

DOCKET NO. SA-516

APPENDIX 15

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, DC

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT
EUSEBIO MONTANEZ
NOVEMBER 20, 1996
(13 pages)

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BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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In the Matter of: :
TWA FLIGHT 800 :
INTERVIEW OF :
EUSEEIO MONTANEZ :
- - - - - x

The above-entitled matter came on for interview, pursuant to Notice, before NORM WIEMEYER, NTSB Official, at JFK International Airport, Jamaica, NY, on Wednesday, November 20, 1996 at 1:00 p.m.

1 APPEARANCES:

2 TERRY STACEY, TWA

3 LU LIEBER, FBI, NY

4 STEPHEN KIAPACH, FAA

5 CHARLES HALE, IAM

6 DENNIS SANTIAGO, IAM

7 LOU BURNS, AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION

8 SCOTT E. METCALF, FBI, NY

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E X H I B I T S

	<u>IDENTIFIED</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>
None		

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. WIEMEYER: On the record.

3 I'd like to start out with a little bit of
4 administrative stuff we need to have for our records.

5 If you would, please, give us your full name and
6 spell your last name.

7 MR. MONTANEZ: E-U-S-^{E.N.}~~E~~-E-I-O, Montanez,
8 M-O-N-T-A-N-E-Z. _B

9 MR. WIEMEYER: And you are employed by TransWorld
10 Airlines?

11 MR. MONTANEZ: Yes, sir.

12 MR. WIEMEYER: How long have you been employed?

13 MR. MONTANEZ: About 20 years.

14 MR. WIEMEYER: About 20 years, you say? Okay.

15 And what is your job title?

16 MR. MONTANEZ: Ground service.

17 MR. WIEMEYER: And how long have you held that
18 position?

19 MR. MONTANEZ: About -- almost 10 years.

20 MR. WIEMEYER: What did you do before you were in
21 ground service?

22 MR. MONTANEZ: I was -- ^{E.N.} Ramp

23 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. Did you, as part of your job,
24 work TransWorld Airlines' Flight 800 on the 17th of July?

25 MR. MONTANEZ: Yes, sir.

1 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. And what was your job on that
2 airplane?

3 MR. MONTANEZ: I did the water.

4 MR. WIEMEYER: Do you recall anything -- Well, first
5 of all, would you describe what you did in your job, so -- for
6 the people who are not familiar with what you do?

7 MR. MONTANEZ: I got the -- water.

8 MR. WIEMEYER: Is this drinking water?

9 MR. MONTANEZ: Drinking water.

10 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. You don't service the
11 lavatories, just the drinking water.

12 MR. MONTANEZ: No.

13 MR. WIEMEYER: And that's all you did on 800?

14 MR. MONTANEZ: That's it, yes.

15 MR. WIEMEYER: Did you notice anything different in
16 working that flight than you do -- notice on any other flights?

17 MR. MONTANEZ: No, sir.

18 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. In the course of performing
19 your job, do you pay attention to what's going on with the
20 airplane?

21 MR. MONTANEZ: That day?

22 MR. WIEMEYER: On any flight.

23 MR. MONTANEZ: Any flight? Yes. I always keep an
24 eyes on --

25 MR. WIEMEYER: What specifically do you look for?

1 MR. MONTANEZ: Some leak. Especially when I do
2 hydraulic. I always check around the lines, there are some
3 leakage. If there are some leaks, I always report it to my
4 supervisor -- to check.

5 MR. WIEMEYER: Did you notice any leaks on this
6 flight?

7 MR. MONTANEZ: No, sir.

8 MR. WIEMEYER: Did you have any conversations during
9 the course of working on that flight with any of the people who
10 put the fuel on board the aircraft or any of the mechanics?

11 MR. MONTANEZ: No, sir.

12 MR. WIEMEYER: And about how long were you around
13 that --

14 MR. MONTANEZ: I think about 10 or 15 minutes --
15 depend on how -- water they need.

16 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. As part of your job do you also
17 do oil service?

18 MR. MONTANEZ: The oil and the hydraulic.

19 MR. WIEMEYER: But somebody else did that on this
20 flight.

21 MR. MONTANEZ: Right.

22 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. When you do put water on, is
23 that recorded anywhere, how much water you put on or --

24 MR. MONTANEZ: No. They got a gauge that say half or
25 full or three-quarter.

1 MR. WIEMEYER: But you don't have to write that down
2 anywhere.

3 MR. MONTANEZ: No, sir.

4 MR. WIEMEYER: Did the airplane take water in a
5 normal fashion? Did you fill up all the tanks?

6 MR. MONTANEZ: Take a little time.

7 MR. WIEMEYER: But you were able to put all the water
8 that this aircraft needed on board without any problem.

9 MR. MONTANEZ: Right. 'Til they get full.

10 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. When you service oil on an
11 airplane, do you write down anywhere how much oil you put in?

12 MR. MONTANEZ: Yes, sir.

13 MR. WIEMEYER: And what do you do with that --

14 MR. MONTANEZ: You've got a form to mark down how
15 much oil we put in each engine.

16 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. And after you do that, what do
17 you do with that form?

18 MR. MONTANEZ: We have to go inside and we have a
19 special paper to mark it down how much we put and we sign that
20 number -- our numbers.

21 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. I'd like to show you a form
22 here, I think. Yes.

23 (Whereupon, the document was shown to Mr. Montanez.)

24 MR. WIEMEYER: Do you enter the oil on that
25 particular form?

1 MR. MONTANEZ: Yes. On this one.

2 MR. WIEMEYER: Do you recall a form number that you
3 use?

4 MR. MONTANEZ: I can't remember the number.

5 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. That's all right. I was just
6 curious.

7 MR. MONTANEZ: Just put the flight number, the date,
8 the time we did it.

9 MR. WIEMEYER: And then you turn that in.

10 MR. MONTANEZ: Right. And then they put it in the
11 computer.

12 MR. WIEMEYER: Okay. That's all I have.

13 MR. STACEY: I'm Terry Stacey with TWA, 747 pilot.

14 Do the form that you fill out that designates a
15 flight number and the oil that was added to the engines, how
16 many copies of the form are there?

17 MR. MONTANEZ: They have two copies. We leave one to
18 the captain upstairs.

19 MR. STACEY: Okay. So you --

20 MR. MONTANEZ: -- how much we put. How much oil we
21 put, and we'll return one to the -- our office.

22 MR. STACEY: Okay. Did you observe the gentleman
23 that serviced the oil that day on 800?

24 MR. MONTANEZ: I just did water that day, and so --

25 MR. STACEY: When you approach the airplane to

1 service it water, from what direction do you approach the
2 airplane?

3 MR. MONTANEZ: I can't get this.

4 MR. STACEY: Where is the receptacle for the water?

5 MR. MONTANEZ: Oh, that depend on what kind of plane
6 we do --

7 MR. STACEY: 747.

8 MR. MONTANEZ: 747 -- the middle.

9 MR. STACEY: It's in the middle?

10 MR. MONTANEZ: Yes.

11 MR. STACEY: 747?

12 So do you approach the airplane from the rear or the
13 front?

14 MR. MONTANEZ: You back it up -- the middle of the
15 plane.

16 MR. STACEY: You back the truck up, from the back of
17 the airplane.

18 Okay. Thanks.

19 MR. KIAPACH: Steve Kiapach, FAA.

20 When you had mentioned that you check the -- leaks --

21 MR. MONTANEZ: Right.

22 MR. KIAPACH: -- are we talking about water or
23 hydraulics?

24 MR. MONTANEZ: Anything, oil or hydraulic, whatever.

25 MR. KIAPACH: I mean, is there any hydraulic lines

1 specifically that you look at outside the aircraft?

2 MR. MONTANEZ: That day?

3 MR. KIAPACH: Is there any lines? I mean, could you
4 describe where the line would be to me?

5 MR. MONTANEZ: Yes, there's special -- hydraulic. I
6 have to grab, step on the -- almost inside the plane, so I look
7 around all the lines.

8 MR. KIAPACH: Um-hum. Okay. *e.m.*

9 MR. MONTANEZ: Any kind ~~of~~ I always report.

10 MR. KIAPACH: Okay. Thank you very much.

11 MR. MONTANEZ: Yes, sir.

12 MR. BURNS: Hi. I'm Lou Burns, 747 captain,
13 representing ALPA.

14 You say the receptacle is in the middle of the
15 airplane that you plug in the water?

16 MR. MONTANEZ: Right. In the 747.

17 MR. BURNS: 747, yes.

18 Is it directly in the middle, underneath or --

19 MR. MONTANEZ: Is a line to the --

20 MR. BURNS: Closer to the right-hand side -- on the
21 right-hand side or left-hand side or --

22 MR. MONTANEZ: This is in -- beneath.

23 MR. BURNS: Underneath?

24 MR. MONTANEZ: So anywhere you --

25 MR. BURNS: I see.

1 MR. MONTANEZ: Any side you --

2 MR. BURNS: Thank you. That's all I have.

3 MR. HALE: Charlie Hale with the IAM.

4 Did you observe anything as far as like any of the
5 servicing panels or anything that required anything special to
6 keep them closed or did you have a problem with any of the
7 servicing panels?

8 MR. MONTANEZ: No.

9 MR. HALE: That's the only question I have. Thank
10 you.

11 MS. LIEBER: I'm Lu Lieber with the FBI.

12 Mr. Montanez, you stated that on that day -- on the
13 17th -- that you did not see any leaks when you walked around.
14 On any day prior to July 17th, did you see any leaks, to the
15 best of your knowledge?

16 MR. MONTANEZ: That day, no.

17 MS. LIEBER: Not that day, but maybe days before?

18 MR. MONTANEZ: Some time I find some leak and -- go
19 to the office and report to the supervisor. They come right
20 away to fix it.

21 MS. LIEBER: What kind of leaks did you see?

22 MR. MONTANEZ: Sometime hydraulic, especially on
23 hydraulic, some pump there leak, and so report it right away.

24 MS. LIEBER: Do you recall approximately how long
25 prior to July 17th did you observe that hydraulic leak?

1 MR. MONTANEZ: No.

2 MS. LIEBER: Okay. What is the difference between,
3 let's say, a hydraulic leak, a water leak and a fuel leak, do
4 you know that?

5 MR. MONTANEZ: -- sometime, I touch to see -- I smell
6 it, especially hydraulic, you smell it, see if the hydraulic or
7 gas.

8 MS. LIEBER: Okay. But how long prior to the 17th of
9 July had you observed that leak?

10 MR. MONTANEZ: Long time --

11 MS. LIEBER: What would you consider a long time?

12 MR. MONTANEZ: Every time I go to over there, I'll
13 check it. It'll be a long time I been do that.

14 MS. LIEBER: No, I understand that, but in your
15 estimation, what is your definition of a long time?

16 MR. MONTANEZ: Okay --

17 MS. LIEBER: Okay. You said that you had seen a leak
18 before.

19 MR. MONTANEZ: Right.

20 MS. LIEBER: Okay. But a long time ago. Is a long
21 time ago one day, one week, one month?

22 MR. MONTANEZ: No, no.

23 MS. LIEBER: Two --

24 MR. MONTANEZ: Not every time.

25 MS. LIEBER: Excuse me?

1 MR. MONTANEZ: Not every time you find that. I keep
2 looking. If I find it, I'll report it. For how long, I can't
3 tell you.

4 MS. LIEBER: Okay. Thank you. No questions.

5 MR. WIEMEYER: I don't have any follow-up questions.
6 Does anybody else?

7 Well, we thank you for your time, appreciate it.
8 It's been very helpful.

9 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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