

Pilot 72-Hour History Interview

Case: CEN15FA190
Date: 20 April 2015
Time: 1600 CDT/1700 EDT (about 45 minutes)
Participants: Mrs. Amy Hileman, Thomas Hileman's Spouse, Pilot
Todd Fox, NTSB IIC, Air Safety Investigator, AS-CEN
Dr. Mary Pat McKay, Chief Technical Officer, Medical Officer, RE-1
Katy Chisom, Victim Services Coordinator, OC-40

The following interview was accomplished via a teleconference as coordinated by Mrs. Katy Chisom.

Questions asked by Todd Fox, NTSB IIC:

How long had she and Tom been married? 15 years, last year

How many children do you have? 5 kids total- 1 child together, age 13; 2 children from each of their previous marriages (ages 22, 23, 24, 25), the youngest three children live at home (13, 22 and 23 year olds)

Had there been any major life events in recent history (days, weeks, months)? Mrs. Hileman stated that there have been no major life events (deaths, family illness, major changes, moves, etc.) and that both she and Tom had grown-up in the local Bloomington-Normal area.

Did Tom ever discuss his flying career with you? Yes, Tom provided aircraft management for several companies and flew as a pilot for some of the companies. His duties as an aircraft manager included: maintaining the aircraft, scheduling maintenance and assisting with their maintenance logbooks. Mrs. Hileman recalled that when he flew, he mostly flew a Falcon 10 for Stark Excavating Inc., a Phenom for a consulting company, the occasionally the Cessna 414.

Does Tom own his own plane? He no longer owns his own airplane. Previously, Tom owned a small plane for instruction, but he sold it so that he could move away from instructing.

Was Tom experiencing any current life stressors? Mrs. Hileman reported there were no major life stressors in Tom's life.

Was she aware of any financial issues that Tom had been dealing with? No.

Was aviation his only profession or did he have other jobs? Did he volunteer or were there any other activities that he had been involved with? Mrs. Hileman reported that aviation was

Tom's only profession. She noted that he also volunteered with their Church as well as helped with their son's sports.

Can you describe what Tom's typical work schedule is like? Was he flying 7 days a week, or just occasionally? Tom wasn't flying 7 days a week, but he was primarily completing administrative tasks associated with his aviation management business. He worked from home and only went to the hangar to take care of the planes, clean the planes, and to restock supplies in the hangars. She estimated he would work at the hangars 1-2 days a week. He would sometimes work on the weekends, especially if he had to fly for a client. Mrs. Hileman reported that Tom enjoyed the flexibility of his schedule.

Was Tom readily able to take vacation time or have designated time away from work? Mrs. Hileman reported that Tom did not have trouble taking time off. He could coordinate his schedule with his clients and indicate which days he was unable to work. She also mentioned that she would often follow him on work trips and meet up with him so that they could have a "mini vacation."

How much sleep did Tom typically get every day/night? Tom routinely went to sleep early; and was typically asleep by ten o'clock every night. She stated that Tom wakes up around 6 am and would make breakfast for the kids if he wasn't travelling.

Where there any issues with his quality of sleep? Mrs. Hileman stated that he never mentioned anything. He didn't receive any late night calls because he left his phone plugged into the charger in the kitchen. She did not recall him being fatigued or tired.

Friday, 3 April 2015 (Good Friday) – Mrs. Hileman worked on Good Friday. Initially, she reported that Tom had not flown on Friday, but after checking the family calendar she realized that he had flown back from Ft. Lauderdale on Friday (He left on Thursday and returned on Friday). She remembers that after work she and Tom went to the wine bar where their son worked. This was a regular occurrence on a Friday evening after work. They would have a glass of wine and talk with their son. She noted that they each had a glass of wine before dinner, and then watched the Passion of the Christ movie. They went to bed at the normal time around 2200, or perhaps even a little earlier.

Saturday, 4 April 2015- She and Tom went running in the morning, followed by grocery shopping and shopping for Easter basket supplies. She mentioned that they probably completed other errands as well, because Saturday was their normal errand day. Tom did not work that day. She also believes that he and his sons watched a college basketball game on television.

Sunday, 5 April 2015 (Easter Sunday) - Mrs. Hileman stated that Tom may or may not have gone running that day. She recalled that Tom had planned to do a longer run on Sunday. He was planning to complete part of the run with their dogs, then drop the dogs off and continue with his run. She recalled that she didn't go on the run because she was baking. Mrs. Hileman also recalled that Tom went to Lowes to purchase grass seed. He then patched the lawn and worked outside until dinner time. She also added that after dinner the family sat outside around their chimenea until bed time. She noted that they had a normal day, awoke around 6 am and went to bed around 10 pm. She stated that there was no discussion about work on Sunday.

Monday, 6 April 2015- Mrs. Hileman got ready and left for work that begins at 0730. She recalled that Tom told her that he was going to be working late and that she shouldn't wait up for him. She stated that he may have mentioned the trip previously, but she couldn't remember. She believes that Tom got up around 0600 and did the same routine as usual by making breakfast.

Questions asked by Dr. McKay, NTSB Medical Officer:

How often did Tom go running and how far/long were his runs: Mrs. Hileman indicated that Tom was a regular runner and that he typically ran 3-7 miles per run. Mrs. Hileman later clarified that he often only completed 3 miles per run. She also noted that they had wanted to get their bicycles out for the season, but they hadn't accomplished it yet.

Were there any recent health problems: Tom had been seeing a chiropractor because he was having some back problems. She noted that he had still been running, so the back problems couldn't have been that bad. Tom also had a recent biopsy of some spots on his skin; the test results came back as benign growths. He had a routine visit to a dermatologist in which they noticed the spots and wanted to have them biopsied. Tom also had a recent physical, which he told her went well.

Was the Tom on any medications: He regularly took an antacid, fish oil, and vitamins. The fish oil was preventative. Mrs. Hileman reported that Tom had indicated his cholesterol level were good. She also noted that he took Aleve (naproxen) for his back pain.

Any vision issues: Tom wore contact lenses full time

Any recent tobacco use: Tom was a non-smoker

Alcohol Consumption: Mrs. Hileman tried to recall his alcohol consumption over Easter weekend. She said on Sunday he had a couple of glasses of wine, 1 glass of wine on Friday. She then estimated that he would have 1-2 drinks with dinner, a couple times a week.

Coffee Consumption: Mrs. Hileman stated Tom was a frequent coffee drinker. He would drink coffee throughout the day. He was the type of person that could drink coffee after dinner and still be able to fall asleep normally. She estimated he would drink about 6 cups of coffee each day.

Who was Tom's primary care doctor: Mrs. Hileman stated that he had seen a new doctor for his recent physical. His previous doctor had sold his practice. He was seeing a Dr. Francois at the same medical practice, Medical Hills Internists.

Mrs. Hileman's Question:

Was there any evidence that birds had caused the aircraft to turn? Investigator Fox replied that there was no obvious area of impact on the airplane (wings, tail, fuselage, windshield) that would have indicated there had been a bird strike. Additionally, the coroner did not report any bird remains while at the accident site.