



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Timothy N. Sorensen
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: August 7, 2014
Person Contacted: Mr. Les Howerton
NTSB Accident Number: ERA14MA271 – Bedford, MA

Narrative:

Mr. Howerton was a pilot in the G-III airplane that shared a hangar with the accident airplane. Before being hired directly, he had flown with both of the accident pilots on a contract basis. Mr. Howerton stated that he never had any issues with the accident pilots during the times he flew with them. Additionally, he never had any concerns that the accident pilots had full control of the flight operations, and he never knew them to push for time. During the times that Mr. Howerton flew with Mr. Katz, Mr. Katz never pressed him to expedite the flight or any of the procedures.

Mr. Howerton had little contact with Mr. McDowell after moving to the G-III. Mr. McDowell coordinated any training events, but, otherwise, the G-III and G-IV operations were largely separate. Mr. McDowell also coordinated the activity and maintenance on the airplanes. Mr. Howerton would conduct all the flight planning and customs notifications in the case of international travel.

Mr. Howerton noted that the maintenance on both airplanes, the G-III and G-IV, was "impeccable." Minor items were taken care of locally, but the airplane was taken to Gulfstream for any significant maintenance.

Mr. Howerton stated that he flew several times with Ms. Benhoff. When she flew in the G-III it was as a passenger and not as a flight attendant. She would assist Mr. Katz and his passengers. If the airplane was full, she would sit in the cockpit jumpseat; otherwise, she would sit in the cabin. Ms. Benhoff would normally handle any catering order.