Memorandum

Date: January 29, 2009

To: Aircraft Accident File N90-TRACON-0122

From: LaGuardia Airport Traffic Control Tower

Subject: INFORMATION: Full Transcript
Aircraft Accident, AWE1549
New York, NY, January 15, 2009

This transcription covers the LaGuardia Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) SOUTH TC position for the time period from January 15, 2009, 2024 UTC, to January 15, 2009, 2059 UTC.

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I hereby certify that the following is a true transcription of the recorded conversations pertaining to the subject aircraft accident involving AWE1549.

Daniel Lai
Staff Support Specialist
LaGuardia ATCT

2024
(2025-2026)
2027
2027:31 N461SA afternoon laguardia helicopter four six one sierra alpha

2027:34 CBA four six one sierra alpha laguardia

2027:36 N461SA okay university request to take it over yankee stadium central park empire state building check out the east river (unintelligible)
2027:41 CBA four six one sierra alpha ah squawk zero two four six

2027:45 N461SA zero two four six sierra alpha

2027:53 N152TA laguardia tower helicopter one five two tango alpha with you on a tour alpha

2027:57 CBA one five two tango alpha laguardia tower tour alpha's approved maintain at or below one thousand five hundred

2028:01 N152TA one thousand five hundred

2028:20 CBA one sierra alpha cleared into bravo airspace maintain at or below one thousand five hundred and i’ll have higher for you later altimeter’s three zero two four

2028:28 N461SA three zero two four cleared to class bravo at or below one thousand five hundred sierra alpha

2029:19 CBA two tango alpha traffic at your twelve o’clock and ah five miles southbound airbus three twenty

2029:28 N152TA we’re looking for the traffic two tango alpha

2029:33 CBA yeah two tango alpha he’s at nine hundred feet abeam the north hudson he’s ah looks like he’s descending into the hudson river

2029:44 CBA two tango alpha looks like this ah may be an incident here

2029:48 N152TA roger keep my eyes out two tango alpha

2029:50 CBA two tango alpha he’s twelve o’clock and two and a half miles

2029:53 N152TA got him in sight maintaining visual

2029:55 CBA two tango alpha roger

2030:16 CBA two tango alpha is he still flying
2030:18   N152TA   still flying
2030:19   CBA     thank you
2030:21   N152TA   flying past the (unintelligible) right now looks like he getting lower
2030:23   CBA     two tango alpha roger
2030:34   N461SA   going down
2030:35   N152TA   two tango alpha course reversal
2030:37   CBA     two tango alpha roger
2030:40   N461SA   looks like he's going down
2030:43   CBA     roger
2030:45   N461SA   he's in the water
2030:48   CBA     roger
2030:52   CBA     two tango alpha ah i need you to ah i'm gonna need you to ah stay with me if you can so we can keep an eye on where they are
2031:02   N152TA   roger i got him in sight i right next to the u s s intrepid mid river
2031:04   CBA     say it again
2031:06   N152TA   next to the u s s intrepid mid river
2031:09   CBA     roger
2031:11   N461SA   one sierra alpha i have him in sight yeah he's in the water yea he’s abeam the u s intrepid
2031:16  CBA    thank you

2031:32  N152TA  ah it appears that they are deploying the rafts right now

2031:37  CBA    two tango alpha thank you
2032

2032:01  UNK    tango alpha where are you

2032:03  CBA    one sierra alpha traffic’s at your one o’clock and two miles over the lincoln tunnel one thousand five hundred

2032:08  N461SA (unintelligible) you sir

2032:10  CBA    two tango alpha traffic’s two northeast of you one thousand one hundred southbound on the manhattan side

2032:21  CBA    one sierra alpha you have two tango alpha in sight

2032:24  N152TA looking for sierra alpha

2032:25  CBA    two tango alpha one sierra alpha’s a mile to your north at one thousand three hundred on the manhattan side

2032:30  N152TA got her in sight maintaining visual two tango alpha

2032:32  CBA    two tango alpha rog

2032:34  N461SA  sierra alpha has tango alpha in sight

2032:36  CBA    thank you

2032:38  UNK    alright guys well (unintelligible)

2032:40  CBA    and one sierra alpha two tango alpha is ah i appreciate the information you give me and i certainly don’t need to ah keep you from what you need to be doing if you need to leave i understand

2032:50  N461SA  roger sierra alpha’s just gonna do a over run empire
state

2032:54  CBA  one sierra alpha roger

2032:57  N152TA  two tango alpha will take course reversal to the south and check out

2033:00  CBA  two tango alpha roger

2033:29  CBA  two tango alpha leaving bravo airspace radar service terminated squawk v f r frequency change approved i appreciate the help

2034

2034:16  CBA  one sierra alpha let me know if you can still see the ah the aircraft is it still floating

2034:20  N461SA  the airplane is still floating and it looks like there’s a ah the circle line that’s approaching it right now

2034:27  CBA  thank you

2034:46  N461SA  sierra alpha’s ready we’ll check out to the hudson river

2034:49  CBA  sierra alpha roger leaving the bravo airspace radar service terminated traffic is a p d helicopter approaching from the south at the ah about a mile south of the empire right now

2034:59  N461SA  okay sir looking for the p d and ah we're switching over to the river frequency

2035:02  CBA  one sierra alpha roger thanks again for the help

2035:05  N461SA  no problem

2035:25  N23FH  laguardia two three fox hotel

2036

2037

2038

2038:27  CBA  two three fox hotel

2038:29  N23FH  ah direct over to ah i guess north of ah empire state
building for the aircraft in the water

2038:34 CBA two three fox hotel approved direct to the ah empire to maintain at or below seven hundred to the harlem to maintain one thousand no further west than the ah I’m sorry then as requested

2038:45 N23FH roger thank you

2038:53 CBA two three fox hotel the ah last report i have from a previous helicopter was the aircraft was abeam the intrepid and ah there were rafts the aircraft was still floating ah looks like you might have p d one over there ah abeam the lincoln i'm not talking to him

2039:08 N23FH roger thank you

2039:21 CBA (unintelligible) one

2040

2041

2041:39 CBA two three fox hotel at or below one thousand five hundred

2041:42 N23FH below one point five thank you

2041:55 N381CV tower sikorsky three eight one charlie victor papa

2041:58 CBA say it again

2041:59 N381CV three eight one charlie victor we got papa sir we're about three north of lake success one thousand four hundred request throgs overhead landing the west side

2042:09 CBA three eight one charlie victor squawk zero two zero one

2042:12 N381CV zero two zero one we'll tune it

2042:26 CBA three eight one charlie victor proceed as requested climb and maintain two thousand altimeter's three zero two four

2042:31 N381CV three zero two four up to two thousand one charlie victor
2042:38  CBA   one charlie victor you said you're landing west thirtieth is that right

2042:41  N381CV  affirm one charlie victor

2042:43  CBA   one charlie victor ah just ah if your capable give the ah helipad a call there’s a aircraft accident in the hudson river in that vicinity i don’t know what the circumstances are in that location right now

2042:56  N381CV  okey doke ah thank you charlie victor

2043:00  N23FH   laguardia two three fox gonna switch over to the river frequency

2043:05  CBA   two three that was two three fox hotel

2043:08  N23FH   affirmative we’re checking out to the west

2043:10  CBA   two three fox hotel roger radar services are terminated frequency change approved two targets at the lincoln tunnel one thousand and below i know ones a p d i don’t the other ones a v f r target

2043:30  CBA   one charlie victor ah it looks like they’re instilling a temporary t f r in the vicinity of the ah west thirtieth helipad i’ll have to continue you overhead and hold at the north tip until i get this sorted out

2043:48  CBA   one charlie victor

2043:51  CBA   three eight one charlie victor

2043:52  N381CV  okay sir we copy

2043:55  CBA   roger

2044:19  CBA   one charlie victor

2044:20  N381CV  yes sir
2044:23    CBA       one charlie victor i’m being instructed i need to get you on the ground at laguardia airport or thirty fourth street those are your two options right now

2044:29    N381CV    all right sir yes we’ll go to three four if that’s fine

2044:32    CBA       one charlie victor roger at your eleven o’clock and two miles nine hundred landing at laguardia is an embraer one fourth five for runway three one

2044:40    N381CV    we’re looking for the traffic one charlie victor

2044:42    CBA       one charlie victor roger i’ll have ah i’ll have lower for ya and ah and the ah harlem i’m sorry the east river area shortly and that traffic’s now on short final five hundred no factor for ya

2044:53    N381CV    we’ve got the traffic in sight maintaining visual one charlie victor

2044:56    CBA       one charlie victor approved

2044:58    N381CV    you want us thirty fourth street remain there or can we come back eastbound

2045:03    CBA       one charlie victor ah i you’ll be able to come back eastbound to my understanding once you get on the ground you ah probably will be more right now things are just developing right now we’re only ten minutes after something pretty bad happened

2045:19    N381CV    alright i understand thanks very much we’ll ah land at thirty fourth street actually we’ll even give you a call before we depart

2045:25    CBA       yeah that might be the best choice

2045:27    N381CV    thanks charlie vic

2046:32    N381CV    laguardia three eight one charlie victor direct and lower to three four

2046:35    CBA       three eight one charlie victor you can take direct to
the five nine bridge and descent is approved i’m gonna request that you stay with me till ah landing assured

2046:43 N381CV we certainly appreciate your help thank you

2047:14 N461SA hey laguardia airport helicopter four six one sierra alpha

2047:18 CBA four six one sierra alpha laguardia

2047:20 N461SA we’re downtown requesting to get back to home to h p n sierra alpha

2047:24 CBA four six one sierra alpha you on the ah east river

2047:28 N461SA yea sir

2047:28 CBA four six one sierra alpha squawk zero two zero two

2047:30 N461SA zero two zero two sierra alpha

2047:36 N381CV (unintelligible) three four one charlie vic ah correction laguardia one charlie victor five nine checking out landing three four

2047:42 CBA one charlie victor traffic’s at the ah williamsburg bridge north bound one thousand climbing helicopter

2047:48 N381CV and we're looking one charlie vistor

2047:49 CBA and one sierra alpha traffic’s at the five nine joining the harlem south ah excuse me the east river southbound one thousand

2047:55 N461SA sierra alpha

2047:57 CBA one charlie victor leaving bravo airspace radar services are terminated squawk v f r and frequency change approved

2048:01 N381CV thank you sir we'll give you a shout before we depart
2048:03  CBA  roger

2048:04  CBA  one sierra alpha you said you have the traffic there at the five nine ah just on the east side of the five nine now

2048:09  N461SA  traffic in sight we’ll maintain visual separation

2048:11  CBA  one sierra alpha approved climb and maintain one thousand five hundred at east river harlem river northbound g w and then on course

2048:18  N461SA  one thousand five hundred east river harlem river over then on course sierra alpha

2049  (2050-2052)  2053  2053:25  CBA  one sierra alpha contact new york approach one two zero point eight

2053:27  N461SA  twenty point eight sierra alpha

2053:50  PD12  laguardia p d twelve

2053:52  CBA  p d twelve laguardia

2053:57  PD12  okay heading over to midtown ah we got we're talking to company we got and also port authority ah seven hundred below

2054:01  CBA  p d twelve proceed as requested at or below one thousand five hundred altimeter’s three zero two five

2054:10  PD12  p d twelve roger

2055  (2056-2057)  2058  2058:27  CBA  p d twelve i know you said you are talking to the people but at your one o’clock show four targets at or below one thousand

2058:37  PD12  roger you know we are going to stay with you you know the river is going to be a mess we have somebody monitor the river
2058:42 CBA p d twelve roger
2059

End of Transcript