



Memorandum

DATE: August 18, 2011

TO: Federal Aviation Administration

FROM: Ryan Roethemeier, Product Support, Missile & Fire Control

SUBJECT: Aircraft crash at Tupelo Airport on August 17, 2011

Approximately 0809 local time, I was standing on the Northwest face of the Mississippi National Guard Flight facility directly facing the North/South runway. I observed the aircraft in question depart the runway on a north takeoff. From my vantage point as described and shown to Albert L. McCray (Aviation Safety Inspector), I observed the aircraft climb to tree top level when I heard distress in the engine system. This occurrence lasted no longer than 1 to 2 seconds followed by both engines shutting off promptly. As the engines shut off I observed the airplane bank swiftly from a Northern vector to a Western vector which resulted in the plane positioned slightly nose down once the wings leveled off. Upon the wing leveling the aircraft abruptly entered a nose dive in the Western vector where I lost visual sight of the aircraft. After losing sight of the aircraft a loud collision sound occurred from the position the aircraft flew down to. There was no smoke or any other visual effects noted from my vantage point as I notified the National Guard operations center. We continued to watch the location and never seen any signs of fire to include smoke ever arise from the crash site at our position.

I currently maintain the position of the Lockheed Martin Inc Senior Field Engineer at the Tupelo National Guard Airbase. If any questions need to be answered please feel free to email me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]