



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Todd Gunther
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: March 8, 2018
Subject: Text Messages
NTSB Accident Number: ERA16FA140

According to a nurse who was a friend of the pilot and flight nurse, they would text with each other routinely. Review of the text messages indicated that the pilot was aware of the weather conditions prior to the accident flight. The following is a summary of the text messages obtained by the NTSB:

Text messages between the flight nurse and the friend:

- At 13:37, the flight nurse advised her friend that, "Think we just got a flight."
- At 13:38, the flight nurse advised her friend, "Nope."
- At 13:39, the flight nurse then advised her friend that Dothan area was, "Red."
- At 13:40, her friend asked, "Wonder why".
- At 13:47, the flight nurse responded, "Weather. No idea."
- At 14:21, The flight nurse advised her friend, "Well they called us back for that flight that they cancelled us on," and her friend asked, "Where y'all going."
- At 14:23, The flight nurse responded, "Opp. Second time today."
- At 14:47, The nurse further stated that they were "going to a scene."

- At 16:02, the flight nurse advised her friend that they, “Just dropped off trauma at Sacred Heart in Pensacola, FL.”
- At 23:28, the flight nurse advised her friend, “Got a flight.” Her friend responded, “Have fun at that MVA.”
- At 23:36, the flight advised her friend, “Lots of fog!!!” Her friend then responded, “You’re in good hands.”
- At 23:37, the flight nurse responded to her friend and stated, “I know. But even he is like...Umm its pretty thick. Hahahaha.” She then added, “He said we are good. 5 mins out.”
- At 23:40, the friend stated, “Sweet. Keep me posted.”
- At 23:43, the flight nurse advised that they were, “1.8 miles out.” (This was the last text message sent by the flight nurse before the accident occurred).

Text messages between the pilot and the friend:

- At 18:04, The friend stated to the pilot that, “Hope you have fun transferring people tonight lol.”
- At 18:05, he responded to her that, “I feel we gonna go red lol.”
- At 18:32, the friend asked the pilot if he had made it in to work.
- At 18:45, the pilot responded to the friend, “Yea just walked in and started my paperwork.”
- At 23:23, the pilot advised the friend, “Yea just got a Mva call.” The friend responded, “Awe y’all are gonna actually get something besides a transfer lol.”
- At 23:30, the pilot responded to the friend stating, “Yippie.” The friend responded back to the pilot that he was working for his money.
- At 23:54, the pilot advised the friend, “Shhhh this was more than work...Actually had to pull out some piloting skills.”
- At, 23:56, the friend messaged the pilot stating that. “That’s what you got those mad piloting skills for my dear...to use them lol...was it bad?”

- At 23:58, the pilot responded back to the friend advising that, he would have to let the flight nurse tell her “but put it this way the other guys would have turned around.”
- At 00:00, the friend advised him that, “She text me that there was lots of fog but that’s all she said. I just responded to her she was in good hands...” The friend then asked, “Where did y’all go.”
- At 00:01, the pilot answered stating, “We are in enterprise..I’m sittin here still spinning watin..Gonna have to take to south it’s the only place where weather is flyable.”
- At 00:02, the friend asked him, “How long will it take you to get to south?”
- At 00:03, the pilot advised her, “Maybe 25-30 min.” The friend then asked, “Is it gonna be one of those flights where you have to use those mad piloting skills again?”
- At 00:04, the pilot responded stating, “Yea to take off after that should be good.”
- At 00:05, the friend asked the pilot, “They still getting the patient loaded.” He then responded, “Yea they still in the ambulance.”
- At 00:06, the friend stated that, “At least they have the best pilot taking them there.” The pilot responded that, “I wouldn’t say all that...”
- At 00:15, the friend responded back to the pilot stating, “Well you should.” (This was the last text message before the accident occurred).