



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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Alaska Regional Office

Date: July 13, 2019
Persons Contacted: Leanna Nash, pilot's spouse
NTSB Accident Number: ANC19FA033 N5840P Ketchikan

Narrative:

Mrs. Nash was interviewed on July 13, 2019, by the NTSB investigator-in-charge via telephone. She is the spouse of the deceased pilot from the PA-24-180 accident that occurred near Ketchikan on July 11, 2019. This is a summary of her statements.

- Mrs. Nash has been married to Mr. Michael Nash for 5 years and they live in Wrangell, Alaska.
- Mrs. Nash flew with Mr. Nash on a regular basis. She stated that he was very careful about weather and always checked the weather and was also very aware of terrain. He had a GPS and an iPad, and he had terrain audible warning active that were sometimes very distracting to fly with, but he was concerned about being safe. He always flew over the water along the island chain, to avoid the mountainous terrain. He used a flight program on his iPad; maybe Foreflight. He was a very seasoned pilot and he used his checklist on every flight. He would check the Canadian weather site, Wunderground weather and other online sources.
- Mr. Nash flew to Friday Harbor at least once or twice a month. He had a house there and his mechanic was located there. Mr. Nash also flew his airplane around the state in support of his law practice.
- Mr. Nash rarely flew under instrument flight rules. Mrs. Nash estimates that he flew only once a year or so on an IFR flight plan. She recalled only once arriving back at Wrangell via an instrument approach, and that was a long time ago.
- The purpose of the flight was for the airplane to return home after the annual inspection at Friday Harbor. Mrs. Nash was not with him because she recently had knee surgery and took a commercial flight home. Mr. Nash had a court case scheduled in Klawock on Monday, July 15.
- On the morning of the accident, Mr. Nash called Mrs. Nash at about 1000 Alaska daylight time and he stated that the weather was "not so good" in Ketchikan, but the rest of the route was good. He stated that fog was expected in Bella Bella, BC, but it should burn off by the time he passed

through that area. He intended on flying to Ketchikan International Airport (KTN), but if the weather was not good, he had plenty of fuel to continue on to Wrangell where the forecast was good. He stated that he had 6 hours of fuel onboard. His expected time of arrival was 1445. Mr. Nash sounded normal and had no unusual concerns.

- She said that he liked to stop in KTN to buy fuel because it was cheaper than Wrangell fuel.
- Mrs. Nash did not know why Mr. Nash would have stopped at KTN on the day of the accident because the weather was not very good. She thought maybe he had to use the bathroom because the flight was over 4 hours long. The weather at Wrangell Airport was very good that afternoon.
- On the day of the accident, Mrs. Nash became concerned at 1445 when she did not hear from her husband. He always called her after landing. At about 1510 she called KTN flight service to report him overdue.
- Mrs. Nash stated that Mr. Nash was diabetic and had high blood pressure. She was concerned about his health because he was overweight and had difficulty breathing sometimes. She stated that Mr. Nash took very good care of his diabetes and tracked his sugar levels closely. He always carried a granola bar with him in case his blood sugar level was low.
- Mrs. Nash stated that a man named Sid at Friday Harbor Airport was the mechanic who recently completed the annual inspection. He had the logbooks.
- Mr. Nash used to fly for commercial operators, such as Sunrise Aviation and others that she was not aware of.
- She was not aware of any insurance on the airplane.

August 28, 2019 update

- Mr. Nash was experiencing some stress in his personal life for the month previous to the accident. He was dealing with the Catholic Dioceses releasing information about allegations involving him from many years previous. He also was struggling with his sister's contentious dispute regarding their mother's estate in Friday Harbor. Also, Mrs. Nash had knee replacement the previous month and they spent many weeks living in a hotel while she was recovering.
- She stated that Mr. Nash appeared to be anxious and in a bit of a rush to come home. His trip to FHR to pick up his airplane was supposed to take 1 day, but the refurbished transponder was not received in time and the weather was bad. He was getting frustrated. Mr. Nash wanted to get home to his wife to help her with her recovery. He also had a criminal court case that he was the defending lawyer on scheduled for Monday in Prince of Whales, and he needed the airplane home so that he could get there.
- Mrs. Nash did not know that Mr. Nash did not have a current FAA medical. She said that his health started to decline when the doctor started him on insulin, because he did not take care of himself anymore. He gained a lot of weight in the previous few months.
- She said that it was very unusual for Mr. Nash not to have filed a flight plan.
- She located logbooks on the computer dated 2004.
- The unlock code on his devices was 911919 or 9119.
- Mrs. Nash was notified that the wreckage was released to her.