



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# Memorandum

AAL11

Subject: INFORMATION: PRELIMINARY Partial  
Transcript; Aircraft Accident; AAL11; New York,  
NY; September 11, 2001

Date: September 15, 2001

Reply To  
Attn of:

From: Boston ARTCC

To: Investigations Division, AAT-200

This transcription covers the Boston ARTCC Boston TMU Severe Weather Position for the time period from September 11, 2001, 1227 UTC to September 11, 2001, 1250 UTC.

Agencies Making Transmissions

Abbreviations

Command Center East Position  
Boston ARTCC TMU Severe Weather Position  
Cleveland ARTCC TMU  
New York ARTCC TMU  
Cape Approach Control Position  
Cape Approach Supervisor Position  
New York TRACON TMU

CCEAST  
ZBWMTMU  
ZOBMTMU  
ZNYTMU  
CAPE1  
CAPE2  
N90

I hereby certify that the following is a true transcription of the recorded conversations pertaining to the subject aircraft accident involving AAL11:

Rusty Baird  
Support Specialist, Quality Assurance  
Boston ARTCC

1227  
1227:50 CCEAST command center east tony

1227:53 ZBWMTMU hi tony uh good morning uh boston center i got a situation here with american one one american eleven---boston departure to uh uh I a x---we believe it's a uh possible hijack situation

1228:08 CCEAST okay tell me more

1228:10 ZBWTMU okay uh he departed boston uh we lost radio communications with him and we lost uh his transponder and they believe that they heard in the background something a threat---and right now

1228:24 CCEAST what was that a threat you said

1228:26 ZBWTMU a threat---and right now the uh aircraft is is just west of albany going southbound

1228:34 CCEAST okay i see him

1228:35 ZBWTMU and he's at

1228:36 CCEAST nobody's talkin to him right

1228:37 ZBWTMU nobody's talking to him right at this time correct

1228:43 CCEAST okay anything i can do to help you right now

1228:45 ZBWTMU and nope i mean uh just at the time we have no idea where this aircraft is going maybe a head up heads up to new york center

1228:52 CCEAST okay uh well probably some caution might be good if we uh call up cleveland and new york and at least let them know just in case this guy starts heading there way they'll have a heads up on it

1229:00 ZBWTMU right

1229:01 CCEAST okay lets do that

1229:21 ZNYTMU new york center

1229:23 ZBWTMU hi new york boston standby---waitin for cleveland

1229:33 ZOBTMU cleveland

1229:34 ZBWTMU hi cleveland new york boston uh i got a little situation with american one one american eleven---he is a uh seventy sixty seven departed boston going to l a x---uh we don't know where the aircraft is going he uh in uh originally going to l a x was uh going westbound we lost him off frequency and lost his transponder and now the aircraft is uh just west of albany heading due south

1230:00 ZNYTMU oh my goodness---okay---we had do we have uh the data block on him uh who's got the uh

1230:06 ZBWTMU yeah we we uh it's a primary target presently and uh its heading southwestbound

1230:11 ZNYTMU okay uh

1230:13 ZBWTMU no altitude encoding right now

1230:14 ZNYTMU i'll i'll advise the area

1230:17 ZBWTMU last altitude uh observed was uh flight level two niner zero

1230:20 ZNYTMU twenty nine southbound

1230:22 ZBWTMU heading southwestbound he's like towards uh hancock uh---  
right at right around there---he's uh southwest of albany by one  
five miles

1230:33 ZOBTMU you have no idea where he's going

1230:35 ZBWTMU no idea sir

1230:36 ZOBTMU alrighty

1230:37 CCEAST you can tag him on the uh t s d i i you should pick him up

1230:39 ZOBTMU primary only

1230:40 ZBWTMU primary only

1230:41 ZOBTMU okay

1230:42 ZBWTMU okay

1230:43 ZOBTMU that's good thank you  
1231  
1232  
1233  
1234

1234:32 CAPE1 cape tracon

1234:33 ZBWTMU yea hi uh are you uh able to able to talk to otis on this line

1234:41 CAPE1 umm i not sure but if i need if you need to get in touch with them  
i can uh

1234:45 ZBWTMU yea i got a little situation here

1234:46 CAPE1 seven line i think there on the seven line

1234:48 ZBWTMU i have a little situation with a uh american eleven

1234:50 CAPE1 what

1234:52 ZBWTMU i have a situation with american eleven

1234:54 CAPE1 you want to talk to otis tower

1234:56 ZBWTMU i want to talk to otis tra i need to scramble some uh fighters

1234:58 CAPE1 alright well hold on a second let me give you the sup---hey timmy pick up on the forty one something about a scramble i don't know

1235:10 CAPE2 cape approach

1235:11 ZBWTMU hi cape uh dan bueno calling from boston center

1235:13 CAPE2 yes

1235:14 ZBWTMU i have a situation with american eleven possible hijack

1235:17 CAPE2 american eleven

1235:18 ZBWTMU yes sir departed boston going to l a x right now he's south of albany i'd like to scramble some fighters to go tail him

1235:24 CAPE2 uh okay well we'll talk to otis here

1235:27 ZBWTMU okay and uh just put ah flight uh if he wants just depart and uh we'll flight plan in for him and uh we'll aim him towards uh hampton direct

1235:35 CAPE2 okay i'll talk to these guys over here and see what we can do

1235:37 ZBWTMU okay

1235:38 CAPE2 and right now he's on the ground at albany

1235:40 ZBWTMU uh no no no no he's uh right now

1235:42 CAPE2 he's airborne

1235:43 ZBWTMU he's eh airborne about forty south of albany primary only

1235:48 CAPE2 uh okay---i'll talk to em right now and who's this here

1235:52 ZBWTMU dan dan bueno from boston center t m u

1235:54 CAPE2 dan at t m u okay

1235:56 ZBWTMU great

1235:57 CAPE2 alright t j

1235:58 ZBWTMU thanks

1236

1237

1238

1239

1240

1240:02 CCEAST command center east tony

1240:03 ZBWTMU hi tony ah command center here I mean um boston center here  
can I get new york tracon

1240:08 CCEAST you bet

1240:12 CCEAST still nothing with the ah hijak

1240:13 ZBWTMU yes with american eleven

1240:15 CCEAST say it again

1240:16 ZBWTMU ah reference american eleven

1240:18 CCEAST have you any contact with him yet

1240:20 ZBWTMU ahh nope no contact but it is a confirmed ahh hijak though

1240:23 CCEAST i

1240:25 ZBWTMU hey tracon hi boston center ahh good morning american eleven  
ahh seven sixty seven possible hijak

1240:34 N90 ok american eleven a seven seven five and ahh

1240:36 ZBWTMU seven six

1240:38 N90 where's he landing

1240:39 ZBWTMU ahh right now we don't have any idea but ah he was to the northwest of albany and now he's ahh out by sparta loosing speed very rapidly we believe he's a primary only and ahh we believe he's in the descent that's why he's ah he's slowin down

1241:00 N90 i'm just trying to ahh and he's around the sparta area now you say

1241:03 ZBWTMU yeah he's around the sparta area right now

1241:05 N90 wow I just don't see anything ahh

1241:07 ZBWTMU yeah it's a primary target right now

1241:09 N90 yeah i'm looking pretty hard for any kinda primary target it we still should be able to see it and I don't see ahh

1241:15 CCEAST I do have something on the t s d if it gives ya an idea of which way he's headin

1241:19 N90 yeah i'm just lookin at the real raw radar here and I just don't see ahh I just don't see anything out there ill start ill let the area know to start lookin for it but

1241:28 ZBWTMU we just have any idea what altitude last altitude we had ahh was flight level two niner zero but ahh his ahh speed has diminished quite a bit



1241:36 N90 ok

1241:37 ZBWTMU so we believe he might be in a descent

1241:39 N90 ok all righty i'll i'll pass it along to the sector

1241:41 ZBWTMU alright just be careful

1241:42 N90 understand

1241:43 ZBWTMU check

1241:44 CCEAST hey boston

1241:45 ZBWTMU yes

1241:46 CCEAST you said you confirmed the hijak howd you ahh

1241:48 ZBWTMU well the ahh what has ahh happened is the pilot has kept the ah  
mike keyed while the ahh persons in the ahh the cockpit stuff  
like that

1242:00 CCEAST ok and what are you hearing

1242:02 ZBWTMU ahh the threat you know I don't really know what their hearing  
but that the sup came down and confirmed the ahh that it is the  
hijak

1242:13 CCEAST ok if you learn of anything else please give us a call so we can  
help you out as best we can does new york know about this guy  
heading ahh

1242:17 ZBWTMU new york knows cleveland knows ahh maybe washington will be next were going to scramble some fighters to tail him

1242:25 CCEAST ok coming out of otis

1242:26 ZBWTMU yes

1242:28 CCEAST ok i'll i'll take care of the coordination with washington ah center ill advise them of whats goin on

1242:33 ZBWTMU thank you

1243  
1243:08 ZBWTMU tmu

1243:09 CAPE2 yeah it's cape tracon here is dan there

1243:11 ZBWTMU that's me

1243:12 CAPE2 hey ah we just i just talked to otis here and they said they needed a ah needs authorization

1243:16 ZBWTMU were ah working with needs to see if ah they should be calling you now

1243:20 CAPE2 ok just to let you know ok we got ah call on a panta p a n t a papa alpha november tango alpha four five and four six flight of two thell be airborne soon

1243:30 ZBWTMU great thank you

1243:32 CAPE2 alright t j

1244:36 ZBWTMU cape tracon ahh t m u on the forty one

1244:40 CAPE2 cape tracons on

1244:41 ZBWTMU you said panta four six

1244:42 CAPE2 four five or four six and er four six yeah

1244:43 ZBWTMU ok got it

1244:45 CAPE2 alright t j  
1245

End of Transcript