



Michael J. Hodges
Investigator-In-Charge
Office of Aviation Safety, Central Regional Office

Date: February 15, 2023

Subject: CEN23FA084

Contact: Cathy Tucker - wife of the accident pilot, Steve Tucker

The NTSB IIC spoke with Cathy Tucker over the telephone. Cathy had her attorney, David Feigelson present for the interview.

The purpose of the flight for Steve was a business flight. The accident flight was a day trip only. The other occupants onboard were going to Kennon Vaughn's ranch to see his cattle ranching operation.

Steve was the owner of Circle Y Saddles in Yoakum, Texas. The business factory is in Yoakum, Texas. Steve would either fly the accident airplane for business reasons or for personal reasons.

On the day of the accident, on January 17, 2023, Steve left their home around 7am local time and went to the airport to depart on the flight.

On January 16, 2023, it was a workday for Steve.

On January 15, 2023, Steve went to church and Cathy was sick. It was mostly a day at home for the couple.

On January 14, 2023, Steve came home from a trip to the Dallas, Texas, area. Steve's son in law, Price Cornic, flew the accident airplane back from the Dallas, Texas, area to their home base in Tennessee.

Steve did not use alcohol, drugs (legal or illegal), or tobacco. He had no issues with sleeping or fatigue. He had no medical issues. He had no major stress events in his life

just prior to the accident. He would usually drink one cup of coffee in the morning each day. He lived a very active lifestyle.

Steve never reported any concerns with flying to Cathy. Steve never reported any concerns with the accident airplane to Cathy.

Steve started flying in the year 2000 timeframe (an estimate). Cathy is not a pilot.

David has one maintenance record logbook for the accident airplane and one of Steve's pilot logbooks. The NTSB IIC will follow up with David in a few weeks to see if any other additional maintenance or pilot logbooks show up during the family's search.

Nothing Follows



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Contact: Price Cornic - son-in-law of the accident pilot, Steve Tucker

The NTSB IIC spoke with Price Cornic over the telephone. Price had his attorney, David Feigelson present for the interview.

On the day of the accident, on January 17, 2023, Price was not with Steve.

On January 16, 2023, Price was not with Steve.

On January 15, 2023, Price was not with Steve.

On January 14, 2023, Price was with Steve. Price flew the accident airplane back from the Dallas, Texas, area to their home base in Tennessee. Steve was a passenger in the back of the airplane.

Price is a commercial airline pilot. Price has known Steve for about 6 years. Price is married to Steve's daughter, Abigail.

Steve never reported any concerns with flying to Price. Steve never reported any concerns with the accident airplane to Price.

Price has flown with Steve about 50 times (an estimate) over the years. Price and Steve have trained together in aviation. Price described Steve as a very competent pilot.

Nothing Follows

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Date: February 3, 2023

Subject: CEN23FA084

Contact: Emma Patterson - wife of the accident copilot, Tyler Patterson

The NTSB IIC spoke with Emma Patterson over the telephone. The purpose of the flight was for personal reasons. Tyler was invited by Kennon Vaughan (the surviving passenger) to visit his cattle ranch in Texas to see how he ran his ranch. The trip was supposed to be a day trip only.

Tyler worked fulltime as an animal research husbandry supervisor at a university. Tyler also did cattle ranching on the side. Tyler had land in Mississippi where he did cattle ranching. Cattle ranching was Tyler's passion. Tyler flew as pilot for personal reasons only.

On the day of the accident, on January 17, 2023, Tyler left his home between 6am and 7am local time and went to the airport to depart on the flight.

On January 16, 2023, Tyler was working at the university.

On January 15, 2023, Tyler was not working and went to church and was doing family activities.

On January 14, 2023, Tyler was not working and was working his cattle herd.

Tyler did not use alcohol, drugs (legal or illegal), or tobacco. He had no issues with sleeping or fatigue. He had no medical issues. He had no major stress events in his life just prior to the accident. He would drink one cup of coffee in the morning each day. He lived a very active lifestyle, and he was very healthy.

He never reported any concerns with flying to Emma. This was his first time flying in the accident airplane. This was his first time flying with Steven Tucker. Steven and Tyler were friends through their church that they attended together.

Tyler started flying in the fall 2017 timeframe (estimate). He had between 500 to 700 total flight hours (estimate). He used to fly daily, but then when he focused on his current job and cattle ranching, he would fly only a few times a year.

Emma said she will look for Tyler's flight logbooks and if she finds them, she will provide copies of them to the NTSB.

Nothing Follows



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Date: January 18, 2023

Subject: CEN23FA084

Contact: Lieutenant Michael Pierman - Yoakum Police Department

The NTSB IIC spoke with Lieutenant Pierman over the telephone.

An air medical helicopter, operated by PHI Aviation LLC, was dispatched out of Victoria, Texas, to fly to the accident site in Yoakum, Texas, to retrieve the surviving passenger on January 17, 2023.

Around 1100 local time, the helicopter cancelled the flight due to the heavy fog in the area.

Nothing Follows



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Date: January 18, 2023
Subject: CEN23FA084
Contact: Mitchel Harbus III - Accident Site Landowner

The NTSB IIC spoke with Mitchel Harbus over the telephone.

Mitchel owns the land where the accident airplane came to rest at. Mitchel uses the land for cattle grazing.

Mitchel did not see the accident sequence on the day of the accident on January 17, 2023. Mitchel did not have any security cameras set up in the area at the time of the accident. He was home on his property when the accident occurred.

Shortly after the accident occurred, Mitchel went on his property to check on the various animals. He noticed a lot of fog at the accident site, which he characterized as "pretty foggy." The wind was calm, and the estimated temperature was about 65°F at the time. Mitchel used his cellular phone to take a photo of the accident site on January 17, 2023, at 1125 local time, showing the fog at the accident site. Mitchel sent the photo to the NTSB.

Nothing Follows

