



Federal Aviation Administration

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.

<u>Agencies Making Transmissions</u>	<u>Abbreviations</u>
N461SA	N461SA
LaGuardia ATCT Class Bravo Airspace Position (SOUTH TC)	CBA
N152TA	N152TA
Unknown	UNK
B12, N23FH	N23FH
S76, N381CV	N381CV
PD12	PD12

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

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

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 throps 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

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

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

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

N90-TRACON-0122
AWE1549

Page 11 of 11

2058:42 CBA p d twelve roger
2059

End of Transcript