

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription

07/24/96

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] interviewed at the United States Coast Guard Station, East Moriches, New York. [REDACTED] was advised as to the identities of the interviewing agents and the nature of the inquiry, wherein he provided the following information:

[REDACTED] advised he is a Helicopter Pilot with the New York Air National Guard. [REDACTED] holds the rank of Major. [REDACTED] Shinnecock Hills, New York, [REDACTED]

On the evening of July 17, 1996 (Wednesday), [REDACTED] was the Pilot of an H-60 Helicopter, flying a night refueling mission. [REDACTED] advised the co-pilot was [REDACTED] and the Crew Chief was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] advised the helicopter took off from Gabreski Airport at approximately 8:00 to 8:05 p.m. Sunset was scheduled for approximately 8:19 p.m. [REDACTED] said he flew some approaches during what remained of the daylight hours. [REDACTED] described approaches as flying out over the water and then returning back to the airport.

[REDACTED] stated that at approximately 8:25-8:30 p.m., the helicopter was in a hover over runway 24 at Gabreski Airport. [REDACTED] was flying the aircraft. The helicopter was facing southwest. [REDACTED] noted he was sitting in the right seat, [REDACTED] was behind in the left gunner's seat, and [REDACTED] as Co-Pilot was in the left seat. [REDACTED] said he saw a streak of red light moving very fast from his right to his left, or from west to east. [REDACTED] described the streak of light as having the trajectory and image of a shooting star. The streak moved from a higher elevation to a lower elevation in a gently descending curve. The streak was almost horizontal. [REDACTED] observed the streak for one to two seconds after which he saw an explosion. [REDACTED] noted he did not hear anything. He was wearing a helmet and earphones for voice communication with the helicopter crew. [REDACTED] described the explosion as a red burst with smoke. Approximately one to two seconds later there was a second explosion which engulfed the first. The second explosion was

Investigation on 07/19/96 at East Moriches, New York

File # 265A-NY-259028-Sub LL-16a

SA DAVID S. EDWARD

by SA ANTHONY JACKSON (DSE:hrg)

Date dictated 07/20/96

1959

tremendous and continued to expand. [REDACTED] described the fire ball as being four times the size of the setting sun. The fireball descended slowly with thick, black, opaque smoke. [REDACTED] said it took approximately eight to ten seconds for the fireball to impact the ocean. A huge column of black smoke emanated from the fireball. The fireball impacted the ocean to [REDACTED] left. [REDACTED] observed debris falling.

[REDACTED] noted [REDACTED] was still flying the aircraft. They were flying toward the impact site. The flames from the fire were very high, approximately sixty feet. [REDACTED] noted as they approached the impact site the helicopter made left turns as there were two sets of eyes, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on the left side of the aircraft. This maximized their observation capability. [REDACTED] said the altitude of the aircraft was at one hundred feet. [REDACTED] advised he wanted to stay high enough so the rotor wash would not affect the surface of the ocean. [REDACTED] said he observed four bodies at the northwest edge of the fire. [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] advised him there was no sign of life in any of these bodies.

[REDACTED] advised he saw an air foil shape in the water which he further described as a piece of an aircraft wing or a section of the tail. [REDACTED] also observed red and white markings on the air foil objects. [REDACTED] noted the size of the fire and his observation of interior window liners led him to believe this was a large aircraft, potentially a commercial airline. [REDACTED] recalled [REDACTED] reported seeing many bodies in the water. [REDACTED] also observed what appeared to be a raft or aircraft chute with a strobe light. [REDACTED] said they continued to fly around the impact area and debris path in an effort to locate survivors.

[REDACTED] stated he was reporting these events to the Air National Guard and was marking the location of the bodies with dye packs. [REDACTED] advised he returned to Gabreski to pick up Major [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said the flight time from the crash site to Gabreski was approximately five minutes. [REDACTED] said approximately thirty minutes had past since the time he first saw the explosion to the time he initiated his return to Gabreski.

[REDACTED] said upon returning to Gabreski, [REDACTED] replaced him in the right seat as Aircraft Commander. [REDACTED] remained in the left gunner's seat. Additionally, two rescue swimmers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] joined the crew. [REDACTED] said they returned to the crash site. At this time they were using night vision gear to enhance their ability to see in the low light conditions. [REDACTED] noted this is the reason [REDACTED] replaced him as Aircraft Commander.

205A-NY-259025

Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED]

On 07/19/96 Page 3

By the time they returned to the scene there were Coast Guard vessels and other surface aircraft dropping illumination flares. [REDACTED] said the bright illumination from the flares and from the lights of the surface vessels interfered with the night vision equipment. [REDACTED] said after flying around the crash site for a while longer they returned to Gabreski where they landed at approximately 11:45 p.m.

[REDACTED] noted the observations of the red streak and explosions were during day light, without the use of the night vision equipment. [REDACTED] estimated the explosion occurred at an altitude of 8,000 - 10,000 feet, plus or minus 5,000 feet. The explosion occurred eight to ten miles off shore.

The following is a diagram illustrating [REDACTED] view of the incident:

658  
692

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/25/96

<sup>692</sup>  
[redacted] and [redacted] were re-interviewed at Mill Pond Lane, East Moriches, New York. They provided the following information:

On July 20, 1996, <sup>692</sup> [redacted] had told previous interviewing Agents that he was with [redacted] and others aboard a helicopter on July 17, 1996. [redacted] stated that something was } <sup>658</sup> bothering him, in that he felt he knew more than what he could recall. <sup>658</sup> [redacted] told <sup>692</sup> [redacted] that he wanted to be hypnotized.

<sup>658</sup> [redacted] contacted <sup>692</sup> [redacted] on below date and advised that he was hypnotized last night by <sup>658</sup> [redacted], a Major and trained in hypnosis, who is in <sup>692</sup> [redacted] All National Guard Unit. <sup>658</sup> [redacted] told <sup>692</sup> [redacted] that the session was audio taped. <sup>658</sup> [redacted] told <sup>692</sup> [redacted] that the tape will demonstrate that the explosion was as a result of a missile.

<sup>692</sup> [redacted] and <sup>658</sup> [redacted] discussed on this date what was revealed under hypnosis. <sup>658</sup> [redacted] recalled something coming from east to west that had <sup>692</sup> [redacted] multiple explosion sound. At that point in the conversation, <sup>658</sup> [redacted] told <sup>692</sup> [redacted] to stop talking and stated, "Let me interject something - snap, crackle, pop." <sup>658</sup> [redacted] face lit up and he said, "Give me a high five," apparently because he had heard the same thing. <sup>692</sup> [redacted] initially saw a white streak just prior to the explosion, which appeared to be horizontal, not ascending. <sup>658</sup> [redacted] saw an orange, red streak of light, also not ascending, but vertical, along with wisps of smoke. He speculated that at sunset, white smoke could appear an orange/red color.

<sup>692</sup> [redacted] also saw bodies descending straight down and passing debris that was travelling at a slower rate. He felt it did not make sense that the bodies would not have fallen quicker until he thought of a possible explanation. <sup>692</sup> [redacted] stated that the thrust of an explosion could have carried the victims initially in an upward motion.

<sup>692</sup> [redacted] stated that he and the others are willing to also be hypnotized.

CC3  
137

7 23 96 East Moriches, New York

265A-NY-259028-SUB

SA NY-259028  
SHEERAN CS:reg  
S. TURNER

7 24 96 AUG 28 1996

TC