

Post-It Fax Note	7671	Date	30 JAN 02 # of pages 2
To	MAXINE DYER	From	BRIAN SAPP
Co./Dept.	FAA SAFETY	Co.	
Phone #	[REDACTED]	Phone #	[REDACTED]
Fax #	269-8013	Fax #	

30 Jan 02

Brian K. Sapp

N. Las Vegas NV 89032

((cell) preferred) (home)

Subject: Statement of Incident Involving Hot Air Balloon Accident, 26 Jan 2002

I am active duty Air Force stationed at Nellis Air Force Base, but have a part time job with a stable owned by Cowboy Trail Rides, Las Vegas, which is located at the 12-mile marker on Kyle Canyon road.

At approximately 9:00 a.m., Saturday, 26 Jan 02, I had turned off of U.S. 95 onto Kyle Canyon Rd. I was about 2.5 - 3 miles from U.S. 95 when I spotted a hot air balloon, to my left in the desert, and descending rapidly, moving north about 400 yards south of the road. The balloon was only 20 feet or so off of the ground when I first saw it. There was a strong wind that morning and I noticed the balloon was tilting to the right and was only about 2/3 full of air.

When the balloon hit the ground the first time in the desert it looked like it hit pretty hard based on the amount of dust it kicked up. The balloon rose back up to about 30 - 40 feet off of the ground, still moving north fairly quickly, directly towards a house on the south side of the road. I had already slowed down and based on the fact that there were no other vehicles in sight I was watching to see if the balloon was actually going to hit the house. The balloon actually went through the back yard, over the first concrete wall and hit the wall/small building on the northeast corner of the house. The balloon hit the wall pretty hard and I noticed that I hadn't seen any people in the basket. I just about passed directly under the balloon as it crossed Kyle Canyon road. I turned the truck around thinking that the balloon must have gotten away during a take off or landing and maybe I could keep it from blowing out into the desert or across another roadway with the chains that I had in the truck. The balloon hit just north of the road about 20 yards and was dug through a small wash and stopped just as I stopped the truck. I believe that I was the only person to see the balloon hit all three times.

Before I even got out of the truck I spotted the first body. I was pretty shocked that there could actually have been people in the balloon but I grabbed my cell phone and ran to the body. I checked for a pulse, there wasn't one. I checked to see if the person was breathing; he was not. I immediately ran to check the basket for any other victims and found all six passengers were starting to move and speak. I dialed 911 and ran back to the first person. I notified the 911 operator of what had happened, where we were, and that there was at least one person with no pulse. The 911 operator said she would notify emergency services and that I should start CPR, which I was already attempting as I talked to her. I started the chest compressions and mouth to mouth resuscitation. At this point, one of the other passengers had made his way to me, I handed him the phone and continued chest compressions. When the next passenger, a female, made her way to where we were, about 30 yards short of where the balloon stopped moving, she took over mouth to mouth resuscitation. Being that we were on the far side of the wash and the person was laying with his head down into the wash it was difficult to do chest compressions or do mouth to mouth. When the next person made their way to us we stopped and turned him, even though I knew that you don't normally move a victim after an accident. In this situation, with the injuries that I could already see that he had, coupled with the fact that he had blood draining back out of his mouth and nose, I didn't think that moving him to a more level spot three feet away would hurt. At this point, the lady and I exchanged places and she did compressions while I continued mouth to mouth. I only found a faint pulse one time during the course of performing CPR but it was only for about three beats and then was gone. When we heard the first sirens, I told the individual that I gave my phone to go wait by the road but looking back, I don't think there would have been any way they could have missed the balloon and us. We continued CPR and mouth-to-mouth until paramedics arrived and made us quit. While the first two paramedics checked on the first person, I went with the other paramedics to check on the other victims. Five of the passengers had already been up and moving with what looked to be minor injuries (cuts, scrapes, etc). One passenger had gotten out of the basket but was still on the ground with what was probably a sprained shoulder or broken arm. I assisted the paramedics with some basic first aid until they were ready to start loading the ambulances.

We loaded two of the victims onto the Flight for Life helicopter, two into the first ambulance and one each into the remaining two ambulances. I gave my witness statement to one of the officers on the scene and was released from the area. I know that my witness statement was not nearly this detailed but I was still pretty shook up after all that had happened and didn't realize that I had left a lot of the small detail out.

Please feel free to contact me at either of the numbers above if you need any further information.


BRIAN K. SAPP

1/30/2002

PER TELECON WITH MR. SAPP, THE SKY WAS CLEAR. WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE CRASH SITE THE WIND WAS BLOWING TOWARD THE NORTH. ITS SPEED WAS NEVER LESS THAN 15 MPH, AND THERE WERE FREQUENT GUSTS TO ABOUT 35 MPH. DUST WAS BLOWING INTO THE AIR.

 NTSB

Jan 26 02 08:58p

LVMPD NWRC CHEYENNE

702 229 7377

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LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

Event #

020136-0661

Specific Crime

THIS PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY OFFICER

Location of Occurrence

HOT AIR BALLOON CRASH / DEADLY BODY

Date Occurred

Sector/Beat

Time Occurred

01/26/02 0821

☐ City☒ County

Your Name (Last / First / Middle)

SAPP, BRIAN KEITH

Date of Birth

01/21/70

Social Security #

[REDACTED]

Race

Sex

Height

Weight

Hair

Eyes

Work Sched. (Hours)

(Days Off)

Business / School

W

M

5'4"

190

BRN

BRN

07-1630 M-F

52-SUN

AIR FORCE

Residence Address: (Number & Street)

Bldg./Apt.# City

State Zip Code

Bus. (Local) Address: (Number & Street)

Bldg./Apt.# City

State Zip Code

Res. Phone:

Bus. Phone:

Occupation

Depart Date (if visitor)

Best place to contact you during the day

Best time to contact you during the day

Can You Identify

☐ Yes

the Suspect?

☐ No

CELL

ANY TIME

DETAILS I was driving up SR 157 when I saw the balloon hit in the desert to the south of the house, I slowed and saw the balloon come back down into the wall of the house. I turned around and pulled off the road as the balloon hit on the north side of the road. I only saw the first individual about 30 yards from the road. When I stopped to check him, he was not breathing and had no pulse. I called 911 and went to check the balloon that I had stopped, and those folks then seemed ok. For the most part I went back and started CPR on first person, and continued until Paramedics arrived.

I HAVE READ THIS STATEMENT AND I AFFIRM TO THE TRUTH AND ACCURACY OF THE FACTS CONTAINED HEREIN. THIS STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT (LOCATION) US 95, RTE 157 ON THE 26 DAY OF JAN AT 0940 (AM/PM), 2002.

Witness/Officer:

Witness/Officer:
LVMPD 65 (REV. 5-00)

TERRY L. ROBINSON JR. P# 7966

SIGNATURE OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT