American Airlines
Chicago, IL
October 28, 2016
DCA17FA021

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C

ATTACHMENT 2

PASSENGER INTERVIEW

2 Pages

Interview:	Leo John Kerbel
Position:	Passenger
Date:	7 March 2017
Location:	Telephone Interview
Representative:	Steven Marks, Podhurst Orseck
Present:	Peter Wentz (NTSB)

Mr. Kerbel declined the SF Group to be present for the interview and asked that only the NTSB group chairman conduct the interview. He stated his full name was Leo John Kerbel and that he was a passenger on American Airlines (AA) flight 383 on October 28, 2016. Mr. Kerbel was seated in 20B.

Mr. Kerbel stated he boarded the aircraft and recalled watching the emergency safety demonstration on the video monitor in front of his seat. He recalls looking at the safety card before take-off. During the takeoff roll he stated looking out the window and recalled the aircraft getting close to lifting off when he heard two loud explosions and the airplane shuddered. He recalls the airplane wobbling at high speed down the runway. He stated that flames could be seen coming from the right wing and the windows on that side of the airplane had started to crack. Mr. Kerbel stated the crew had started yelling "stay in your seats, stay in your seats, stay in your seats" and he recalled thinking that was odd because that side of the airplane was in flames. He recalled the airplane coming to a stop, but stated he didn't know how long that took. After the airplane came to a stop he stated reaching past the woman sitting next to him to release the overwing exit hatch. He stated that she froze and didn't recall if she got out of the airplane in front or behind him. He stated the only thing to do was get out of the airplane fast, which he did. Mr. Kerbel stated he exited the airplane through the overwing exit hatch and turned to get to the trailing edge of the wing and sat down on the slide. He stated no one was there to assist him to go down the slide. He stated that it was very fast and at the bottom there was no way to slow down. He tumbled off the slide and recalled getting hurt. He stood up to get away from the airplane and was blown over by the thrust coming out of the back of the running engine. He got back up again ran to a grass strip next to the runway, he could feel pain in his back. He added that once the airplane came to a stop that the only instruction given by the crew was to "Stay in your seat."

Follow up questions:

Q: Did your recall a flight attendant sitting in front of you?
A: "I didn't recall".

Q: Did you recall how many overwing hatch's there were?
A: "No", he just recalled the hatch next to the woman sitting next to him.

Q: Do you recall operating that exit?
A: He recalled starting to operate the exit, but then heard a crewmember telling him to move aside and the crewmember finished opening the exit.

Q: Did you recall being given an exit row briefing before take-off?
A: “No”, but he did recall the flight attendant briefing the exit row passengers.

Q: Did you take any bags with you off the airplane?
A: “No”.

Q: Did you see other passengers take any bags off the airplane?
A: He didn’t recall, he stated he was the first one to evacuate.

Q: Did you hear any other crew commands other than “stay in your seat”?
A: “No”.

Q – What injuries did you sustain in this event?
A: He stated injuring the right side of his head, fractured the last finger on his right hand, a broken rib and abrasions on his right leg and knee.

Q: Did you have any trouble exiting through the overwing hatch?
A: “No”.

Q – Where you traveling alone?
A: “Yes”.

Q – How long did it take for you to evacuate the airplane?
A: He stated he didn’t really recall, but said it felt like 90 seconds.

Q –Have you ever been in an airplane evacuation?
A: “No”.

Q – Once outside the airplane, where did you go?
A: He stated going to the right side of the runway in a grass strip.

Q – How long before you received medical attention?
A: He stated about 10 minutes the first time. He stated being released and boarding a bus, but then felt chest pain and returned to the medical station where he was re-assessed and transported to the hospital.