

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE CITY OF QUINCY

An Internationally Accredited
Law Enforcement Agency



Michael D. DeVoss
Chief of Police

— OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE —
— 110 SOUTH 8th - QUINCY, ILLINOIS 62301-4058 —
— PHONE (217) 228-4480, FAX (217) 228-4472 —

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL COVERSHEET

DATE: JANUARY 22, 2001

TO: NTSB [REDACTED]

FROM: Lt. Dennis Bingheim

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply

NUMBER OF PAGES (including coversheet): 14 pages

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Our number is: (217) 228-4470 or call

Remarks:

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**QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT
CASE REPORT**

Case 200102435

Page 1

Occur. Date/Time: 01/22/2001 12:00:00 AM

End Date/Time: / /

Occur. Location: [REDACTED]

Apt: City: QUINCY

State: IL

Weather: CLEAR

Lighting: ARTIFICIAL LOW

Temp: 20

Security Type: NOT APPLICABLE

Point of Entry: NOT APPLICABLE

Street Visibility: YES

Evidence: YES

District: 5

Narrative Summary:

On the above date and time, I was dispatched to the Blessing Hospital Helicopter Port in regards to an accident involving a security guard who came into contact with the tail rotor of the helicopter. See supplemental report for details.

Category	OFFENSE	Status	PENDING
Location Type	HOSPITAL		
Business	BLESSING AT 11TH 223-1200		
Off. Code	9119		
Off. Code Desc	OTHER INVESTIGATIONS/QUASI CRIMINAL		

Category	PERSON	Involvement	VICTIM	SSN	--
First Name	ROBERT	Middle Name	J	Last Name	MCCORMICK Suffix
Race	WHITE	Sex	MALE	DOB	[REDACTED]/1941
DL Number/St	IL	Name Type	LEGAL	Person Type	
HOME	[REDACTED]	PAYSON IL 62360			

Category	PERSON	Involvement	WITNESS	SSN	--
First Name	ADAM	Middle Name	S	Last Name	VAHLE Suffix
Race	WHITE	Sex	MALE	DOB	[REDACTED]/1978
DL Number/St	IL	Name Type	LEGAL	Person Type	
HOME	[REDACTED]	QUINCY IL 62301		Phone	[REDACTED]

Category	PERSON	Involvement	WITNESS	SSN	--
First Name	NORMAN	Middle Name		Last Name	SCHNELLBACHER Suffix
Race	WHITE	Sex	MALE	DOB	[REDACTED]/1955
DL Number/St	IL	Name Type	LEGAL	Person Type	
HOME	[REDACTED]	NEW LONDON MO 63459		Phone	[REDACTED]

Under the penalties as provided by law pursuant to 735, Section 5/1-109, Illinois Compiled Statutes, I certify that the statements and information set forth in this report are true and correct as to those matters said to be within my personal knowledge. Other matters contained therein, on information and belief, were reported to me as true.

Reporting Officer HUFFORD, DARLA *DH*

Case 200102435

Officer in Charge *[Signature]***RECEIVED JAN 22 2001**

Date Printed 01/22/2001 Time Printed 04:35:25

Report Review

Referred to

Category	PERSON	Involvement	WITNESS	SSN	—	
First Name	BURL	Middle Name	H	Last Name	BOYD	Suffix
Race	WHITE	Sex	MALE	DOB	1951	
DL Number/St	IL	Name Type	LEGAL	Person Type		
HOME		T QUINCY IL 62301		Phone		

Under the penalties as provided by law pursuant to 735, Section 5/1-109, Illinois Compiled Statutes, I certify that the statements and information set forth in this report are true and correct as to those matters said to be within my personal knowledge. Other matters contained therein, on information and belief, were reported to me as true.

Reporting Officer HUFFORD, DARLA DH Case 200102435 Officer in Charge RECEIVED JAN 22 2001
Date Printed 01/22/2001 Time Printed 04:35:25 Report Review _____
Referred to _____

QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTOFFENSE DESCRIPTION
PATROL INVESTIGATIONCASE FILE NUMBER
01-02435

On Monday, 01-22-01, at 0008 hours, I was dispatched to the Blessing Hospital helicopter pad in regards to an accident. Prior to my arrival, the Dispatch Center informed me by telephone that a Blessing Hospital security guard had been involved in an accident with the helicopter and was injured.

When I arrived at the Blessing Hospital helicopter pad I observed the Fire Department to be present at the scene. I then went into the emergency room and made contact with the Blessing Emergency Room receptionist who informed me that the victim was being treated and was at this point in serious condition.

I then left the emergency room and went back out to the helicopter pad, where I made contact with Paramedic Burl Boyd. I asked Boyd to tell me what had happened. Boyd stated he, along with two of the Blessing Hospital security guards, had moved the chopper out of the garage onto the helicopter pad. Boyd stated he was positioned in front of the helicopter to hook up the battery charger. It should be noted the battery charge is on a small cart resembling a wagon with a handle to pull it with. It should also be noted the helicopter's nose was pointing to the east with the tail to the west. Boyd stated both security guards, Vahle and McCormick, were present at the head of the helicopter with him. Boyd stated he warned the guards to "be careful around the blades, he (referring to the pilot) is going to start it up." Boyd stated he plugged in the charger and when the pilot gave him the signal to disconnect, he disconnected the cord and laid it across the charger. At that time, security guard McCormick stated, "I'll

RECEIVED JAN 22 2001

Under the penalties as provided by law pursuant to 735, Section 5/1-109, Illinois Compiled Statutes, I certify that the statements and information set forth in this report are true and correct as to those matters said to be within my personal knowledge. Other matters contained therein, on information and belief, were reported to me as true.

OFFICER
DARLA HUFFORD, #105 *DH*TYPIST
slm 0427 01-22-01

FC _____ SA _____ Pro _____ Oth (_____) _____

Indexed: _____

Page 1 of 5

**QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT****OFFENSE DESCRIPTION
PATROL INVESTIGATION****CASE FILE NUMBER
01-02435**

get this out of the way for you." Boyd stated McCormick took the cart and went towards the rear of the helicopter on the south side of the helicopter. Boyd stated as he was attempting to close the flap where the charger connects he heard a thump, then backed up away from the chopper and observed the battery cart under the tail of the chopper but did not see McCormick. Boyd stated at that time he knew something was wrong and signaled to the pilot to cut the engine.

Boyd stated he went around the helicopter to the north side and observed McCormick lying on the ground motionless at the tail of the helicopter. Boyd stated he immediately ran to the emergency room to get help.

That concluded my interview with Burl Boyd.

I then spoke with helicopter pilot Norman Schnellbacher. Schnellbacher stated he was in the pilot's seat of the chopper and observed Boyd standing in front of the chopper to hook up the battery charger and also observed McCormick standing beside Boyd. Schnellbacher stated once he fired up the engine he was busy watching his instruments and was not watching what was going on outside of the helicopter. Schnellbacher stated out of his peripheral vision, to his right, he observed something go past the helicopter. At that time, Schnellbacher stated he looked up and saw Boyd standing in front of the helicopter and at that time heard what he described as multiple hits. Schnellbacher said he shut down the engine and also used a rotor brake to stop the rotors and then got out of the helicopter, and at that

RECEIVED JAN 22 2001

Under the penalties as provided by law pursuant to 735. Section 5/1-109, Illinois Compiled Statutes, I certify that the statements and information set forth in this report are true and correct as to those matters said to be within my personal knowledge. Other matters contained therein, on information and belief, were reported to me as true.

**OFFICER
DARLA HUFFORD, #105 DH****TYPIST
slm 0427 01-22-01****FC _____ SA _____ Pro _____ Oth (_____) _____****Indexed: _____****Page 2 of 5**

**QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT****OFFENSE DESCRIPTION
PATROL INVESTIGATION****CASE FILE NUMBER
01-02435**

time observed employees of the emergency room attending to McCormick who was lying on the ground under the tail of the chopper.

That concluded my interview with Norman Schnellbacher.

I then spoke with the other security guard who was present on the helicopter pad, Adam Vahle. Vahle stated that he had been summoned to the helicopter pad to assist in moving the helicopter. Vahle stated when he arrived McCormick was assisting the flight team in taking the wheels off of the helicopter. Vahle stated after the wheels were removed, McCormick went to the front of the helicopter, along with a member of the flight crew, who was plugging in the battery charger to the helicopter. Vahle stated after the flight crew employee unplugged the battery charger from the helicopter, McCormick insisted on taking the cart back to the garage.

Vahle stated he started to walk off of the helicopter pad in a northbound direction and heard a thump. Vahle stated he turned around and saw McCormick fall to the ground and let go of the cart. Vahle said he went over to McCormick, pushed the cart away from him, and asked McCormick if he was okay. Vahle stated McCormick responded by saying that his head hurt and that he could not see. He also asked what had happened. Vahle said he told McCormick to lay still and that he had bumped his head. Vahle said the emergency room employees then arrived to assist McCormick.

RECEIVED JAN 22 2001**AB**

Under the penalties as provided by law pursuant to 735, Section 5/1-109, Illinois Compiled Statutes, I certify that the statements and information set forth in this report are true and correct as to those matters said to be within my personal knowledge. Other matters contained therein, on information and belief, were reported to me as true.

**OFFICER
DARLA HUFFORD, #105 DH****TYPIST
slm 0427 01-22-01****FC _____ SA _____ Pro _____ Oth (_____) _____****Indexed: _____****Page 3 of 5**

**QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT****OFFENSE DESCRIPTION
PATROL INVESTIGATION****CASE FILE NUMBER
01-02435**

I asked Vahle what type of injuries he observed on McCormick. Vahle stated there was a large piece of flesh missing from the front portion of McCormick's head and that he did observe blood coming from the back of McCormick's head as he lay on the ground.

That concluded my interview with Adam Vahle.

It should be noted, Sgt. Simmons had responded to the scene while I was speaking with Boyd and requested that I take pictures of the scene and also secure the scene. Pictures of the scene were taken with the 35mm camera from car #7. That roll of film was logged in to evidence at Quincy Police Headquarters. Sgt. Simmons secured the scene with crime scene tape.

In assessing the scene, I observed the helicopter to be parked on the helicopter pad, which sits just east of the helicopter garage. The nose of the helicopter was pointing east, with the tail pointing west. I observed a black Blessing Hospital Security ball cap lying to the north of the helicopter at the nose. The ball cap had been shredded. At the tail of the helicopter I observed the cart with the battery charger on it and just to the southwest of the cart was a large amount of blood, pooled, on the pavement. I also observed blood splatter to the west of the tail of the helicopter. I observed a large section, approximately 3 to 4 inches in length, of the victims scalp lying on the pavement to the east of the helicopter tail. There were also small fragments of scalp on the battery charger itself and lying on the

RECEIVED JAN 22 2001**22**

Under the penalties as provided by law pursuant to 735, Section 5/1-109, Illinois Compiled Statutes, I certify that the statements and information set forth in this report are true and correct as to those matters said to be within my personal knowledge. Other matters contained therein, on information and belief, were reported to me as true.

**OFFICER
DARLA HUFFORD, #105 *DH*****TYPIST
slm 0427 01-22-01****FC _____ SA _____ Pro _____ Oth (_____) _____****Indexed: _____****Page 4 of 5**

QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTOFFENSE DESCRIPTION
PATROL INVESTIGATIONCASE FILE NUMBER
01-02435

pavement next to the battery charger. I also observed a small amount of the victim's hair on the rotor blade of the helicopter.

All of the above observations were photographed with the 35mm camera.

DICTATED AT 0245 HOURS ON 01-22-01

TURNED IN AT 0335 HOURS ON 01-22-01

RECEIVED JAN 22 2001

Under the penalties as provided by law pursuant to 735, Section 5/1-109, Illinois Compiled Statutes, I certify that the statements and information set forth in this report are true and correct as to those matters said to be within my personal knowledge. Other matters contained therein, on information and belief, were reported to me as true.

OFFICER

DARLA HUFFORD, #105 DH

TYPIST

slm 0427 01-22-01

FC _____ SA _____ Pro _____ Oth (_____) _____

Indexed: _____

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QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT

EVIDENCE

☐ **OTHER PROPERTY**

Classification Patrol Investigation

Case File No. 01-2435

Date Received 1/22/01

Time Received 0008

No. of Items

From Blessing Hosp.

Name of property contributor

Address 1005 Broadway

Of property contributor

Collected by Darla Hufferd 105

Printed name of Officer

~~Class - 10~~ #105

Signature of Officer

To be returned: YES () NO ☒

Defendant

Name _____

Return to: Name

Disposition

QPD Photo Drop

Of item after marked

Address

Officer in charge

☐ **Multiple Owners** – list them below

[illegible]

RECEIVED JAN 22 2001

WHITE COPY to G.O.R.

YELLOW to EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN

PINK to CONTRIBUTOR

QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT #2OFFENSE DESCRIPTION
PATROL INVESTIGATIONCASE FILE NUMBER
01-02435

At approximately 0030 hours on 01-22-01, I was contacted by 911 Dispatch regarding an accident involving a helicopter and a security guard at the Blessing Hospital Heli-pad.

I responded to that location, where I arrived at approximately 0031 hours. I observed that Officer Hufford was already on scene. The Heli-pad area was secured with crime scene tape. Officer Hufford took 35mm photographs of the accident scene. Officer Hufford also conducted interviews. Refer to Officer Hufford's reports for details.

While at Blessing Hospital I was contacted by the Watch Commander, Lt. Bingheim. Lt. Bingheim advised he had been in contact with the FAA and the NTSB. Lt. Bingheim stated that they requested we take photographs and witness information. He advised that we could then release the accident scene.

I took photographs of the accident area with the Quincy Police Department's digital camera. Two computer disks containing photographs of the scene have been placed into evidence. I also constructed a rough diagram of the scene, showing the location and orientation of the helicopter. That diagram has also been placed into evidence.

At approximately 0215 hours, I contacted 911 Dispatch and requested they send a fire department unit to Blessing Hospital to clean up the accident scene.

RECEIVED JAN 22 2001

Under the penalties as provided by law pursuant to 735, Section 5/1-109, Illinois Compiled Statutes, I certify that the statements and information set forth in this report are true and correct as to those matters said to be within my personal knowledge. Other matters contained therein, on information and belief, were reported to me as true.

OFFICER
Sergeant Jason Simmons, #256 JSTYPIST
slm 0501 01-22-01

FC _____ SA _____ Pro _____ Oth (_____) _____

Indexed: _____

Page 1 of 2

**QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT #2****OFFENSE DESCRIPTION**
PATROL INVESTIGATION**CASE FILE NUMBER**
01-02435

Prior to leaving Blessing Hospital I made contact with Air-Evac manager, John Landis. I advised Landis that the Quincy Police Department had finished its investigation into the accident. I completed my detail at Blessing Hospital at 0229 hours.

The aforementioned items of evidence have been placed locker #11.

No further information at this time.

Dictated AT 0405 HOURS ON 01-22-01

TURNED IN AT 0406 HOURS ON 01-22-01

RECEIVED JAN 22 2001

Under the penalties as provided by law pursuant to 735, Section 5/1-109, Illinois Compiled Statutes, I certify that the statements and information set forth in this report are true and correct as to those matters said to be within my personal knowledge. Other matters contained therein, on information and belief, were reported to me as true.

OFFICER

Sergeant Jason Simmons, #256 JS

TYPIST

slm 0501 01-22-01

FC _____ SA _____ Pro _____ Oth (_____) _____

Indexed: _____

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QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT

X EVIDENCE

OTHER PROPERTY

Classification PATROL INVESTIGATION Case File No. 01-2435

Date Received 01-22-01 Time Received 0008 No. of Items 3

From _____ Address _____

Collected by [redacted] 256
Printed name of Officer SIMMONS

[redacted]
Signature of Officer

To be returned: YES () NO (X) Defendant N/A
Name _____

Return to: Name _____ Disposition LOCKER # 11
Of item after marked _____

Address _____ Officer in charge JCS

☐ Multiple Owners – list them below

Item No.	Description of item and exact location where found
1 & 2	computer disks containing digital photos of <u>Blessing Air</u> accident scene
3	diagram of helicopter location

WHITE COPY to G.O.R.

YELLOW to EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN

PINK to CONTRIBUTOR

77 JAN 22 2001

QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT #1OFFENSE DESCRIPTION
PATROL INVESTIGATIONCASE FILE NUMBER
01-02435

At approximately 0024 hours on 01-22-01, I received a phone call from Dispatch regarding a call at Blessing Hospital. Dispatcher Strode told me that an employee of Blessing Hospital, a security guard, had walked into the tail rotor of the Air Vac helicopter and had been injured. Officer Hufford and Sgt. Simmons were enroute.

A short time later I talked to Sgt. Simmons, who told me the security guard was severely injured and might not survive his injuries. I told Sgt. Simmons that I would take care of notifying the NTSB and FAA, as necessary. I told Sgt. Simmons that he should seal the scene and treat it as a crime scene until such time as I got word from the other agencies as to their needs.

I called Deputy Chief Senior to advise him of the situation. He told me to call him back if I had any further information.

I then began trying to find phone numbers for the proper agencies. I was able to get in touch with Pam Sullivan of NTSB. Sullivan told me we would not have to keep the scene intact, as they would not send an investigator out; however, they wanted to insure that we did some reports and that they could get copies of those reports. I later received a phone call back from Sullivan who inquired as to the registration number on the helicopter, which was N61AE. She again confirmed the location of the incident and some other information from me, such as the name of the hospital. I asked Sullivan if they would need measurements taken of the incident scene, and she told me it was not necessary to measure.

RECEIVED JAN 22 2001

Under the penalties as provided by law pursuant to 735, Section 5/1-109, Illinois Compiled Statutes, I certify that the statements and information set forth in this report are true and correct as to those matters said to be within my personal knowledge. Other matters contained therein, on information and belief, were reported to me as true.

OFFICER
LIEUTENANT DENNIS BINGHEIM, #265TYPIST
slm 0448 01-22-01

FC _____ SA _____ Pro _____ Oth (_____) _____

Indexed: _____

Page 1 of 2

**QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT #1****OFFENSE DESCRIPTION
PATROL INVESTIGATION****CASE FILE NUMBER
01-02435**

I later received a call from Dave Slaybaugh of the FAA Office in Springfield, Illinois. Slaybaugh said he had received a call from the NTSB concerning this incident. He stated he was not sure of the needs of the FAA as to how in-depth their investigation would be; however, he also told me there was no reason to hold the scene, nor to do measurements, but did request that their agency be given copies of any reports and photographs we might have.

A little later in the morning Slaybaugh called me a second time stating he had talked to his supervisors and that an investigator from the FAA would be coming to Quincy in the morning (01-22-01) to at least check the aircraft for its air worthiness.

I was also in contact several times with John Landis of Blessing Hospital. Landis is the coordinator with the emergency services. I told Landis that I had contacted both the FAA and the NTSB and what they had told me over the telephone. I also told Landis I would be doing a news release; however, I would not be releasing the name of the victim at this time, due to the severity of his injuries. Landis told me that he did not expect the victim to survive.

DICTATED AT 0355 HOURS ON 01-22-01

TURNED IN 0358 HOURS ON 01-22-01

RECEIVED JAN 22 2001

Under the penalties as provided by law pursuant to 735, Section 5/1-109, Illinois Compiled Statutes, I certify that the statements and information set forth in this report are true and correct as to those matters said to be within my personal knowledge. Other matters contained therein, on information and belief, were reported to me as true.

OFFICER
LIEUTENANT DENNIS BINGHEIM, #265**TYPIST**
slm 0448 01-22-01

FC _____ SA _____ Pro _____ Oth (_____) _____

Indexed: _____

Page 2 of 2

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
CITY OF QUINCYAn Internationally Accredited
Law Enforcement AgencyMichael D. DeVoss
Chief of Police

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

110 SOUTH 8th - QUINCY, ILLINOIS 62301-4058

PHONE (217) 228-4480, FAX (217) 228-4472

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL COVERSHEET

DATE:

1-23-01

TO:

Bill Coolidge

FROM:

Rosie

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply

NUMBER OF PAGES (including coversheet):

2

If you do not receive all pages, please call back as soon as possible.

Our number is: (217) 228-4470 or call

Remarks:

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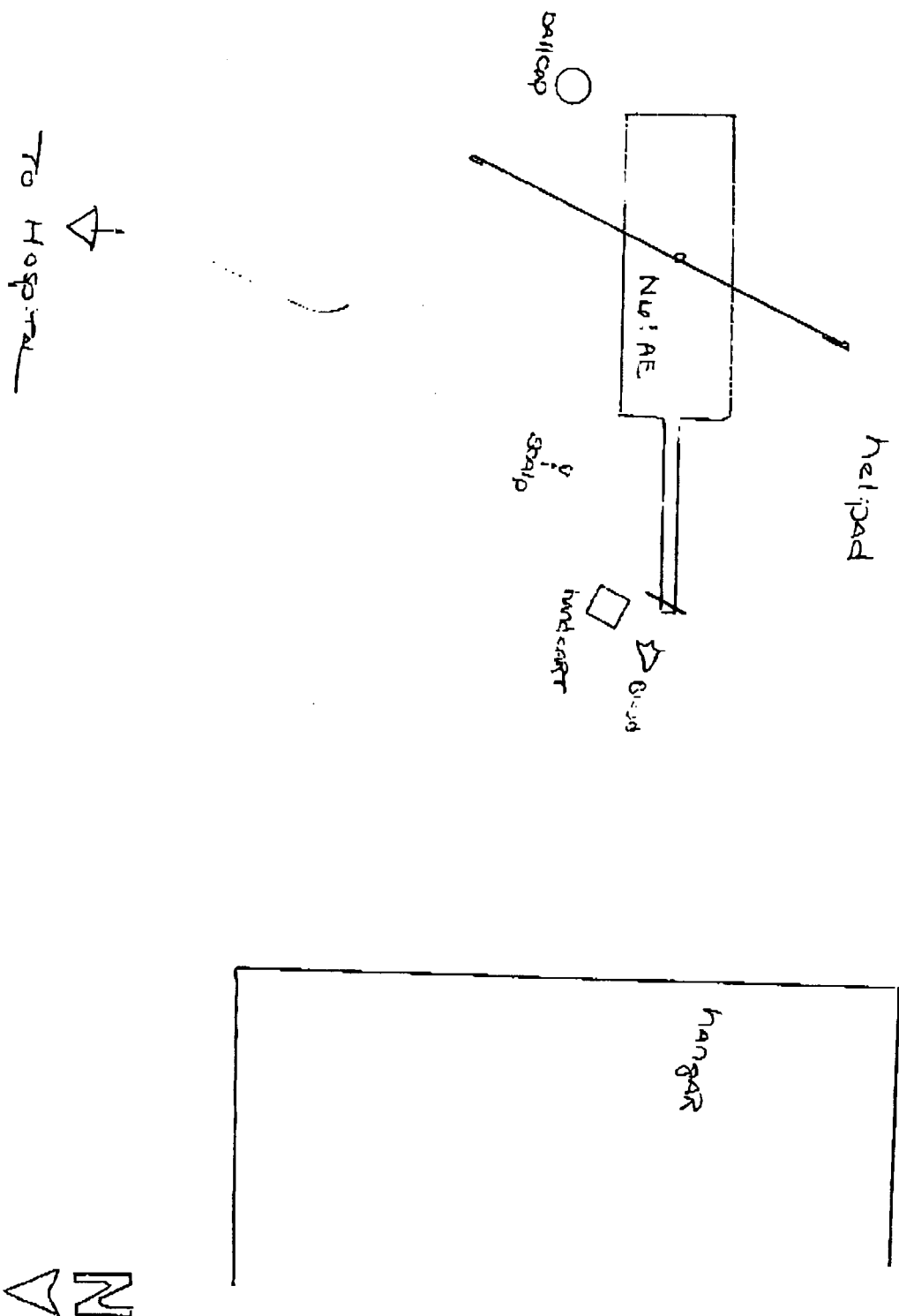
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"To Serve with Pride and Integrity"

01-2435
0008

01-22-01



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE CITY OF QUINCY

An Internationally Accredited
Law Enforcement Agency



Michael D. DeVoss
Chief of Police

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

110 SOUTH 8th - QUINCY, ILLINOIS 62301-4058

PHONE (217) 228-4480, FAX (217) 228-4472

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL COVERSHEET

DATE: 1/28/01

TO: NTSB

FROM: Central Records

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply

NUMBER OF PAGES (including coversheet): 4

If you do not receive all pages, please call back as soon as possible.

Our number is: (217) 228-4470 or call

Remarks: Additional paperwork on fatality

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CFN: 01-02435 ORD: OFFICER: simmons DATE: 01-22-2001
Pass Locker: 11 MONEY: GUNS: SUSP DRUG: ALT CFN:
LOGGED IN BY: mueller LOG IN DATE: 01-22-2001 LOCATION: 16-7; ph fil

ITEM DESCRIPTIO: diagram and computer discs (2)

2:

3:

4:

5:

CHAIN:

B:

C:

VICTIM:

SUSPECT:

DISPOSITION/DAT:

BB:

RELEASED BY:

RELEASED TO:

ADD ITEM DESC:

6:

7:

8:

9:

10:

11:

12:

13:

14:

15:

ADD CHAIN:

D:

E:

F:

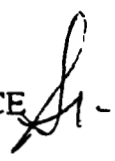
G:

H:

Seq #: 98

C: FAA
NTSB
DC Senior

**QUINCY POLICE DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM
TO SERVE WITH PRIDE AND DIGNITY**

DATE: JANUARY 22, 2001
TO: FILE
FROM: DAVE SENIOR, DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE 
RE: CFN 2001-02435

At 1150 hours on January 22, 2001, I met with Federal Aviation Administration Inspector Curt Lindauer. Inspector Lindauer stated that he was in Quincy investigating the incident at Blessing Hospital involving Robert McCormick. Investigator Lindauer displayed FAA identification and gave me one of his business cards. He requested copies of Quincy Police Department's reports regarding the incident at Blessing Hospital and copies of any pictures that we currently had in our position. I provided him a copy of the Quincy Police report and had the digital pictures taken at the scene saved to disk and provided him with 3 1/2 floppy disks. At his request, I stated that we would send copies of the 35mm photographs to him when they are developed.

DS:rk

attachment

c: Chief DeVoss
Deputy Chief Cramer
2001-02435