### Narrative

On 031202 at approximately 0610 hrs I received a call from Sgt. Steve Spencer of the Garfield County Sheriff's Department advising of a call that had come in during his shift at approximately 0258 hrs. Sgt. Spencer advised that dispatch had received a call from Major Rick Schein of the Civil Air Patrol that a single engine plane had crashed in the Flat Tops area of Garfield County. Sgt. Spencer received information that the plane, a Moonie, tail number N1323D was due to land in Grand Junction on 031102 at 2000 hrs but never arrived. The plane took off from Kremling, Colorado and it was believed that there was only the pilot on board. Sgt. Spencer further advised that Major Schein was going to have a helicopter in the air by 0630 hrs to get an exact location on the plane.

On 031202 at approximately 0630 hrs I contacted the on-call Garfield County Search and Rescue person, Barry Sovereign and briefed him on the situation. At approximately 0655 hrs I had dispatch contact Major Schein to confirm that a chopper had been dispatched to the area and they advised that it had. At 0756 hrs I was advised that Garfield County Search and Rescue had placed a chopper on stand-by for them to respond to the scene if rescue was needed. At 0758 hrs I spoke directly with Major Schein who advised that the Colorado National Guard was currently in the air searching for the crash site and based upon the ELT from the plane, Major Schein believed the crash site to be near Irrawaddy Spring, near Deep Creek Canyon.

On 031202 at approximately 1030 hrs, I spoke with Lanny Grant of the Garfield County Search and Rescue and he advised that the National Guard had found the crash site at, 39 degrees 43 minutes 21.5 seconds north by 107 degrees 13 minutes 27.45 seconds west. Lanny advised that site was northeast of Craine Park off of Forest Service Road 600 (Coffee Pot Road), northwest of Leroy Springs-Garfield County. Lanny further advised that search and rescue was coordinating with the National Guard to determine how to access the site. Lanny advised that he believed the only two ways to reach the site were by helicopter or snowmobile, but the snowmobile ride would have been approximately 18 miles. Once they determined they could safely land a helicopter at the site, Lanny coordinated with Deputy Coroner Rob Jones to fly to the site by helicopter. Lanny stated that according to the information he received from the National Guard, the plane was severely damaged and that there was no chance of survival for the occupant(s).

After briefing Undersheriff Jim Sears on the information, Undersheriff Sears advised that he had learned the name of the pilot and only occupant, Jerry W. Elliott ) a resident of Grand

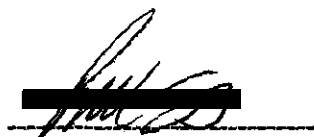
Junction, Colorado. Undersheriff Sears advised that he had also learned that Elliott was in a plane crash in December of 2001 and only had 200 hours of flight experience. Undersheriff Sears had also been in contact with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and advised them of the situation. The NTSB advised that they would be sending an investigator to the scene from Denver.

On 031202 at approximately 1600 hrs I received information that search and rescue and the coroners office had arrived on scene and recovered the victim from the crash site (see supplemental reports for times of arrival). I then spoke via cellular phone with Lanny Grant and he advised that he took photographs of the scene and the victim. He advised that the plane was almost completely destroyed but that there was no fire. Lanny stated that they recovered items from the plane which included flight plans and some of the victim's personal items such as clothes and prescription medication. Lanny stated that they were unable to make a positive identification of the victim due to the condition of the body, but that they were able to locate a wallet in the victim's coat which had the victim's identification showing the name Jerry Elliott. Lanny further advised that the victim was ejected from the plane approximately 50 to 60 feet and he later learned from Major Schein that the plane dropped 3000 feet fourteen seconds prior to the crash. Lanny stated that the plane was almost vertical at impact.

I had Detective Erik Brors meet with Deputy Coroner Rob Jones at the Glenwood Springs Airport where the victim was brought to for transportation to the funeral home. I directed Detective Brors to photograph the victim and then respond to the Rifle Airport to meet with Lanny Grant and recover the photographs that Lanny took as well as personal items that needed to go to the coroner's office and evidentiary items that needed to be turned over to the NTSB. Detective Brors advised that the victim would be transported to Community Hospital in Grand Junction for autopsy on 031302. Detective Brors further advised that the coroner's office was not going to release any information on the victim until a positive identification could be completed, possibly through dental records.

On 031302 at approximately 0755 hrs I received a call from NTSB Investigator Arnold Scott [REDACTED] who advised that he and two other investigators had planned to respond to the crash site on this date but learned from DBS aircraft services at the Rifle Airport that there was a weather front coming through the area on this date and that air travel would not be advisable. Investigator Scott advised that they would attempt to respond to the area either 031402 or 031502. I advised Investigator Scott that this agency would provide him with copies of the incident reports and all photographs taken by this agency and search and rescue.

Case closed to other jurisdiction: NTSB.



Middleton

S-3

SendTo NTSB

# Supplemental Report

## Garfield County Sheriff's Department

Report Number	Officer	Date	Time	Location
02-0953	Brors,Erik	3/13/02	7:41	Glenwood Springs Airport,

### Victim - Witness - Complainant

Person	Victim Type	Last Name, First Name	Middle Name
Victim	INDIVIDUAL	Elliott, Gerald	Wayne

Date of Birth	Sex	Race	Hair	Eyes	Height	Weight	Drivers Lic No	State
	? Male	White	Brown	BRO	600	190		
Home Address		City		State	Zip Code	Phone		
		Grand Junction		CO	81501-			
Employer Name		Phone		Address:				
Work City	State	Zip Cod						

On March 12, 2002, at approximately 0800 hrs, I was advised by Sergeant Bill Middleton of an airplane crash north east of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Sergeant Middleton advised me that Civil Air Patrol was attempting to locate the exact site of the crash from the air.

At approximately 1100 hrs, I was advised by Sergeant Middleton that the wreckage had been located, and that Garfield County Search and Rescue were preparing to fly by helicopter to the site. Sergeant Middleton requested that I monitor radio traffic, so as to meet Deputy Coroner Rob Jones at the airport with the victim. Sergeant Middleton requested that I take photographs of the victim, before being released to the coroner.

At approximately 1500 hrs, I was advised by dispatch that a DBS helicopter had landed at the Glenwood Springs Airport with Deputy Coroner Jones and the victim, tentatively identified as Jerry Elliott. I arrived at the Glenwood Springs Airport at approximately 1515 hrs, and spoke with Deputy Coroner Rob Jones.

Rob Jones stated that the wreckage had been located at the edge of a clearing and that it had been confined to a small area. Rob Jones stated that the remaining members of the search and rescue team had remained on scene, waiting for the helicopter to return. Rob Jones stated that he had located a camera and a wallet near the wreckage. Deputy Coroner Jones retained custody of the wallet and camera. Rob Jones also advised that according to a member of the civil air patrol, the plane descended 3000 feet in approximately 14 seconds before disappearing from the radar screen. That report had not been confirmed.

After assisting Deputy Coroner Rob Jones removing the body from the helicopter, I took pictures of the victim with both digital and 35 MM cameras. Deputy Coroner Jones advised that he had taken photos, of the crash site and surrounding area. At approximately 1600 hrs, Deputy Coroner

*Handwritten:* 53  
3/12/02

At approximately 1630 hrs, I contacted Lanny Grant at the Garfield County Airport. Lanny Grant, a member of Garfield County Search and Rescue, was present at the crash site. Lanny Grant stated that it appeared that the airplane struck the ground at a steep angle. Lanny Grant stated that he had located papers, a GPS, the pilot's log book and an inhaler, possibly for airsickness. All of the property except the log book was turned over to Deputy Coroner Rob Jones. The pilot's log book was taken to be turned over to NTSB. Lanny Grant also provided me with two rolls of film that he had taken of the crash site.

I requested that both Lanny Grant and Deputy Coroner Rob Jones complete written reports for submission to the FAA and NTSB to aid in their investigation.

Investigation Continues.

# Call For Service

Agency **GCSO** Date Received **3/12/2002** Time Received **2:58**  
 Received By **4** How Received **PHONE** ID **85748**

Case Number **953**

Location **flattops area**

City

Activity **SEARCH AND RESCUE**

## Notes:

major rick.schein--w/colorado civil air patrol.  
 Aircraft is in the flattops area of road 600...aircraft in the area at 8:30 am contact [REDACTED]  
 radar indication 3943281071415 has nleec radio's..does not have coordinates yet. Plane is a black/white mooney  
 call # n1323d. startup point is based out of eagle  
 [REDACTED] home #...plane has at least one occupant  
 6:55 PER EAGLE THE PLANE IS NOW IN THE AIR. THEY ALSO HAVE A HELICOPTER ON STANDBY. PER S3  
 SEARCH AND RESCUE HAS BEEN NOTIFIED  
 11:02 LANNY GRANT, PILOT DOUG SCHIEFFER WITH DBS, ROB JONES CORONER AND JIM  
 ENGELHARDT LEAVING WITHIN THE HOUR  
 IN DBS BELL LONG RANGER TO SITE WHICH IS  
 NOT IN CANYON PLANE WADDED UP NO POSSIBLE  
 SURVIVORS, TAKING METAL SAWS BUT NEED TO  
 FLY TO EAGLE TO PICK UP MORE EQUIPMENT TO RETREIVE BODY, EAGLE COUNTY NOTIFIED.TAIL  
 NUM BER ON HELICOPTER IS N207DS LANNY STILL  
 ON CELL [REDACTED]  
 11:11 S/R 415 out at DBS Helicopters at Glenwood Airport  
 11:16 G2 requesting 415 to call asap  
 11:22 LANNY GRANT, PILOT DOUGL SCHAEFFER  
 CORONER ROB JONES, JIM ENGELHARDT LEAVING  
 TO SITE ABOVE DEEP CREEK IN DBS HELICOPTER  
 TAIL N207DS--SHOULD BEING BODY BACK TO  
 RIFLE AIRPORT.EAGLE NOTIFIED TO BE ON STAND  
 BY IN CASE THEY ARE NEEDED IN RECOVERY  
 MISSION.--11:43 THE MINUTE WE ARE NOTIFIED  
 OF HOW MANY AND IF THEY ARE DECEASED PLEASE CALL NTSB ERYN AT [REDACTED]  
 11:42 S/R415 advises 4 people headed to eagle airport to meet with National Guard and devise plan. Will advise  
 when they are airborne.  
 11:54 NG Helicopter N207DS is airborne from garfield airport to Eagle Airport, ETA 25 Minutes  
 12:02 Airborn search and rescue passing over Glenwood at this time  
 12:16 Helicopter has landed at Eaqle Airport, will advise when they are airborne to crash site again.  
 12:45 S/R 415 and flight crew are over the crash site, will be landing momentarily, 10-6 at the crash site.  
 12:54 DBS Helicopters advises the recovery team has landed, will be about 1 hour on scene.  
 14:04 From DBS helicopters, ID on party has been confirmed, Possitive ID. Will be leaving scene  
 14:33 Call from DBS, Helicopter is leaving the scene with the coroner and the body, heading to Glenwood airport.  
 Then will return to pick up S/R415 and other parties.  
 15:36 S&R 415 ADV ALL PERSONELL COMMONG DOWN TO GARFIELD CO AIRPORT  
 17:00 cleared the garfield co airport

## Reporting Person Information

Last Name:

First Name:

Home Phone:

Home Address

City:

Unit	Disp	Enroute	Arrival	Tran	EndTran	Comp	Disposition	Summons
sam 1	2:59					6:12	D9 TURNED OVER TO	
sam 3	6:11					11:54	D12 INFORMATION AIRED	
S/R41			11:12			17:00	D15 CALL SERVICED	