



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Memorandum

Cleveland ARTCC
326 East Lorain Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

Subject: INFORMATION: Partial Transcript;
Aircraft Accident; N591UA (UAL93); Somerset, PA
September 11, 2001

Date: September 17, 2001

From: Cleveland ARTCC

To: Aircraft Accident File ZOB-ARTCC-287

This transcription covers the Cleveland ARTCC, Indianhead Radar position for the time period from September 11, 2001, 1358 UTC to September 11, 2001, 1418 UTC.

Agencies Making Transmissions

CFMDE
Cleveland ARTCC Indianhead Radar Position
Cleveland ARTCC Imperial Radar Associate Position
N20VF
Cleveland ARTCC Imperial Radar Position
Unknown

Abbreviations

CFMDE
IHD-R
IRL-RA
N20VF
IRL-R
UNKN

I hereby certify that the following is a true transcription of the recorded conversation pertaining to the subject aircraft accident involving N591UA (UAL93):

Jeffrey M. Rich
Operations Support Spec.
Cleveland ARTCC

1358

1359

1359:18 CFMDE ah cleveland center mike delta echo ah we'd like lower now i guess for johnstown ah

1359:24

IHD-R

ok ah charlie foxtrot mike delta echo roger um i'll tell you what ah charlie foxtrot mike delta echo hold on one second here ok charlie foxtrot mike

delta echo what i want you to do sir is make a right turn right turn heading one eight zero please right turn heading one eight zero

1359:46	CFDME	ok ah mike delta echo we're in the right turn ah for a one eight zero heading
1359:52	IHD-R	ok sir there's a very good reason for this
1359:56 1400	CFMDE	very good ah
1400:02	CFMDE	we'll just maintain our altitude here mike delta echo because we're ah ah we might lose ya if ah we go lower
1400:08	IHD-R	ok maintain your ah maintain your ah altitude sir that's good
1400:19	IHD-R	charlie foxtrot mike delta echo ah sir we have traffic out there that's heading your way he's about twenty mile behind ya right we think he's at seventy five hundred and it's it's a ah u s united jet ah seven fifty seven and we think he's at seventy five hundred i'll keep you advised
1400:41 1401 1402	CFMDE	ok ah mike delta echo very good
1402:13	IHD-R	ok charlie foxtrot mike delta echo i want you to turn left make it a left turn a tight turn please heading three six zero
1402:21	CFMDE	mike delta echo we're in the tight turn three six zero
1402:24	IHD-R	ok that traffic is behind you turning to the southeast he's ah about ten miles behind you
1402:31 1403	CFMDE	mike delta echo
1403:09	IRL-RA	i'm giving you track control on that united ninety three
1403:12	IHD-R	alright thank you

1403:13 IRL-RA alright

1403:25 IHD-R ok charlie foxtrot mike delta echo sir you're cleared direct johnstown when you're able sir if you could take a look or have somebody in the back take a look and see if you see traffic he would be in your five o'clock position and ten miles we think he's at eight thousand feet

1403:44 CFMDE ah mike delta echo is looking and negative contact at this time you said you wanted us to go direct johnstown

1403:50 IHD-R direct to johnstown sir you can start that descent again

1403:54 CFMDE mike delta echo

1403:55 IHD-R sir i've lost the ah primary on this guy too i think he's ah to your south now but i'll keep you advised

1404

1404:01 CFMDE thank you and we're still ah negative contact there ah lookin at ah five o'clock

1405

1406

1406:27 IRL-RA (unintelligible) it's likely that united is down we've got a report from a guy at twenty four of a column of black smoke off his left

1406:32 IHD-R thank you

1406:34 IRL-RA alright but we don't have confirmation

1406:38 N20VF hello cleveland falcon twenty victor fox descending to niner thousand out of ten point eight

1406:40 IHD-R falcon two zero victor foxtrot sir check for an e l t do you see any ah activity out there probably on your right side smoke or anything like that

1406:53 N20VF negative we're searching

1406:57 N20VF yeah we do have ah smoke puffs now at about ah oh probably two o clock

1407:03 IHD-R ok your two o clock and i need to know how many miles sir

1407:18 IHD-R ok ah three zero victor fox two zero victor foxtrot sir can you give me a ah position on the ah activity there

1407:29 N20VF yeah its ah guesstimating maybe ten miles for two zero victor foxtrot maybe a thousand feet or so below us

1407:36 IHD-R ok a thousand feet below you and its in your two o clock position you say ten miles

1407:41 N20VF affirmative appears to be just a ah dark cloud like a puff of black smoke

1407:46 IHD-R ok sir i uh i don't want to put you in any kind of situation but if you can you see anything over there sir do you see any flames or anything

1407:57 N20VF ah negative on the flames ah we don't detect any flames can't see that much of the ground from here

1408:03 IHD-R ok two zero victor foxtrot you can descend at your discretion maintain five thousand sir do you have g p s on board is there any way you can give me any kind of ah fix on this

1408:15 N20VF ah we do have g op s i don't know how we can give you an accurate fix without flying over the position over there

1408:21 IHD-R ok sir i don't want to put you in any kind of situation but ah if you can think you can fly over it you can have whatever altitude you want and give us the exact g p s on that ah that would probably help us out

1408:35 N20VF ok we'll head over in that direction and we're goin to five thousand two

zero victor fox

1408:40 IHD-R ok two zero victor foxtrot let me know when you get there sir and we'll get a ah lat long from it thank you

1408:48 N20VF will do ah two zero victor fox
1409
1410

1410:13 IHD-R and two zero victor foxtrot ah you about over that now?

1410:18 N20VF we're coming on it i'm gettin ready to call you with the coordinates do you want me to do that

1410:23 IHD-R yes please sir
1411

1411:01 N20VF and center two zero victor fox we're coming up on that our coordinates are four zero zero two point two seven eight five four point seven and ah it looks like ah dark smoke on the ground on the edge of a field ah bordered by a treed area or forest area at the end of a road

1411:19 IHD-R ok sir you seeing any kind of flames or anything

1411:23 N20VF ah no flames ah black smoke and its the end of a dirt road ah ah near a wooded area we're circling now

1411:36 IHD-R can we do that with johnstown through tower when he goes over to tower ok yeah go ahead

1411:41 IRL-R yeah this is imperial gopher zero six

1411:43 IHD-R uh huh

1410:44 IRL-R if i can i'm going to take him down towards that report of smoke area

1411:49 IHD-R i i just got it bill i have it i have the a guy right over it right now you can do

what you want but i have a guy down there at five thousand feet overflew it we got the lat longs and everything

1411:56 IRL-R is that him

1411:59 IHD-R and a report

1412:01 UNKN that was the united

1412:04 IHD-R he sees smoke and he didn't see flames he sees smoke and and

1412:04 IRL-R visual positive i d on alright

1412:05 IHD-R right

1412:15 IHD-R ok sir can you see any kind of wreckage or anything out there

1412:17 N20VF as we get around this side of it ha the smoke is blowing away from us we do se flames ah its on the edge of like i say a wooded area ah and a very fairly ah clean ah field but i don't see wreckage i do see flames now and ah dark smoke

1412:33 IHD-R ok two zero victor foxtrot roger ah i'm gonna keep you there for just one more second in case we need a little more information if that's ok with you sir

1412:43 N20VF yeah everything appears to be ok with us

1412:46 IHD-R ah we think it was a united jet sir that was bombed

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1418

End of Transcript

NOV 8
10:15