



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Aviation Safety
Washington, D.C. 20594

Attachment 2 – Previous Safari Flight’s Passenger Statement

OPERATIONAL FACTORS / HUMAN PERFORMANCE

ANC20MA010

From: [Jean Stack](#)
To: [Gallo Mitchell](#)
Subject: Re: Safari Flight
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 7:49:27 PM

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Mr. Gallo,

It was great speaking with you on the phone a short time ago. My two teenage daughters (██████████, age 17, and ██████████, age 16) and I were passengers on a Safari Helicopters helicopter for a 60-minute ride out to the Na Pali coast of Kauai on December 26th. Our helicopter took off sometime around 3:15-3:20 pm that afternoon and returned safely approximately sixty minutes later.

As I stated during our conversation, I felt that both Safari Helicopters and our pilot Paul were experienced and took the safety of the helicopter and the passengers extremely seriously. At no time did I feel any threat to the safety of myself or my daughters during our helicopter ride. For the moment we arrived at Safari Headquarters, it was obvious they took safety very seriously as they were very thorough with their pre-flight safety briefing prior to the shuttle to the heliport. Additionally Paul seemed diligent in his preflight check prior to our departure.

Our flight across the island was smooth and calm with no concerning situations. As I discussed in our conversation, at one point Paul executed an evasive maneuver to avoid a large bird, but he did so quickly and calmly with little reason for concern on the part of the passengers. He also explained over the headsets what he had done and why. As I mentioned during our conversation, I had numerous helicopter rides as an officer in the Marine Corps and this was the smoothest helicopter ride I had ever experienced. At no point did I detect any odd noises from the helicopter or experience any strong wind gusts or turbulence during our flight. Paul was incredibly gracious and humble during the flight in his communications with the passengers. He was calm, alert and confident in his flying at all times. My daughters and I thoroughly enjoyed the flight and Paul's knowledge of the island, especially it's history and geography, was impressive.

Please extend our condolences to Paul's family and the families of the six passengers who died. Paul struck me as a great pilot and humble man. I'm sorry for his family's loss.

Sincerely,
Kevin Stack

P.S. I have had no correspondence with Safari Helicopters or the media concerning this incident. We have intentionally sought to keep a low profile as this incident was traumatic and surreal to my teenage daughters. I do have several photos and videos from our flight if these are of any value to you.

Kevin P. Stack

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