

Operations Group Chairman Factual Report

Attachment 24 – Nut Tree Airport – Video Surveillance Review

WPR09MA195

To obtain a copy of the video, contact:

National Transportation Safety Board

Records Management Division, CIO-40

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National Transportation Safety Board
Memorandum

Date: June 16, 2011

Subject: WPR09MA159 – Review of VCB video surveillance of March 22, 2009

Regarding a video surveillance tape secured by the Safety Board, the following is a description of the events that took place on the morning of March 22, 2009, at Nut Tree Airport (VCB), Vacaville, California. The activities described involve N128CM, the accident airplane, which made an intermediate stop at VCB to pick up passengers and refuel before proceeding to Oroville Airport (OVE), Oroville, California. All times noted are local times (Pacific daylight time, PDT).

At 0936, N128CM, a Pilatus PC-12/45 single-engine airplane, is observed entering the airport's self-service fueling island area and parking in front of fueling station #3.

At 0938, the pilot is observed exiting the airplane. About 30 seconds later, he momentarily re-enters the airplane before exiting it a second time about 0939. The pilot then proceeds to leave the self-service fueling island area and is out of video surveillance range until 0945.

About 0940, two vehicles, one black SUV and one light-colored pickup truck, enter the fueling area; the SUV pulls up in front of the airplane's baggage/cargo door (located in the left rear area of the airplane), and the pickup truck backs up parallel to the SUV. Several people are observed exiting both vehicles, unloading baggage and cargo from the vehicles, and placing the items on the ground in front of the baggage/cargo door. After the SUV and pickup are unloaded, the passengers remain in the area around the airplane.

About 0945, the pilot is observed returning to the fueling island and appears to attach a static ground cable to the nose gear of the airplane. About 0946, the pilot is seen at the self-service fueling island and appears to be initiating the self-service fuel purchase transaction (by entering credit card information). At this time, the passengers and vehicles are still observed at the left rear baggage/cargo loading area of the airplane. About 0949, both vehicles are observed leaving the fueling area.

At 0951, the pilot begins the over-wing refueling the left wing of N128CM. The pilot uses a step stool in the process. The pilot completes the over-wing refueling of the left wing at 0954.

About 0955, the pilot is observed moving from the airplane's left wing to the front of the airplane before moving to the right side. From 0956 to 0959 the pilot was out of video surveillance view.

About 1000, the pilot completes the fueling transaction at the self-service fueling island and proceeds to board the airplane through the passenger entry door (located in the left forward area of the airplane in front of the #1 left engine). After boarding the airplane, the pilot was out of view.

About 1002, two male passengers are observed handing baggage and cargo items up through the baggage/cargo opening at the left rear of the airplane.

About 1007, the baggage and cargo loading is complete. The pilot comes back into view and is observed exiting the baggage/cargo compartment through the baggage/cargo door and closes the door from the ground at 1007:12. The two passengers who assisted with the loading of the baggage and cargo board the airplane through the passenger entry door, followed by the pilot. The passenger door is closed about 1008. The video did not show who closed and secured the passenger door.

At 1009:40, the pilot starts the engine.

At 1011:20, a control check of the elevator is observed.

At 1011:47, the airplane is observed to begin taxiing away from the self-service fueling island.

At 1012:05, the airplane proceeds out of video surveillance range.

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