## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Aviation Safety Washington, D.C. 20594

**Attachment 3 - Witness Statements** 

## **OPERATIONAL FACTORS**

**DCA11MA075** 

#### A. ACCIDENT

Operator: Omega Aerial Refueling Services, Inc.
Location: Point Mugu Naval Air Station, California

**Date:** May 18, 2011

**Airplane:** Boeing 707-321B, Registration Number: N707AR

# B. NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD (NTSB) OPERATIONS GROUP

Captain David Lawrence - Chairman Captain John Banitt

Senior Air Safety Investigator B707 Flight Standardization Officer

National Transportation Safety Board Omega Air Refueling

490 L'Enfant Plaza East S.W. 700 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 306 Washington, DC 20594 Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Mr. Tony James Mr. Michael Coker
Air Safety Investigator Senior Safety Pilot
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#### C. SUMMARY

On May 18, 2011, at approximately 1727 pm local time (0027 UTC), Omega Air flight 70, a Boeing 707-321B (N707AR), crashed on takeoff at the Point Mugu Naval Air Station<sup>1</sup>, Point Mugu, California. The airplane impacted beyond the departure end of runway 21 and was destroyed by post-impact fire. All three flight crewmembers aboard escaped with minor injuries.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Naval Base Ventura County.

#### D. WITNESS STATEMENTS

## 1.0 Jonathan Mendoza, Omega Air Mechanic

Jonathan Mendoza

flight mechanic

I've been a alpmechanic for 7 yrs, since 2004

I've worked for Omega/Seven a Seven for 6 yrs. since 2005

What I saw & I was working on N707MQ at the time the N707AR was taxiing, when I heard N707AR taking off, I went and stood on the stair truck to watch N707AR takeoff, as they were rotating I just saw a ball of fire on the left side of the airplane, then didn't see them anymore because the hangar blocked my view.

21/may/11

## 2.0 Neil Jones, Omega Air Mechanic

Meil Jones Arp Mechanic.

I have held an applicance since September 2007. Thave held an Irish Aircraft aircraft maintence engineers licence held an Irish Aircraft aircraft maintence engineers licence Since I nas.

Since 1995.

Thave worked for Omega in the U.S. Since September 2006

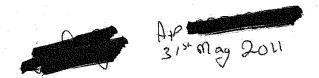
I was standing by the do main cabin door of 10307MQ

The ard the take off coll. I heard a loud noise. I

The ard the take off coll. I am near sighted and was

Saw ab cight light lexidosion. I am near sighted and was

not wearing glasses at the time.



John Banitt Ground Observer

I was located on the other Omega Tanker. Arcall Completed normal engine start, taxi & take off roll from rung 21 Pt Magua.

Averaft Started a normal rotation with a normal climb attitude, shortly after departing runway on climb out I saw flames & the number 2 engine beamed to depart. Aircraft stopped climbing and continued forward disappearing behind buildings near base fower. Short delay and saw billowing smoke. Called Ops officer enracte to aircraft. Met crow at Harptel to make some they we're ok.

JOA E. Ban2

Position's Coptian

## 4.0 John Kearns, Omega First Officer

Salah Sa JOHN KEARUS ON MAY 18TH, 2011, I WITNESSED THEN 707 AR ACCIDENT AT POINT MAGUU, NAS. I WAS STANDING ON THE AIRSTAIRS OF AMOTHER AIRCRAFT (N707 MQ) WHILE WATCHING THE TAKEOFF OF N707 AR. THE TAKEOFF APPEARED TO BE NORMAL VNTIL RIGHT AFTER LIFT OFF. I THEN SAW A PIR FIRE COME FROM THE LEFT WING AREA ( AS THE AIRCRAFT WAS AROUND 5000 FELT FROM WHERE ( HAS, I CANT TELL EXACTLY WHERE IT STARTED). THE AIRCRAFT THEN DISAPPEARED BEHIND SOME BUILDINGS SEXERAL MIN SECONDS LATER A PLUME OF SMOKE CAME FROM BERTIND THE BUILDINGS. JOHN CEARNS FIRST OFFICER B707 OMEGA AIR REFUELING

OMEGA, Flight Engineer (Glound observer)

Rowald Kenoff

on may 18th, 2011 I was sitting in the cockpit, Left sent of N 707MQ I was sitting in this position fore the sole furpose of whiching the departure of N 707AR. I was able to see the Induct Talkoff Run and rotation of N 707AR over my Left shoulds. I witnessed a Longo flame appear after rotation and then my view was obstructed by my seated fosition. I got out of the cock pit and moved to the Forward Entry door. I could not Longer see the aircraft (N 707AR). Shortly thereafter I witnessed small and flames to the departure End of Pury 21 (KNTO)

