

Plane's recorders silent on spoilers

Communication between pilots questioned

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — The cockpit recording from the American Airlines jet that crashed while landing in a thunderstorm contains no mention by the pilots of setting the spoilers that slow a plane down, a federal investigator said Tuesday.

The finding raises more questions about whether the spoilers were set to activate on landing, as co-pilot Michael Origel believes they were. Previously, investigators said the flight data recorders indicate the spoilers did not open when the plane touched down.

"What I'm really interested in is the communication between the two officers," Greg Feith, lead investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board, said.

"Was there a miscommunication? Did they not do something because someone did not understand?" he said.

The NTSB's George W. Black Jr. said it is possible Capt. Richard Buschmann and Origel communicated non-verbally about the spoilers, by pointing or nodding, for example.

Spoilers are panels on the wings that pop up to slow the plane down on landing.

The plane ran off the end of a wet runway at more than 90 mph,

tore open and caught fire June 1, killing the captain and eight passengers. More than 80 of the 145 people aboard were injured. Two people remained in critical condition Tuesday.

Investigators are examining whether mechanical problems, pilot error, severe weather or a combination of those factors caused the accident.

Origel, who broke a leg in the crash, said last week he believes the spoilers were set by Buschmann during the jet's approach.

However, Black said Tuesday the recording indicates the pilots went over some items on the pre-landing checklist, but there was no mention of the spoilers.

He would not say if any other elements of the checklist were not heard on the tape recording.

Feith said that in a hospital interview, Origel claimed he had completed the checklist for landing. Investigators want Origel to listen to the cockpit recording with them to refresh his memory about the landing preparations.

An American Airlines official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it is company policy to go through the items on the checklist out loud.

"Was there a miscommunication? Did they (pilots) not do something because someone did not understand?"

— Greg Feith

Picture perfect



Dan Pritchard of Parker County views photographs on display at the MSC Flagroom Tuesday afternoon. The photos are part of a contest the state 4-H Roundup, which will attract over 2,000 4-H members to campus this week.

U.S., allies agree to resolution

Plan calls for withdrawal of Serb troops, return of Kosovan refugees

COLOGNE, Germany (AP) — The United States, Russia and six other nations agreed Tuesday on a draft U.N. resolution to send NATO peacekeepers to war-ravaged Kosovo, a pivotal step that could help end the conflict with Yugoslavia within days. The Pentagon said there already were signs that Serb troops intend to withdraw.

The United States and its allies found common ground at a meeting of foreign ministers here.

"We have made a very decisive step toward peace," German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said, hailing the breakthrough after two days of talks during which Russia dropped its major objections.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic should direct his military commanders to agree on a rapid phased withdrawal of all 40,000 Serb troops from Kosovo.

"Unless he is totally tone deaf he should be getting the message it's time to withdraw," Albright said after the draft was approved by the United States, Russia, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan at a foreign ministers conference here.

After the meeting, Albright flew to Brussels, Belgium, to brief NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana.

"We are putting the pieces into place," Albright said in a joint news conference with Solana. "It all depends on compliance, verifiable compliance."

The text was immediately sent to the United Nations, where the Security Council held its first meeting on the draft. The United States and its NATO partners are pushing for quick

adoption but China is questioning key points.

Stalled military talks in Macedonia resumed Tuesday night.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said a Serb withdrawal and a suspension of the bombing could occur "in the next few days." But he stressed the sequence must begin with Yugoslav military commanders resuming their talks with NATO officers and agreeing to a phased withdrawal.

After the Serb troops quit Kosovo, and their departure is verified as part of a wholesale pullout, the bombing would be suspended and the U.N. resolution put to a vote in the Security Council, Cook said.

In Washington, President Clinton said implementation was the key to ending the 11-week conflict.

"A verifiable withdrawal of Serb forces will allow us to suspend the bombing and go forward with the (peace) plan," the president said. "NATO is determined to bring the Kosovars home."

U.S. intelligence has detected signs that Serb forces in Kosovo are making preparations to withdraw, although no troops have begun moving or assembling for a pullout, Pentagon spokesperson Kenneth Bacon told reporters.

Among the signs is the mobilization of Serb vehicles in Kosovo that would be used to transport soldiers out, Bacon said.

NATO struck targets near Belgrade on Tuesday, thereby intensifying its attacks to force Milosevic to order a retreat.

Yugoslavia's state-run Tanjug news agency, meanwhile, reported progress at low-level talks between the NATO and the Serb-led Yugoslav military "on the mode of arrival and deployment of the international security forces in Kosovo."

Russian Foreign Minister Igor

Fragile plan for peace in Kosovo

On Tuesday the G-8 nations, the seven richest nations in the world plus Russia, unanimously agreed on a U.N. resolution to authorize a peacekeeping force with NATO at the core force.

The draft U.N. peace resolution...

- Calls for the withdrawal of all Yugoslav military police and paramilitary forces from Kosovo.
- Insures the safe return of 860,000 Kosovo refugees to their homes.
- Demands full cooperation with the U.N. war crimes tribunal, by all parties.
- Mandates the demilitarization of the Kosovo Liberation Army and other ethnic Albanian rebels by the international force.
- Establishes an international security presence, with NATO participation, to secure return of refugees, protect humanitarian aid efforts and renewed hostilities.
- Sets up an interim government in Kosovo to provide substantial autonomy for the province of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which is made up of the republics of Serbia and Montenegro and the province of Vojvodina and Kosovo, pending final settlement of the conflict.

Ivanov said his government had made concessions in drafting the resolution — Moscow had resisted a dominant role in peacekeeping for NATO — but he said "the goal is to bring an end to the war."

"If we can achieve that, as quickly as possible, we can be satisfied with this resolution," he said.

At the G-8 foreign ministers' meeting, Ivanov pledged Russia's support for the resolution but later suggested NATO must stop bombing before final U.N. approval. Ivanov said participation of Russian peacekeepers still had to be negotiated.

Clinton, for the second straight

day, telephoned Russian President Boris Yeltsin to try to get peace plan forward. Clinton dispatched his envoy, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbot, to Moscow to work out the details of Russian participation in a peacekeeping force.

Yeltsin "expressed support with the draft" resolution, Kremlin press service said, though he, too, insisted on immediate bombing halt.

The sticking point was Russian reluctance to have NATO in the peacekeeping force and being the backbone of the operation.

Theaters to require ID for R-rated films

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a crackdown on kids sneaking into movies they are not supposed to see, young people will be required to show photo IDs proving they are at least 17 to view R-rated films at thousands of theaters across America.

"You shouldn't have to worry about your G-rated kids getting into violent or suggestive R-rated movies," President Clinton said Tuesday, announcing new restrictions imposed by the nation's largest group of theater owners.

"Too often, children do get past the ticket counter unescorted and underage," he said.

The ID requirement was the latest in a series of steps to curb youth violence in the aftermath of the high school rampage that left 15 people dead in Littleton, Colo. The restrictions were a victory for Clinton, who had challenged theater and video store owners a month ago to enforce the rating systems on movies they show, rent and sell. The White House said it would keep up the pressure on video stores.

Watchdog groups said the new requirement will put teeth into the 31-year-old movie rating system and the R-rating that bans children under 17 from viewing the films unless accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.

"The industry has taken a big step: enforcement at the box of-

fice," James M. Wall, special consultant to the motion picture industry for the National Council of Churches, said. "Kids have always managed to sort of slip their way past box offices. A requirement like this sets a mood that we are serious about enforcing the R-rating."

But some kids were unhappy at the prospect of being carded.

"I don't agree with that at all," 16-year-old Paul Griffith said in the lobby of a 24-screen theater complex in Columbus, Ohio. "But I'll probably just sneak in anyway."

Jimmy Moore, 14, at the same theater said: "You see worse things every day out on the street. At least here it's fake."

In Boston, 15-year-old Jamie Frizzell of Standish, Maine, said, "It sounds like a stupid idea" — encouraging kids to get fake IDs. Another critic, 13-year-old Jinuk Lee of Portland, Ore., said, "How else will we learn? Most parents don't teach us about sex and violence."

But 12-year-old Aaron Whitmore in Portland said, "I think it's right because kids shouldn't see those movies unless their parents want them to."

The new policy was adopted by the National Association of Theater Owners, representing more than 20,000 screens spread across every state. That's about two-thirds of all screens in the nation. The White House said it would try to get all theaters to follow suit.

"We believe that this will go a long way in carrying out our responsibilities to the parents of America," William F. Katozian, the association president, said.



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