

ERA24FA110

OPERATIONAL FACTORS

Attachment 1 - Conversation with Hop-a-Jet Pilot
February 13, 2024

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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Investigator: Rocky Stone
Job Title: Aircraft Accident Investigator
Division: AS-30
Contact: Anthony Donato
[REDACTED]
NTSB #: ERA24FA110

Subj: Phone conversation with Anthony Donato

I talked to Anthony Donato this afternoon about his experience with hung starts on N823KD several days before the accident flight. Anthony described the following sequence. He started both engines and then was informed by ATC that he would be delayed due to a ground stop for PBI, his destination. Anthony then shut down both engines. He estimates they were running for less than 5 minutes, not long enough to get warmed up. After about 15 minutes ATC informed him that his flight could be released. As he attempted to start the #2 engine, RPM hung at about 45% RPM. He stated that EGT remained within limits, but the engine would not accelerate. He then attempted to start the #1 engine, with the exact same result. He called maintenance and a maintenance technician came out to the airplane, and they attempted the starts again on both engines, with the same results. The maintenance technician called his supervisor. The supervisor came out along with several other technicians and managers. They repeated the start attempts again, several times, all with the same hung start results. Anthony stated that this was the first time he had experienced hung starts on the CL604. And he was flabbergasted that it was occurring on both engines. He turned the airplane over to maintenance for their troubleshooting. I asked Anthony to provide a detailed write-up of what he described in our conversation. He said he would comply.