



**Survival Factors Attachment 8 – Offender Interviews**

**Penwell, Texas**

**HWY15MH004**

(53 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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PRISON TRANSPORT BUS CRASH

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NEAR PENWELL, TEXAS

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Docket No.: HWY-15-MH-004

JANUARY 14, 2015

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Interview of: [REDACTED]

Central Medical Center Hospital  
Odessa, Texas

Sunday,  
January 18, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: [REDACTED]

Survival Factors Investigator

APPEARANCES:

████████████████████, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

████████████████████, Sergeant  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

████████████████████  
Texas Office of the Inspector General

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of [REDACTED]:

By Mr. [REDACTED]

4

I N T E R V I E W

(12:15 p.m.)

1  
2  
3 MR. [REDACTED]: My name is [REDACTED]. I'm here at  
4 the Central Medical Center Hospital. Today's date is January  
5 18th. It's approximately 12:15. I'm here with Sergeant [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED] with the TDCJ; [REDACTED] with the Texas OIG; and we're  
7 with Offender [REDACTED]. He was  
8 born on May 10, 1980. He's 6 foot tall, approximately 198 pounds.  
9 And Mr. [REDACTED] is going to give us a description of what he  
10 recalls about the accident from beginning to end.

## INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED]

BY MR. [REDACTED]:

Q. Go ahead, Mr. [REDACTED].

14 A. Well, I usually try to stay up all the time, you know,  
15 I'm on the road because you don't know what might happen, to be  
16 aware of your surroundings. But everything was going right. I  
17 don't know. I don't know, suddenly -- to me, because I'm a tire  
18 tech out there in the world and I could tell you what's wrong or  
19 -- with a tire, if it's in the front or in the back.

20 Well, anyways, to me it felt like that we had a blowout  
21 in the front of the vehicle. But it wasn't that. That's just  
22 what I thought as soon as -- as soon as we lost control, I thought  
23 we had a blowout on the front on the vehicle and that we had hit  
24 somebody and they ended up on the side of the bus. But that's all  
25 that I remember till right there. I didn't know that actually we

1 had hit the guardrail two times and then went up in the air.

2 Q. That's what you -- and you found that out, how?

3 A. I found that out whenever I woke up, and that my feet  
4 were stuck in my face and that the center cage of the bus was  
5 twisted out in the middle of the inside of the bus. And when  
6 whenever I figured out and then once -- because I kept on calling  
7 out just to see if anybody was hearing me because I had feet in my  
8 face and hands and all kinds of stuff.

9 And I was trying to move hands and everything out of my  
10 face so I could get some air. And the guy that was handcuffed to  
11 me, he's the one that told me, hey, don't worry about it, we're  
12 going to be all right; just chill, relax. And by that time, we  
13 heard the sirens. I don't know how long it took. And you know  
14 like, for me, it felt like eternity. But finally the ambulance  
15 got there and I would hear people, barely. I could barely hear  
16 them saying I don't think there's anybody alive and woo, woo.  
17 And I'm like, no, hold up. I was saying inside of me, hold up,  
18 man, we are alive up in here. And I'm -- there might not be many  
19 of us but we are.

20 So I started shaking my feet because my feet were on top  
21 of everybody. Right? So, okay, they see me. Hey, we got  
22 somebody alive over here. And they just -- the ambulance started  
23 getting there and the fire trucks. I don't know who else were out  
24 there. And they started cutting it open like a sardine can. And  
25 started taking people off of me one by one and just got to me and

1 the rest of the guys that were alive, which is something.

2 Q. Okay. And you said you thought there was a blowout and  
3 then you thought may have hit another vehicle?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And then you said it hit the guardrail two times. How  
6 do you know it hit the -- do you -- how do you know that it hit  
7 the guardrail? Is that what you remember or --

8 A. Well --

9 Q. -- is that what you heard or that's what you saw on TV?

10 A. No. No, no, no, no. Because to me whenever you had a  
11 blowout, your vehicle falls down one time on the side on your  
12 wheel, right? And, of course, the reaction, the vehicle's going  
13 to go hit something from whatever side that gets the blowout. So  
14 that's where it was two hits that I'm saying from. But little did  
15 I know that it was -- that it was a guardrail that it had hit, not  
16 no cars, because there was -- supposedly there wasn't nobody out  
17 there.

18 Q. Right.

19 A. And we went airborne, so it had to have hit two times.  
20 I guess the driver kept on trying to pull it, so --

21 Q. He tried to steer back to the --

22 A. Yes. I'm guessing.

23 Q. You're guessing?

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. Okay.

1           A.    I'm guessing that's what it was.  He tried to steer off  
2 of the --

3           Q.    Did you feel that or that's what you're kind of --  
4 you're guessing?

5           A.    Well, that's what it felt like.

6           Q.    Okay.

7           A.    You know, that -- I'm guessing he tried to steer off of  
8 it but he couldn't control it.  It's too much weight, man.  Them  
9 vehicles too heavy for that and especially with all that ice.  
10 Shoot.

11          Q.    Did the drive leading up there, was there -- did the  
12 driver know?  Did it seem like it was slippery?  Could you tell  
13 driving in the back or did he slip at all?

14          A.    Look, I'll be honest with you, not everybody's going to  
15 tell you how the roads are, especially knowing that we are all --  
16 I mean, we were -- we're incarcerated to begin with, so they ain't  
17 really -- I guess they feel they ain't got to really tell us.  
18 Unless it's real dangerous, then the people -- superiors in front  
19 of him are going to tell him, hey, ain't moving, just stay back,  
20 you know?  But it isn't that we -- ain't nobody ever going to find  
21 that out.  Ain't no telling.

22          Q.    Right.

23          A.    They ain't going to say, hey, you know what, the ice --  
24 the road's kind of slippery, we're just going to stop right here  
25 at the end of the road.  Why you going to do that?  No, no way, no



1 how, I don't see it happening.

2 Q. Right.

3 A. So --

4 Q. Now on the drive, you left -- once you left Abilene, you  
5 guys -- did you have a -- did you stop somewhere?

6 A. Yes, sir. We stopped at a Allsup's right there off on  
7 Industrial Road on Midland.

8 Q. In Midland?

9 A. Yes. That's where they usually -- because I've been on  
10 this same bus ride probably, like, seven times, I guess. A good  
11 seven times. And they always stop by the Allsup's, they switch  
12 drivers, and then they go all the way to Van Horn and switch  
13 again.

14 Q. So you stopped at Allsup's in Midland.

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. On Industrial?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And then you -- and they changed drivers there?

19 A. Yes, sir. Yeah, because that guy that -- that guy that  
20 was driving, he's the one that came over here to the back because  
21 he had a (indiscernible) --

22 Q. The first driver --

23 A. Yes. Yes.

24 Q. -- who went all the way to the back?

25 A. Yes. He came to the back. Yeah, because I know him. I

1 remember -- I don't remember his name or nothing. But whenever  
2 we're getting on top of the bus, you know, sometimes you pay  
3 attention to your surroundings and sometimes you just trying to  
4 get going from where you're at. So, I mean --

5 Q. And then the second driver, do you remember anything  
6 about the second driver that --

7 A. I don't know if he was the one that -- that he came from  
8 the back or if it was the one that was sitting in front with the  
9 other one.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I don't -- I'm not going to lie. I don't know.

12 Q. Can you describe him? Do you remember what he looks  
13 like?

14 A. Oh, I know, I know the back one -- hold on. Was it the  
15 back one? Because the one that's where I was is white man, right?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Yeah. Yes, I remember him. The other ones, they were  
18 Hispanic, but I don't know what they looked like. Yes, because I  
19 know that because I -- because we were kind of talking to him to  
20 make our time go by. Yeah, we were being clowns with him a little  
21 bit. That's the only reason I recall him.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And so the -- did you only stop the one time or did you  
25 stop a second time?

1 A. That's it. Just one time.

2 Q. That was it? Okay. Now, do you recall -- I have a  
3 seating chart I kind of drew up here. Do you recall approximately  
4 where you were seated? We have nine rows. As you can see, the  
5 arrows are facing forward for the seats that face forward.

6 A. I was right here.

7 Q. And then you have the seats that face rearward. So you  
8 were in row 7, you think?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. In the aisle seat? Seven on the passenger -- driver's  
11 side.

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. In the aisle seat or window seat?

14 A. On the window seat.

15 Q. Window seat.

16 A. Yeah. And then --

17 Q. And how about the person that you were connected to?

18 A. He ended up being somewhere over here in the back  
19 somewhere. I don't -- way back here.

20 Q. But weren't you connected with handcuffs?

21 A. Yes. But -- yeah, we weren't sitting together though.

22 Q. You weren't?

23 A. Well, we were.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. We were. But whenever I woke up, like I said,

1 everything was --

2 Q. Okay. I'm saying before the crash.

3 A. Yeah. We were sitting next to each other and then he  
4 sat over here to the next seat because his -- he was getting  
5 tired. I said, man, just switch over for a little bit and then  
6 I'll switch back.

7 Q. So he went to row --

8 A. So we could get comfortable.

9 Q. -- 8 behind you?

10 A. Yes. Yes.

11 Q. And so you had your arm, like, over the seat.

12 A. Not over. Not over. It was in between the seats  
13 because --

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. -- they have them bucket seats. Okay. And then --

16 Q. So that was at the time of the crash, he moved behind  
17 you? That was -- he was behind you at the time of the crash?

18 A. I think he was still --

19 Q. Or did he move back next to you?

20 A. No, he hadn't moved back yet.

21 Q. Okay, so --

22 A. Yeah, because we were all talking.

23 Q. And his name was -- what was --

24 A. I know it was a black guy.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [REDACTED].

1 MR. [REDACTED]: [REDACTED].

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, [REDACTED].

3 MR. [REDACTED]: Yes.

4 BY MR. K [REDACTED]:

5 Q. [REDACTED]?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. So [REDACTED] was sitting next to you but then he  
8 got tired and he moved to the seat --

9 A. Yeah, he had to switch. It's a long drive, man.

10 Q. Sure.

11 A. In them bucket seats.

12 Q. Oh, yeah. Yeah.

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. So he moved behind you in row 8.

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. And was he in the aisle set or the window seat?

17 A. In the window seat.

18 Q. Okay. So you were both in the window seat and you just  
19 had your arm between the two seats?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. And do you remember where anyone else was seated?  
22 Was anybody behind [REDACTED]?

23 A. No, no. The commissary bags were.

24 Q. Commissary bags were in row 9?

25 A. Yes. And -- yeah, all the way in row 9, and then over

1 here was [REDACTED] and this other guy from Dallas.

2 Q. And that's in -- across from you in row 7?

3 A. Yeah, right across from our seats. It was like this.

4 Q. Was [REDACTED] -- was he in the aisle seat or the window  
5 seat?

6 A. They were all in the window seat.

7 Q. He was in the window seat?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. [REDACTED] was?

10 A. Yes. And the other one was exactly like I was, in a  
11 window seat too, but just across.

12 Q. But you don't remember his name?

13 A. On number 7. No. I just remember his tattoos because  
14 he had Dallas, Texas on the forearms. What was his name?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is that the same offender that  
16 told you everything's going to be okay; help's on the way?

17 MR. PINEDA: No. That was the one that was handcuffed  
18 to me.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, that's the one that was  
20 handcuffed to you?

21 MR. [REDACTED]: Yes.

22 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

23 Q. So you're not sure of his name but he was from Dallas  
24 and he had some Dallas tattoo?

25 A. Yes, sir. And then -- oh, and then on 6th and 5th seat,

1 they're facing each other. Okay. Over here in this one it was  
2 that other [REDACTED]. His name was [REDACTED].

3 Q. In row 6?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Passenger side?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And his name -- and he was in the window seat or aisle?

8 A. Yes. He -- they were both facing forward, but they were  
9 sitting next to each other. Hold up. Yes. Yes, yes, they were.  
10 They were like that, because these other ones over here, they were  
11 sitting like that, almost laying down.

12 Q. Okay. So the person in row 6 on the passenger side  
13 window, what was his name?

14 A. [REDACTED].

15 Q. That was a [REDACTED]?

16 A. Yes. But I forgot his first name. [REDACTED] or something  
17 like that. And I'm not --

18 Q. And who was -- he was -- his partner that was sitting in  
19 the aisle seat next to him?

20 A. That was -- let's see. Was he Hispanic? Yeah. That  
21 was another Hispanic guy, seems like to me. Yes, because on row 6  
22 on the driver side over here, on this other side, there were two  
23 black guys together. I forgot their last names.

24 Q. Okay. And where, do you know -- you may not know their  
25 names, but did you know where others were seated in towards the

1 front here?

2 A. Yeah, and then the other ones -- [REDACTED], [REDACTED], the  
3 one that's still alive over here?

4 Q. Uh-huh.

5 A. He was sitting over here on number 1 and his partner --

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. -- I forgot who was with him. He was sitting on number  
8 2. They were laying down. I don't know how they ended up over  
9 here on this side. They did, though. That was crazy.

10 Q. And that was -- they were both in the window seat and  
11 doing like you did with -- you were in the window seat and your --  
12 he had his arm --

13 A. Yes. Exactly.

14 Q. -- behind. And who was the -- his partner behind him?  
15 Do you know?

16 A. No. Well, them seats right there face each other.

17 Q. Right.

18 A. So they had their hands hanging in the middle.

19 Q. Oh, right.

20 A. To see each other.

21 Q. Right. They were right across from each other --

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. -- because they were facing each other.

24 A. Yep.

25 Q. Okay.



1           A.    And two -- then the other two were over here on first  
2 and second row. I forgot the name of them guys too.

3           Q.    But you don't know who was sitting across from ██████████  
4 in row 2? And also in the window seat or were they laying down,  
5 you said?

6           A.    No, they were laying, because that was -- I think that  
7 was it. That was 1, 2, 3, 4 --

8           Q.    So they were laying down, ██████████ and the other one,  
9 in row 1 and 2?

10          A.    -- 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 -- yeah, 15. I  
11 think that was it. Yeah.

12          Q.    So they were both laying down in row 1 and 2?

13          A.    Yes. Yes, yes, yes, yes.

14          Q.    Okay. Okay, and then you mentioned somebody else on the  
15 other side?

16          A.    I was trying to think. All I remember is there was 15  
17 on it.

18          Q.    Because that's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 -- and so we still  
19 have --

20          A.    One, 2 --

21          Q.    -- four other passengers.

22          A.    -- 3, 4, 5, 6 -- no. Because it was me and the black  
23 guy, 1, 2. ██████████, the other one, 2, 3. Two black guys, 4, 5.  
24 ██████████ and that other guy, 6, 7. And ██████████ and that other one, 9,  
25 10. And so the other ones were just sitting across from --

1 Q. Where?

2 A. -- from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] over here on 1 row and 2  
3 row.

4 Q. And those do not face each other. They're rear facing.

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. So would they have just had their arm in between like  
7 that again?

8 A. Yeah. Yeah.

9 Q. Were they laying down or in the window seat or in the  
10 aisle seat?

11 A. I think -- well, they would exchange because they would  
12 get tired.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. That's a very tiring position, man. You got to be  
15 changing around over and over.

16 Q. You don't know their names in the front in row 2 on the  
17 driver's side?

18 A. No. I ain't going to lie. Uh-uh. I was trying to  
19 remember. I always knew -- I always try to remember to remember  
20 everything, but I can't remember for some reason. It was too much  
21 knocks and bings in my head.

22 Q. Okay. So we have the three drivers. That's 3, 4, 5, 6,  
23 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 --

24 A. Yeah, 2 --

25 Q. So we have somebody in row 6, row 7 --

1 A. -- 6, 7, 8 --

2 Q. Row 6, 1 and 2, 1 and 2. Was there anybody between 1  
3 and -- between you --

4 A. -- 12, 13, 14.

5 Q. So, 3, 4, 5 and 6?

6 A. Okay, on 3 and 4.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. I think there was some other guys.

9 Q. You're thinking they were in 3 and 4?

10 A. Yeah, they was on 3 and 4.

11 Q. And that would have been --

12 A. Yeah, because they wasn't over here on this side no  
13 more.

14 Q. And 3 and 4 on the -- and it would have been a rear  
15 facing and a forward facing.

16 A. Yeah. Yeah.

17 Q. So they were sitting across from each other. Were they  
18 laying down also, do you know? Or you --

19 A. No, they were just sitting down.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. You know what? Because not all buses are like this.  
22 This is only -- this is the first time I seen one like this. They  
23 switched it up, for real.

24 Q. Yeah. I drew that up.

25 A. Like they switched it up for real, because they're not

1 all like this.

2 Q. What? The buses aren't?

3 A. No.

4 Q. They're not all like that?

5 A. No.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Newer bus.

7 MR. [REDACTED]: Yeah. Because it usually has two cages  
8 separating over here. Now, this one, they only had one cage.  
9 That's what tripped me out.

10 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

11 Q. And maybe because this is a new bus?

12 A. Yeah. That's why it tripped me out, that that thingy in  
13 the middle was almost like -- like Officer [REDACTED] was saying over  
14 here, it's almost like we were in a -- what'd he call it?

15 Q. A transit bus? Like a --

16 A. No, no. Like a vegetable van or something like that?

17 MR. [REDACTED]: A blender?

18 MR. [REDACTED]: Yeah. Like a blender. It was just  
19 chopping everything that was inside, man. That metal in here,  
20 yes.

21 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

22 Q. Oh, when the accident occurred?

23 A. Oh, yeah. It would have been from out of this world to  
24 see something like that and just live through it like that? Oh,  
25 no.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. I'm kind of glad that I passed away (indiscernible).

3 Q. So what types of -- Mr. [REDACTED], what kind of injuries  
4 did you sustain? I see you got a -- is that -- you got a left arm  
5 injury? Is that a --

6 A. Yeah. My left shoulder blade, aside of there. My  
7 rotator on my left shoulder blade. My wrist. And then the same  
8 hand, my finger broke off. They just put some pins in there for  
9 me. Just --

10 Q. So what's wrong with your -- your left shoulder blade  
11 was broken?

12 A. Yes. It's broken.

13 Q. Or dislocated?

14 A. It's broken.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Yeah. They can't even fix it.

17 Q. And your wrist is broken?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. And you have a finger --

20 A. It was broken but they put some pins --

21 Q. Your thumb?

22 A. Yeah, they put some pins in my thumb. And then on my  
23 foot.

24 Q. Left foot?

25 A. Yeah. I got a -- what is it? Like where -- oh, Lord, I

1 forgot the name of that bone they told me. Like my heel is  
2 broken.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. My heel. And then my right knee, inside of there.

5 Q. What's wrong with your right knee?

6 A. It's -- I don't know, it was --

7 Q. Dislocated?

8 A. Some -- something. I don't know what it is. Like I  
9 never had that accident in my life before.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. I don't know what it is, but it's bad. And then I got  
12 broken ribs.

13 Q. How many? Do you know? On which side?

14 A. What'd they say? Seven or eight or something like that.

15 Q. Seven or eight broken ribs?

16 A. Yeah. I got some ribs broke.

17 Q. On which side? Do you know?

18 A. I know there some on my -- on my lower back, over on  
19 this side. And then I have a crack on my vertebrae, on my spinal  
20 cord on the very, very low part of it. And then my sternum broke  
21 too, and I guess everything else is bruised up. Oh, and then they  
22 said I have some closed arteries in the back of my neck and some  
23 crushed bones over here in the back, but they did this -- they put  
24 something through my veins so they could go in there so they could  
25 splice some veins or something like that.

- 1 Q. Right.
- 2 A. Yeah, I don't know -- I forgot what that was called.
- 3 Q. So you have a neck injury?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Okay. So you have your left shoulder blade and left  
6 wrist are fractured.
- 7 A. Uh-huh.
- 8 Q. Your left thumb is fractured and has pins.
- 9 A. Uh-huh.
- 10 Q. Your left foot, your heel is fractured.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And you have a unknown -- you got a right knee injury of  
13 some sort.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. You have fractured ribs, about seven or eight  
16 combined, maybe three on one side, four on the other.
- 17 A. Give or take, somewhere around there.
- 18 Q. Yeah. And then you have a cracked vertebrae in your  
19 lower back.
- 20 A. Yeah.
- 21 Q. And you have a cracked sternum.
- 22 A. Yes, sir.
- 23 Q. And you have a neck injury.
- 24 A. Well, you know what, I think the sternum is broken.
- 25 Q. Sternum is broken, yeah.

1 A. Yes, it's broken completely --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. -- because whenever I breathe I could feel it pop on one  
4 side and then pop to the other side.

5 Q. So you don't want to be laughing at all, right?

6 A. Oh, no.

7 Q. No?

8 A I laugh every now and then --

9 Q. That's going to hurt.

10 A. -- don't get me wrong. But I know how to --

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. -- you know, my hand.

13 Q. So I appreciate -- you did a great job on this seating  
14 chart. I'll fill in the names here.

15 A. Oh, Jesus.

16 Q. But I thank you very much and --

17 A. You're welcome.

18 Q. -- wish you a speedy recovery.

19 A. Me too because, man, this is the wrong place to be hurt  
20 at, man.

21 Q. Okay. That -- anything else you can remember? You --  
22 so you don't remember who the drivers were?

23 A. No, because it was nighttime and --

24 Q. But you know there were two Hispanics up in the front.

25 A. Yes, and one -- yes.



1 Q. And you had the Caucasian --

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- guard in the very back.

4 A. Yeah, I know -- I remember him for a fact.

5 Q. But he was the original driver?

6 A. Yes, he was.

7 Q. All right. Okay. And then you guys stopped in Midland  
8 at the Allsup's.

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. And then regarding the crash, you said it felt like it  
11 was a -- you had a blowout, possibly --

12 A. That's how it feel to me.

13 Q. Right. Okay. Or initially you thought maybe you hit a  
14 vehicle but then you thought about it and you think that it hit  
15 the guardrail two times --

16 A. Well --

17 Q. -- because you can feel the driver was trying to --

18 A. Yeah. Struggling with it.

19 Q. -- struggling and steering to the right.

20 A. Oh.

21 Q. And then when you hit, then you -- your partner, you're  
22 connected, and he was saying you guys are going to be okay.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You heard talking. When the EMS and -- started coming,  
25 and so you started kicking your feet so you let them know that you

1 were there.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Towards the bottom, I guess.

4 A. So they wouldn't cut my feet off. See my -- yeah, so --  
5 don't move -- don't touch them feet. Those feet are good.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Leave them alone, please.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Yes. I didn't want them to cut them off. Oh, man.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Oh, Jesus.

12 Q. So, okay, sir. That concludes the interview here at  
13 approximately 12:40.

14 (Whereupon, at 12:40 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: PRISON TRANSPORT BUS CRASH  
NEAR PENWELL, TEXAS  
JANUARY 14, 2015  
Interview of [REDACTED]

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY-15-MH-004

PLACE: Lubbock, Texas

DATE: January 18, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

---

[REDACTED]  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of:

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PRISON TRANSPORT BUS CRASH

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NEAR PENWELL, TEXAS

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Docket No.: HWY-15-MH-004

JANUARY 14, 2015

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Interview of: [REDACTED]

North Central Hospital  
Odessa, Texas

Sunday,  
January 18, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: [REDACTED]

Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

██████████, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of [REDACTED]:

By Mr. [REDACTED]

4

1 I N T E R V I E W

2 MR. [REDACTED]: I'm here with [REDACTED] at  
3 the North Central Hospital.

4 INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED]

5 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

6 Q. Can you tell me, Mr. [REDACTED], what you remember about  
7 the crash? What do you remember?

8 A. I was sitting in the back, talking to one of the  
9 inmates. I felt a big ass bump and I flew up. And after that I  
10 don't remember what happened.

11 Q. Okay. Do you -- you were seated in the back, towards  
12 the back?

13 A. I was like in the front.

14 Q. Towards the front? Okay. Behind the driver's side or  
15 the passenger side?

16 A. The passenger side.

17 Q. Passenger side? Was that the front row -- first row,  
18 second row?

19 A. First row.

20 Q. Okay. Were you seated in the aisle seat or the window  
21 seat?

22 A. The window seat.

23 Q. Okay. And your partner, who was your partner sitting  
24 next to you?

25 A. He was sitting on the other side.

1 Q. He was sitting in row two, because you guys were facing  
2 each other?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Okay. Was he in the window seat too?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Yes? And what -- do you remember anything about the  
7 crash before you got knocked out?

8 A. (No audible response.)

9 Q. No?

10 A. Just felt a big bump. I flew up and that was it.

11 Q. You what?

12 A. A big ass bump, like, a (indiscernible) --

13 Q. You hit a big bump?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. And after that I don't remember.

17 Q. Okay. And do you know what kind of injuries you have?

18 A. A concussion. I was dazed for a couple days.

19 Q. Okay. Any fractures? Do you know if you have any  
20 fractures?

21 A. Some type of fracture on my right shoulder blade.

22 Q. Okay. Your legs are okay?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. How about your ribs?

25 A. Something about my back too, I think. That's what they



1 said.

2 Q. Okay. You -- okay. I thank you very much.

3 A. Huh?

4 Q. Speedy recovery.

5 A. Yeah.

6 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           PRISON TRANSPORT BUS CRASH  
                                  NEAR PENWELL, TEXAS  
                                  JANUARY 14, 2015  
                                  Interview of [REDACTED]

DOCKET NUMBER:            HWY-15-MH-004

PLACE:                      San Antonio, Texas

DATE:                        January 18, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[REDACTED]  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of:

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PRISON TRANSPORT BUS CRASH

\*

NEAR PENWELL, TEXAS

\*

Docket No.: HWY-15-MH-004

JANUARY 14, 2015

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\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: [REDACTED]

Central Medical Center Hospital  
Odessa, Texas

Sunday,  
January 18, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: [REDACTED]

Survival Factors Investigator

APPEARANCES:

██████████, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N D E X

ITEM

PAGE

Interview of [REDACTED]:

By Mr. [REDACTED]

4



1           A.    I remember hitting the guardrail and everybody was just  
2 hanging by a string.  Everybody was handcuffed.  There, after  
3 that, a police officer showed up.  I told him, look, sir, I need  
4 you to give me the key.  And he took a breather because there  
5 was -- he couldn't take it.

6           Q.    Sure.

7           A.    And I told him, look, sir, please give me the key.  He  
8 goes, "Hold on, man.  Damn."  And he took a breather because, I  
9 mean --

10          Q.    He couldn't handle what he was seeing?

11          A.    He couldn't handle it.  There was (indiscernible) split,  
12 people's head busted open, people hanging by a string.  They  
13 started chopping people up the dead people to get to the  
14 survivors.  That's the only way.

15          Q.    Right.

16          A.    I mean, it's self-explanatory.

17          Q.    Right.  Now do you -- when you hit the guardrail, do you  
18 know, did you recall -- did it hit the guardrail once, twice, or  
19 you just don't remember?

20          A.    It landed on its side on my cellie, the guy I was  
21 handcuffed to.  He died.

22          Q.    Right.  And what was his name?  Who were you handcuffed  
23 to?

24          A.    I can't recall.

25          Q.    Do you remember where you were seated in the bus?

1 A. I was --

2 Q. Here's a -- like a picture of the bus. This is towards  
3 the back of the bus, and this is the driver's side, this is the  
4 jump seat in the back, and this is the passenger side.

5 A. I was like on the seventh seat.

6 Q. In the seventh seat?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Okay. Were you -- and was your partner sitting next to  
9 you or behind you, in front of you?

10 A. He was handcuffed to me.

11 Q. Right. But was he sitting in the same seat?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. And were you in the aisle seat or the window  
14 seat?

15 A. I was in a window seat.

16 Q. And he was in the aisle seat?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. And do you know what all types of injuries you  
19 sustained?

20 A. Me, personally?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. I got a fractured skull. I got a broken back; it's all  
23 caved in. My throat came out.

24 Q. What's -- your throat?

25 A. Yes. They just put it -- my arm.



- 1 Q. Your left arm?
- 2 A. My left arm was -- I'm surprised they saved it.
- 3 Q. It was torn up pretty good?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. I see a lot of scratches.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Any fractures, broken bones?
- 8 A. My back is broken.
- 9 Q. Okay. Do you know, is your arm broken as well, your  
10 left arm?
- 11 A. My arm, my arm wasn't broken.
- 12 Q. It was just torn up, tear apart?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Yeah. How about your right hand?
- 15 A. My right hand was good.
- 16 Q. It's just cut up?
- 17 A. Couple of stitches.
- 18 Q. Any rib fractures?
- 19 A. My ribs, I mean, they were fractured.
- 20 Q. You don't know how many?
- 21 A. I had asked the doctor if my ribs were okay. She  
22 hesitated to tell me. I was like, just tell me; I have a right to  
23 know. Said said, well, your ribs caved in from the back inwards,  
24 inwards.
- 25 Q. Right. So did you have like a punctured lung? Or do

1 you have any internal injuries; do you know?

2 A. I haven't got word from them yet.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. But --

5 A. Okay, so you think you were in the row -- row seven on  
6 the passenger side, and you were in the window seat and your  
7 partner was in the aisle seat?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. Okay, sir, I thank you very much and I wish you a  
10 speedy recovery. Is there anything else you want to -- about the  
11 crash you can remember or anything else?

12 A. It fell on a train.

13 Q. Right. Okay.

14 A. One thing led to another.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. I mean, it's self-explanatory, you know.

17 Q. Right. Okay, sir, thank you very much.

18 A. You're welcome.

19 Q. Wish you a speedy recovery.

20 MR. [REDACTED]: That concludes the interview at  
21 approximately 3 minutes to 1:00.

22 (Whereupon, at 12:57 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:           PRISON TRANSPORT BUS CRASH  
                                  NEAR PENWELL, TEXAS  
                                  JANUARY 14, 2015  
                                  Interview of [REDACTED]

DOCKET NUMBER:           HWY-14-MH-014

PLACE:                    Odessa, Texas

DATE:                     January 18, 2015

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,  
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed  
to the best of my skill and ability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[REDACTED]  
Transcriber

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of:

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PRISON TRANSPORT BUS CRASH

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NEAR PENWELL, TEXAS

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Docket No.: HWY-15-MH-004

JANUARY 14, 2015

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\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: [REDACTED]

Central Medical Center  
Odessa, Texas

Tuesday,  
January 20, 2015

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: [REDACTED]

Survival Factors Investigator

## APPEARANCES:

██████████, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

██████████, Inspector  
Texas Office of the Inspector General

I N D E X

ITEM

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Interview of [REDACTED]:

By Mr. [REDACTED]

4



1 I N T E R V I E W

2 MR. [REDACTED]: Today's date is January 20th. I'm at  
3 Central Medical Center here in Odessa with Texas OIG investigator  
4 [REDACTED]. I'm [REDACTED] and we're talking to Offender  
5 [REDACTED].

6 INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED]

7 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

8 Q. Mr. [REDACTED], what's your date of birth?

9 A. [REDACTED] 1992.

10 Q. Okay. And your approximate height and weight?

11 A. I'm about 5'5", 155.

12 Q. Okay. Now do you remember where you were seated in the  
13 bus?

14 A. The seat from the end.

15 Q. Here's a seating chart.

16 A. I got on the bus and I remember the dude telling us  
17 nobody sit in that end row, so we just sat in a row before that  
18 seat.

19 Q. So you were in the eighth row? In the eighth row?  
20 Like, one from the back?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Right.

24 Q. And were you sitting with Pineda?

25 A. That was who I was chained with.

1 Q. Right.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. And you were in number 8 and then he was in  
4 number 7? You guys were --

5 A. Right.

6 Q. Okay. And do you know where anybody else was seated?

7 A. Oh, I don't know everybody name.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. But I was here, he was here. We had somebody -- two  
10 more people seated just like us, across.

11 Q. Okay, in 7 and 8 across from you?

12 A. Right. A seat -- well, the dude I was chained with, it  
13 was one dude and his cellmate -- well, his chain partner, they was  
14 seated together in one seat. And that's all I remember --

15 Q. Okay, that's fine.

16 A. -- about the seating arrangement.

17 Q. Okay. And can you tell me what -- tell me from the time  
18 -- what you remember about your trip and from the time you went  
19 off -- that you remember the crash or what you remember. Any  
20 bumps, any skidding, anything like that?

21 A. I was at, I was at Middleton and they called us out for  
22 chain. They say "Chain, get ready. Chain, get ready." We got  
23 ready, we put our (indiscernible). They took us all down there to  
24 the cafeteria. We ate. It was -- I think it was a Tuesday  
25 morning. We ate. They tell us we was going to Sanchez Unit. So



1 we ate the pancakes that morning. They made us take our jackets  
2 off. We put the jackets in a jacket bin and we went and seated  
3 and waited for the chain buses. And during that process, they  
4 stripped us naked, they checked us, like, just like they do  
5 through intake, they checked us and stuff like that. After that,  
6 after they checked us, they took us and put us in the cages where  
7 we will be assigned and wait on our chain buses.

8           After that, I remember about two chains leaving before  
9 us. Two different chains left before us. It was our turn, and I  
10 think it was one more chain after us. But there was still people  
11 left in cages after we left.

12           So we left, and I remember we stayed on the road. We  
13 exited after unit (ph.) and everything. After that, we stopped.  
14 They gave us our johnnies. We stopped --

15           Q. Midland at Allsup's?

16           A. Midland, at a restaurant.

17           Q. Okay.

18           A. We stopped at the parking lot. They gave us our  
19 johnnies. And when they gave us our johnnies, I'm guessing they  
20 went in there to use the restroom. So once they all came out, we  
21 hit the road.

22           Q. Did they switch drivers?

23           A. I don't know if they switched drivers, but there was  
24 somebody new in the back from when we first -- I don't know if he  
25 was driving or not.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. But from when we first started the trip and between that  
3 stopping point, a new driver came back there. And once that had  
4 happened, like I say, we hit the road again. After we hit the  
5 road, that's all I remember. I don't remember crashing. I don't  
6 remember no ice. I don't even remember nothing after that. They  
7 -- I was talking to people that seen the crash on the news and  
8 said it was a pretty big crash. They said we hit some ice, fell  
9 off the bridge, and something else about a train.

10 Q. Right.

11 A. I don't remember none of that. I don't even remember  
12 getting hit, coming to the hospital, nothing.

13 Q. Okay. So you don't remember when the emergency response  
14 got there? You don't remember being in a pile in the bus? You  
15 don't remember anything like that?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. Okay. And what types of injuries do you have? Do you  
18 know?

19 A. Bad ones. I got scrapes and bumps and bruises on my  
20 legs, from my toe to my ear.

21 Q. Any fractures, broken bones?

22 A. It's something did with my lungs. I really can't tell  
23 you what it is, but I was on a respirator. I had two lungs. One  
24 of my lungs is still trying to develop. They had me on a  
25 respirator. My lungs are still bruised, my ribs are still

1 bruised.

2 Q. You have no broken that you know of?

3 A. Not that I know of.

4 Q. Okay. Any head injuries because you were knocked out?

5 A. Not that I know of. They didn't tell me about any.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. But when I came and finally woke up in the hospital, I  
8 don't know how I got here. Somebody told me I was in a crash. I  
9 said okay, maybe I was just here for about a day. They told me I  
10 had already been here a week before I woke up. I was here 4 days  
11 before I actually just came to realize that I had woke up. I  
12 don't know if I was woke in between or anything, but right when I  
13 woke up, I remember hearing one of the guards ask me what my  
14 mother name was, because she was worried and concerned about me.  
15 That's the first thing I remember when I woke up in the hospital  
16 bed.

17 Q. Okay. Well, I just -- we were trying to see, besides  
18 your injuries and height, weight, and your birth date -- what's  
19 your birth -- date of birth?

20 A. [REDACTED], 1992.

21 Q. Okay. And we're just trying to see if anybody  
22 remembered anything about the crash or what you can recall about  
23 the driving and on the way up or before the crash, so --

24 A. They --

25 Q. You remember pretty good everything up to the crash

1     though.

2           A.    Yeah.

3           Q.    Yeah.

4           A.    And they tell me that not everybody made it.

5           Q.    Right.

6           A.    And that's bad to hear, man.

7           Q.    Yeah. Well, your partner, ██████████, he made it.

8           A.    That's good.

9           Q.    Yeah, yeah. Okay, well, we wish you a speedy recovery.

10          A.    Thank you.

11                 MR. ██████████: Okay. That concludes the interview here  
12 at approximately 10 after 3.

13                         (Whereupon, at 3:10 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: PRISON TRANSPORT BUS CRASH  
NEAR PENWELL, TEXAS  
JANUARY 14, 2015  
Interview of [REDACTED]

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY-14-MH-014

PLACE: Odessa, Texas

DATE: January 20, 2015

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to the best of my skill and ability.

---

[REDACTED]  
Transcriber