

Communication Summary

04/08/2020

Information from: Michelle Watters MD, Medical Officer



Summary & Factual Information: Dr Watters was asked to review the pilot's medical records and toxicology report. She, in part, reported:

I reviewed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) medical case review, pilot's autopsy report, personal medical records, and FAA Forensic Sciences laboratory toxicology report. I also reviewed relevant medical information.

According to the FAA medical case review, the 18-year-old female student pilot held a third class medical certificate without limitations. Her only FAA medical certification examination was on 10/5/18 and at that time she reported she had accrued 20 total flight hours. She was 68 inches tall and weighed 152 pounds. She reported taking no medications and no medical conditions. No other medical concerns or issues were identified.

According to the Office of the State Medical Examiner, Pearl, Mississippi autopsy report, the cause of the pilot's death was multiple blunt trauma due to aircraft mishap and the manner of death was accident. The medical examiner reported evidence of medical interventions. There was no evidence of any significant natural disease identified.

Personal medical records obtained from the air ambulance service reported that ketamine was administered to the pilot for pain management while en route to the hospital.

The FAA Forensic Sciences laboratory identified ketamine and its metabolite norketamine in the pilot's cavity blood at 1,581 nanograms per milliliter (ng/mL) and 285 ng/mL, respectively. These drugs were also detected in the pilot's urine at 833 ng/mL and 107 ng/mL, respectively. The impairing medication ketamine is an anesthetic; its therapeutic range is 100 to 2,200 ng/mL.

I can attest that the above summary is correct to the best of my knowledge:

Edward F. Malinowski
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator