



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

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*Office of Aviation Safety*

**Maryland State Police  
Trooper 2  
District Heights, MD**

Corky Smith

Investigator-in-Charge

# Maryland State Police (MSP) Helicopter



NTSB



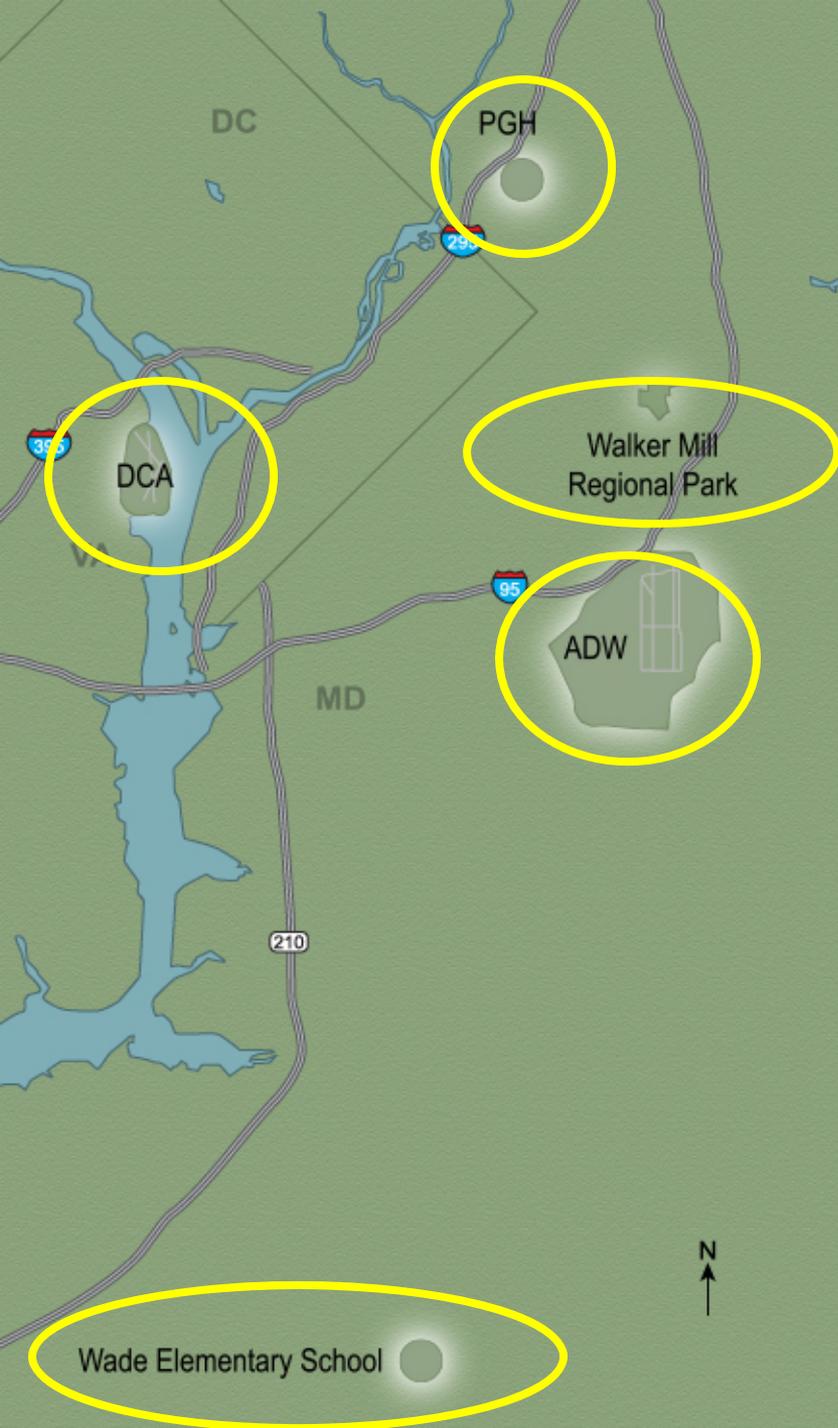
# History of Flight

- ADW weather 2310
- Encountered IMC and diverted to ADW
- ADW weather 2355
  - 4 mi mist, scattered clouds 200 ft, ceiling broken 500 ft, temp/dew point 20° C
- No flight plan; flight tracking monitored by MSP
- Four fatalities, 1 serious injury

# Trooper 2 Flight Track

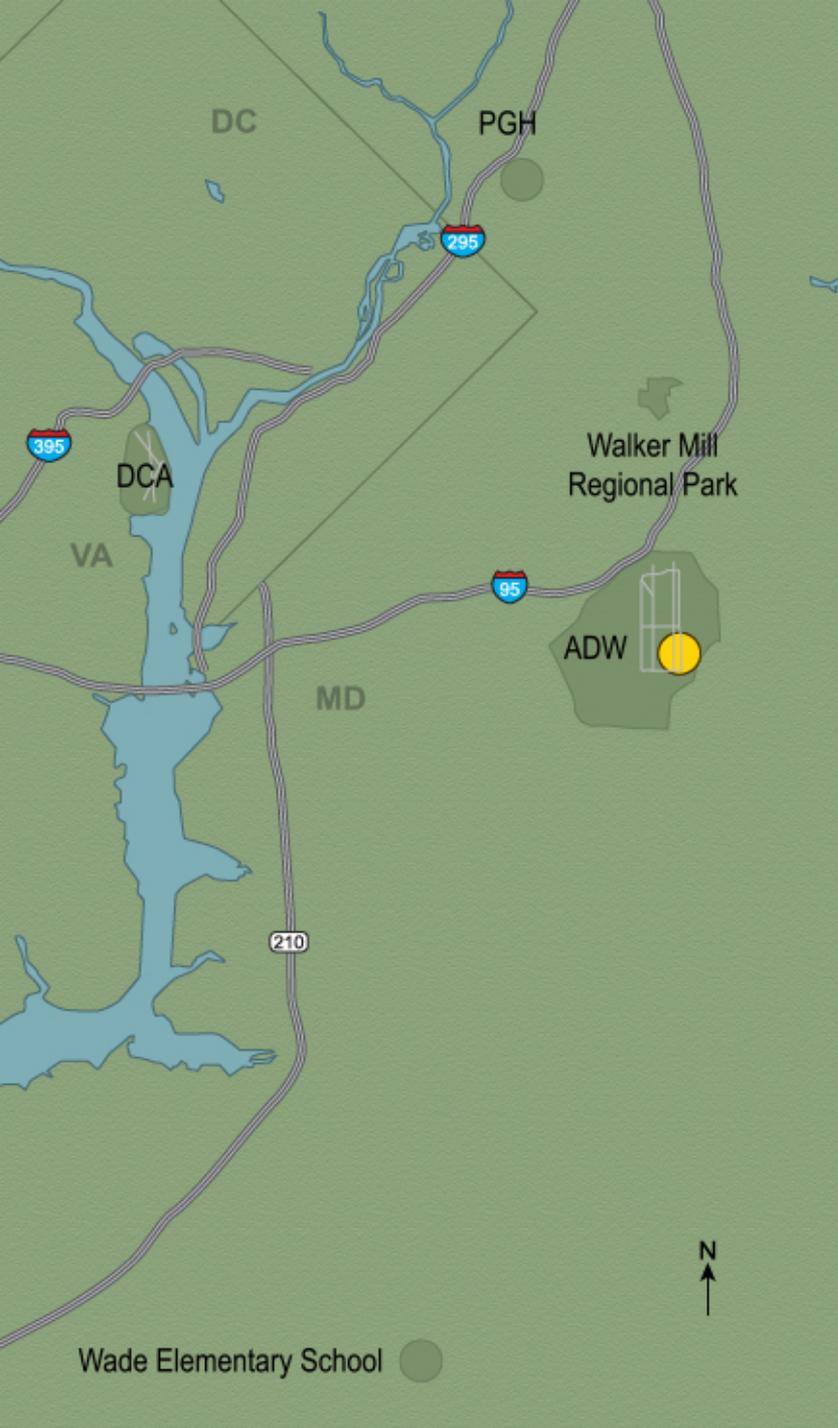
## Points of Interest:

- Andrews Air Force Base (ADW)
- Wade Elementary School
- Reagan National Airport (DCA)
- Prince George's Hospital
- Walker Mill Regional Park



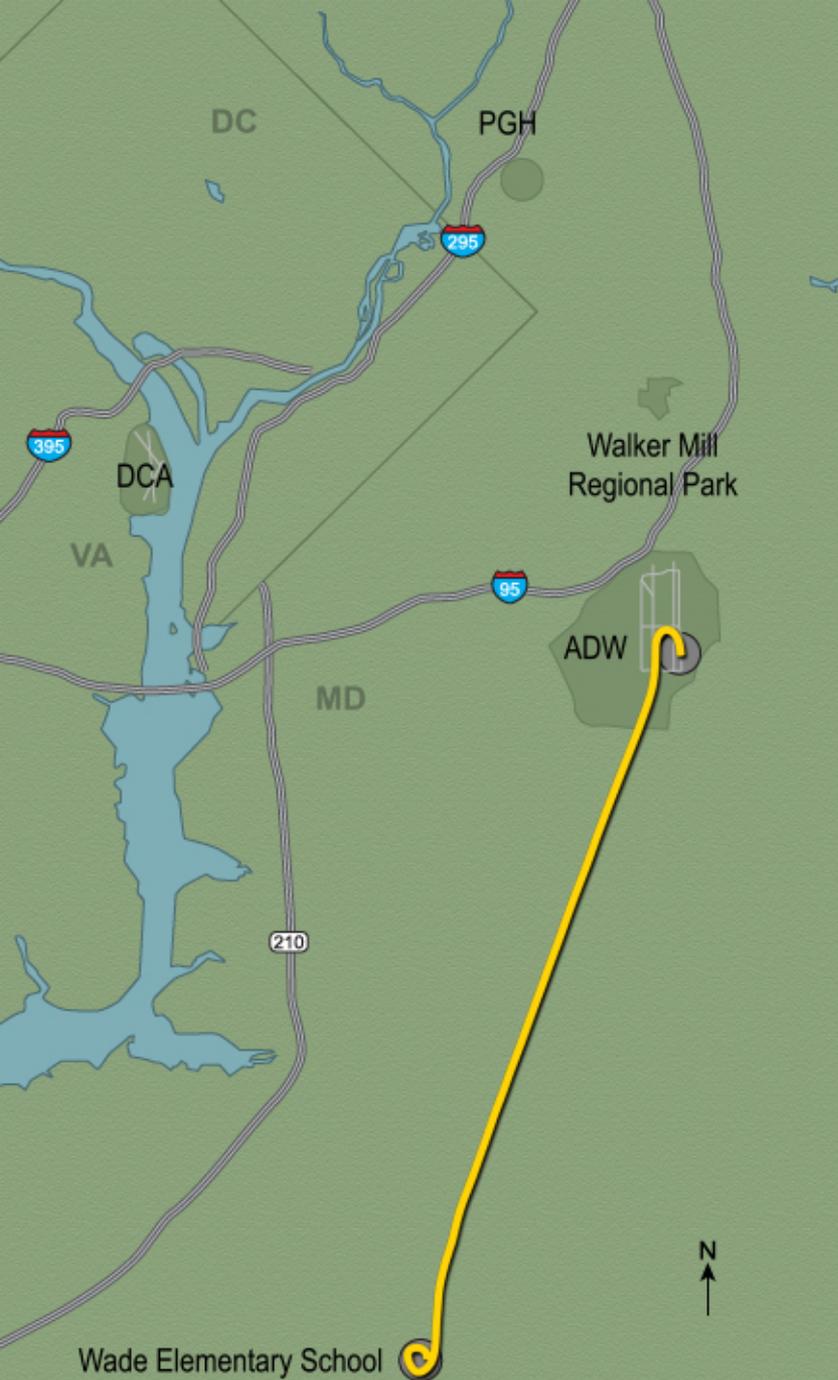
# Trooper 2 Flight Track

2310 Trooper 2 departed ADW



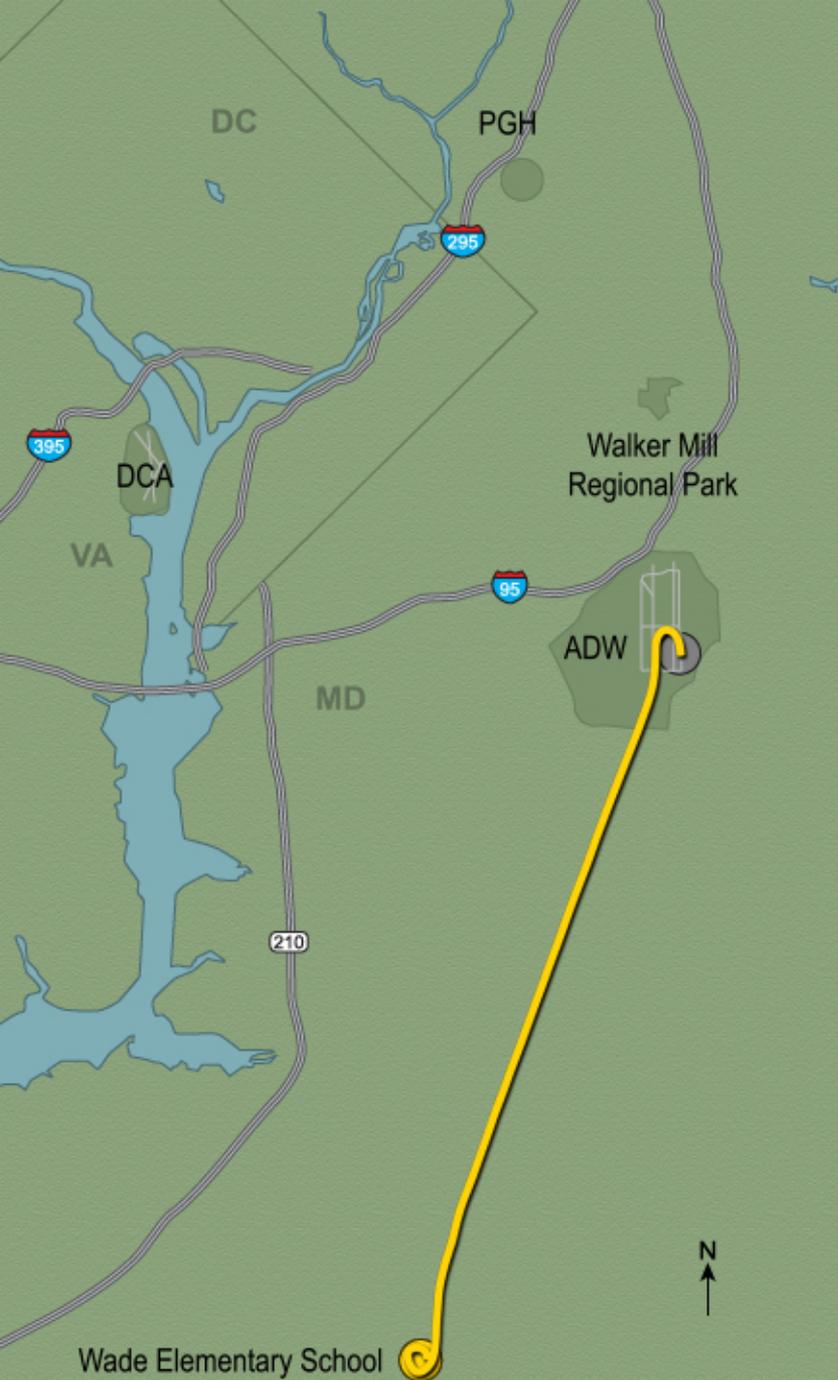
# Trooper 2 Flight Track

2319 Trooper 2 arrived near the automobile accident site



# Trooper 2 Flight Track

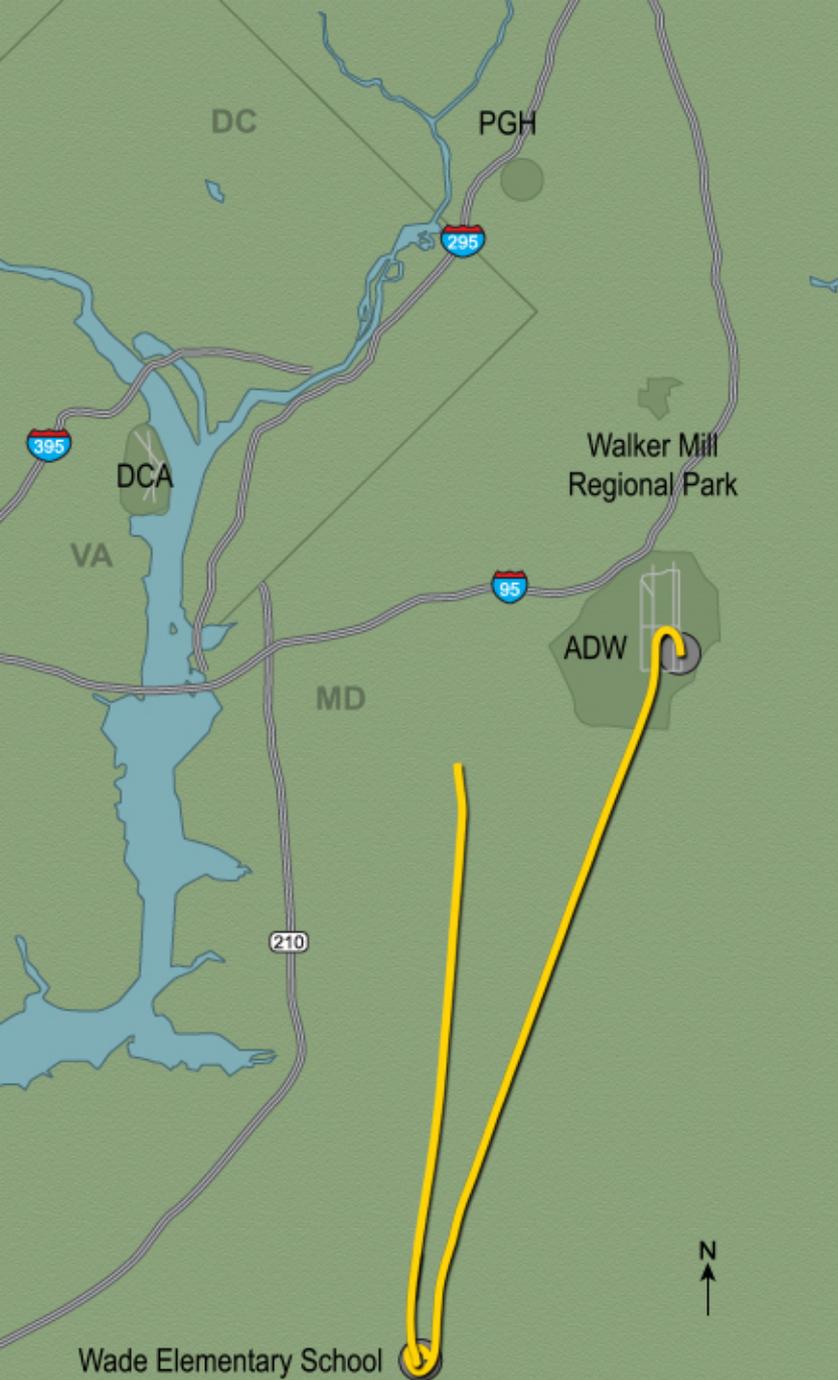
2337 Trooper 2 departed for Prince George's Hospital



# Trooper 2 Flight Track

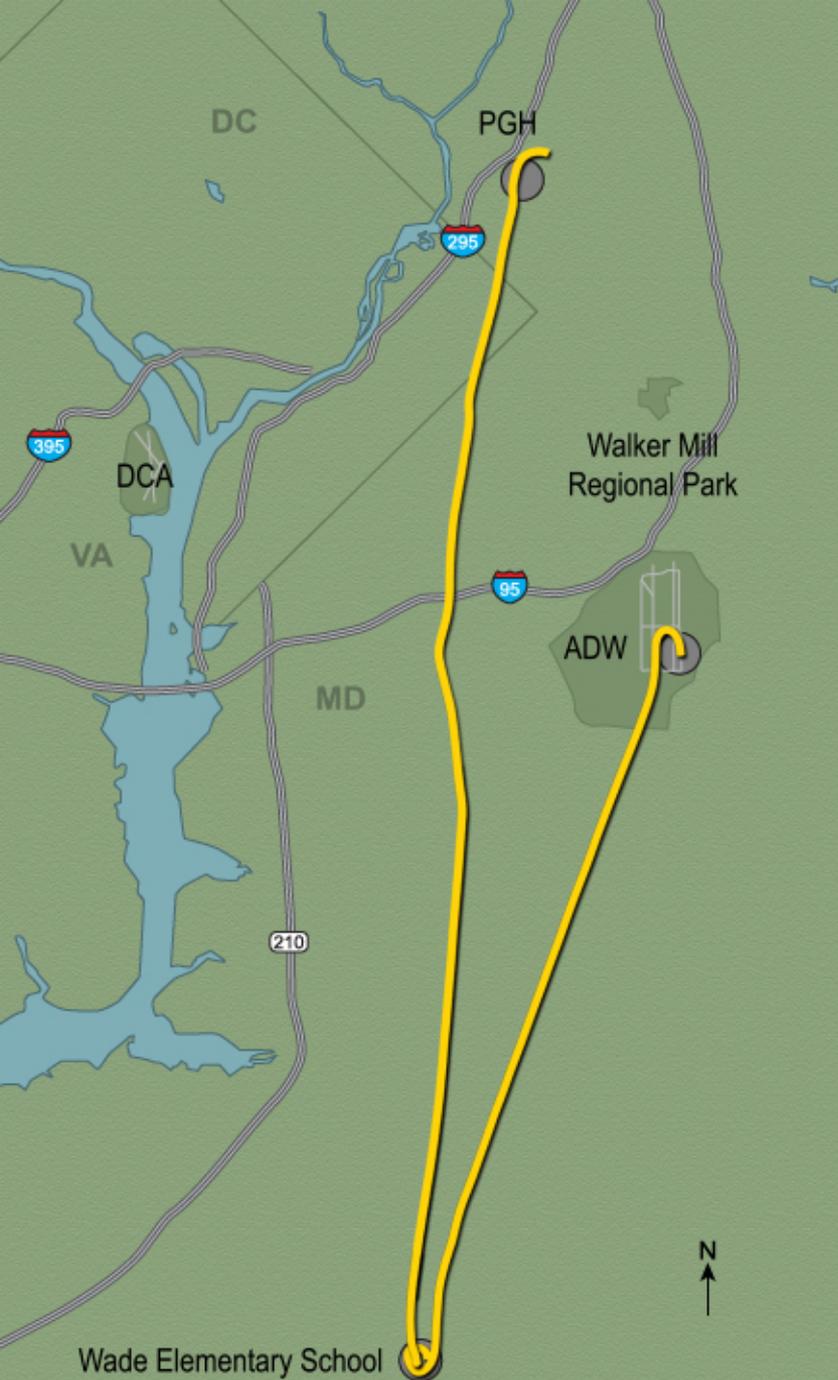
2341 ATC radar and ADS-B data indicated Trooper 2 entered class B airspace at 1,000 ft

A pilot reported cloud bases at 900 ft



# Trooper 2 Flight Track

2347 Trooper 2 was 0.25 miles east of Prince George's Hospital, and advised the controller he was diverting to ADW

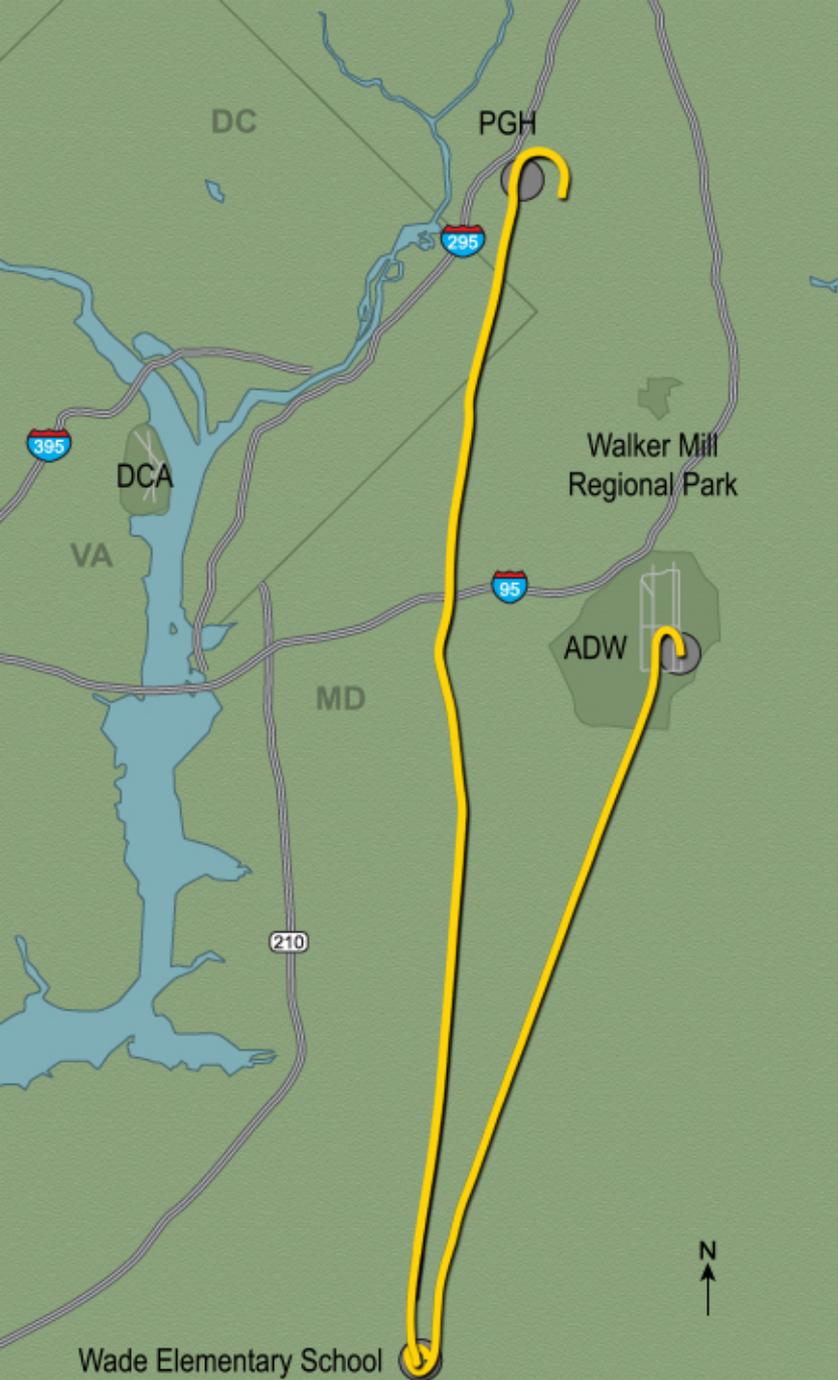


# Trooper 2 Flight Track

2348 Trooper 2 instructed to contact Potomac approach control

Trooper 2 informed Potomac approach he would like to shoot approach to runway 1L at ADW

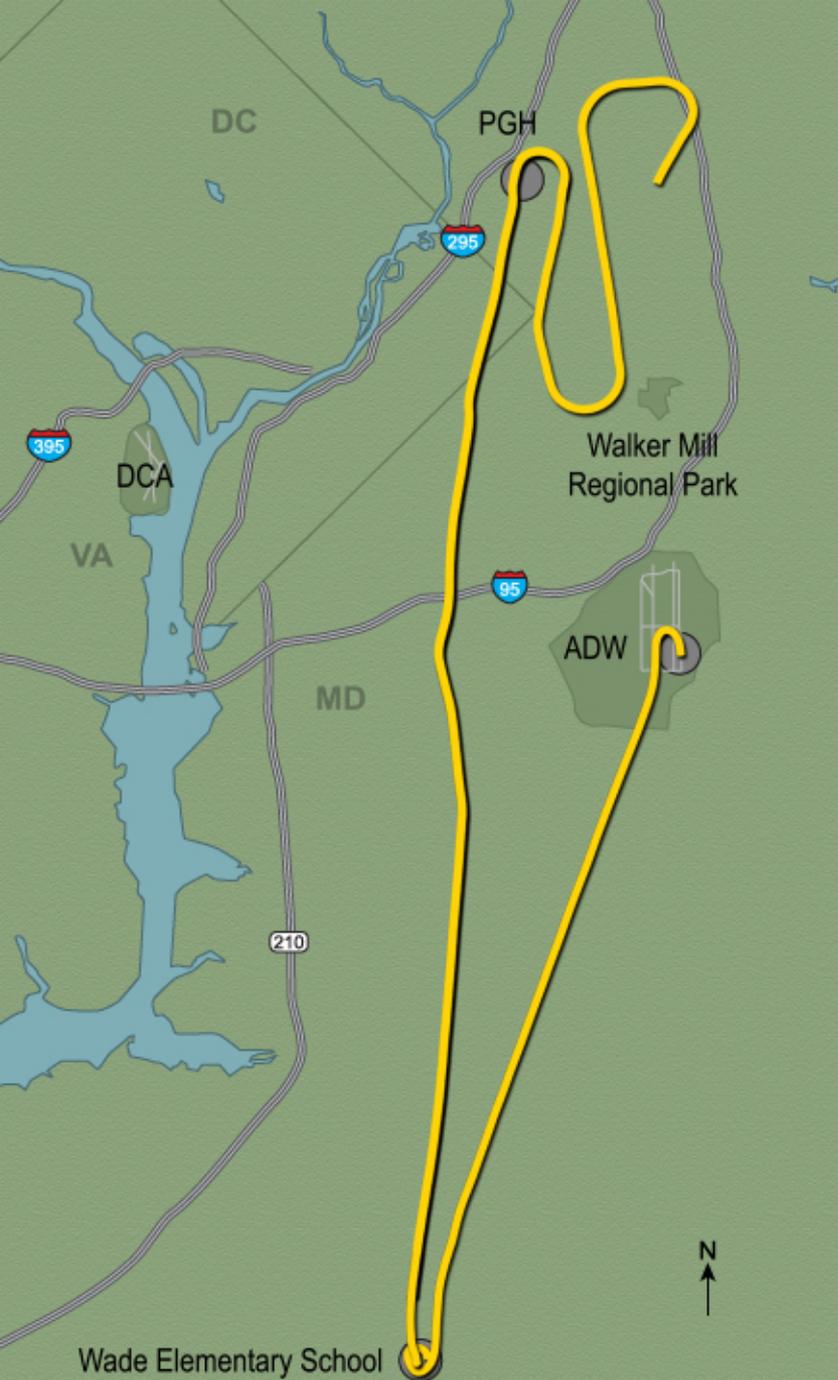
Controller did not respond for about 1 minute



# Trooper 2 Flight Track

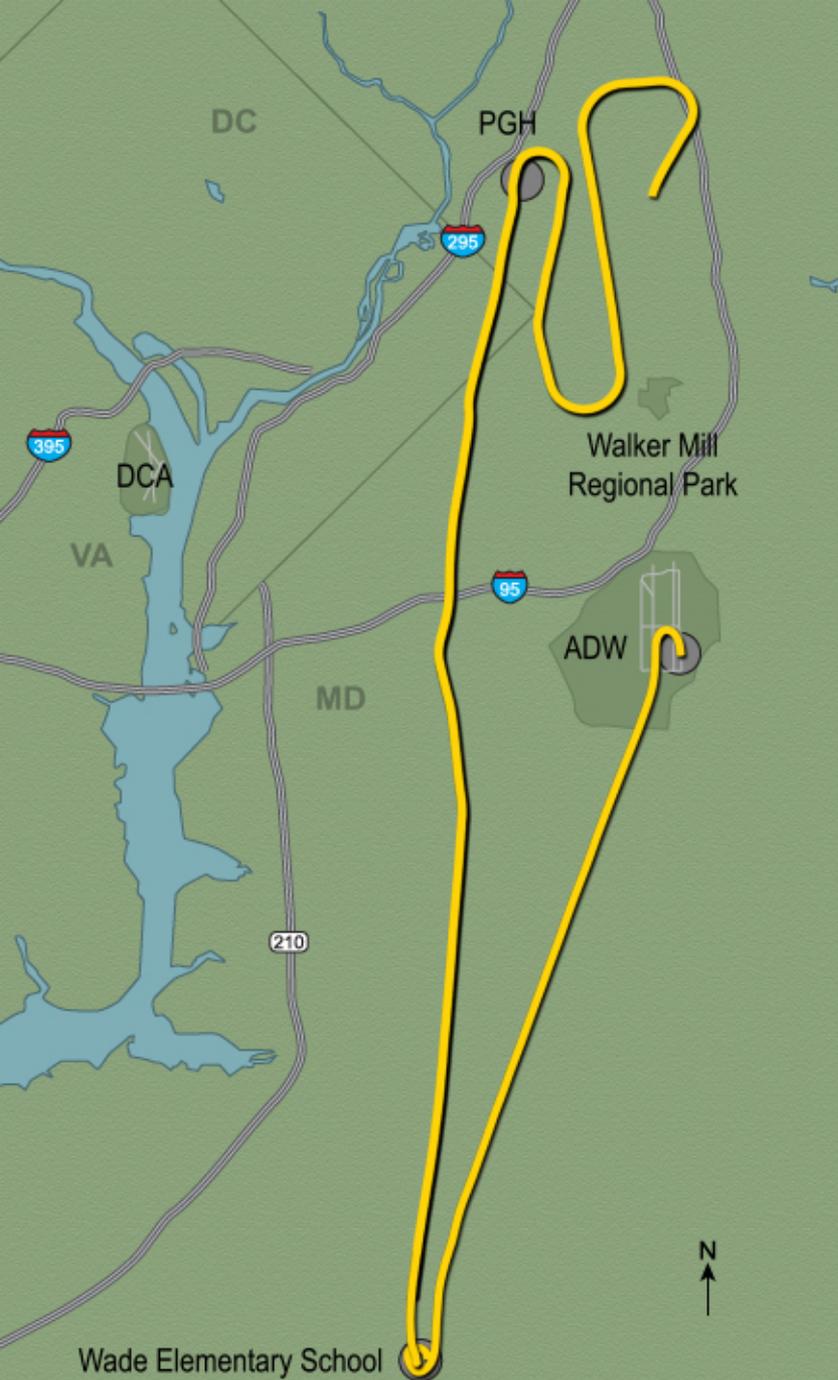
2355 Trooper 2 vectored to runway 19R approach at ADW and provided with outdated weather

Trooper 2 cleared for approach and instructed to contact ADW tower

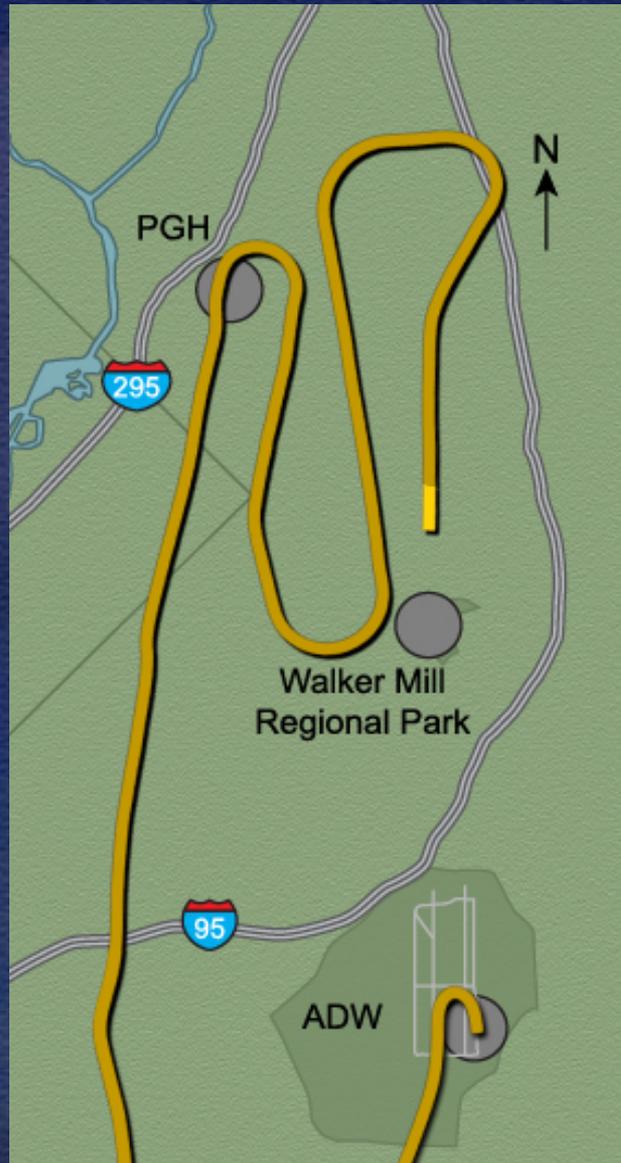


# Trooper 2 Flight Track

2355:22 Trooper 2 contacted  
ADW Tower 6 miles  
from runway 19R  
while established on  
localizer



# Animation



TRP2: okay can i get an a-s-r approach in

68 knots

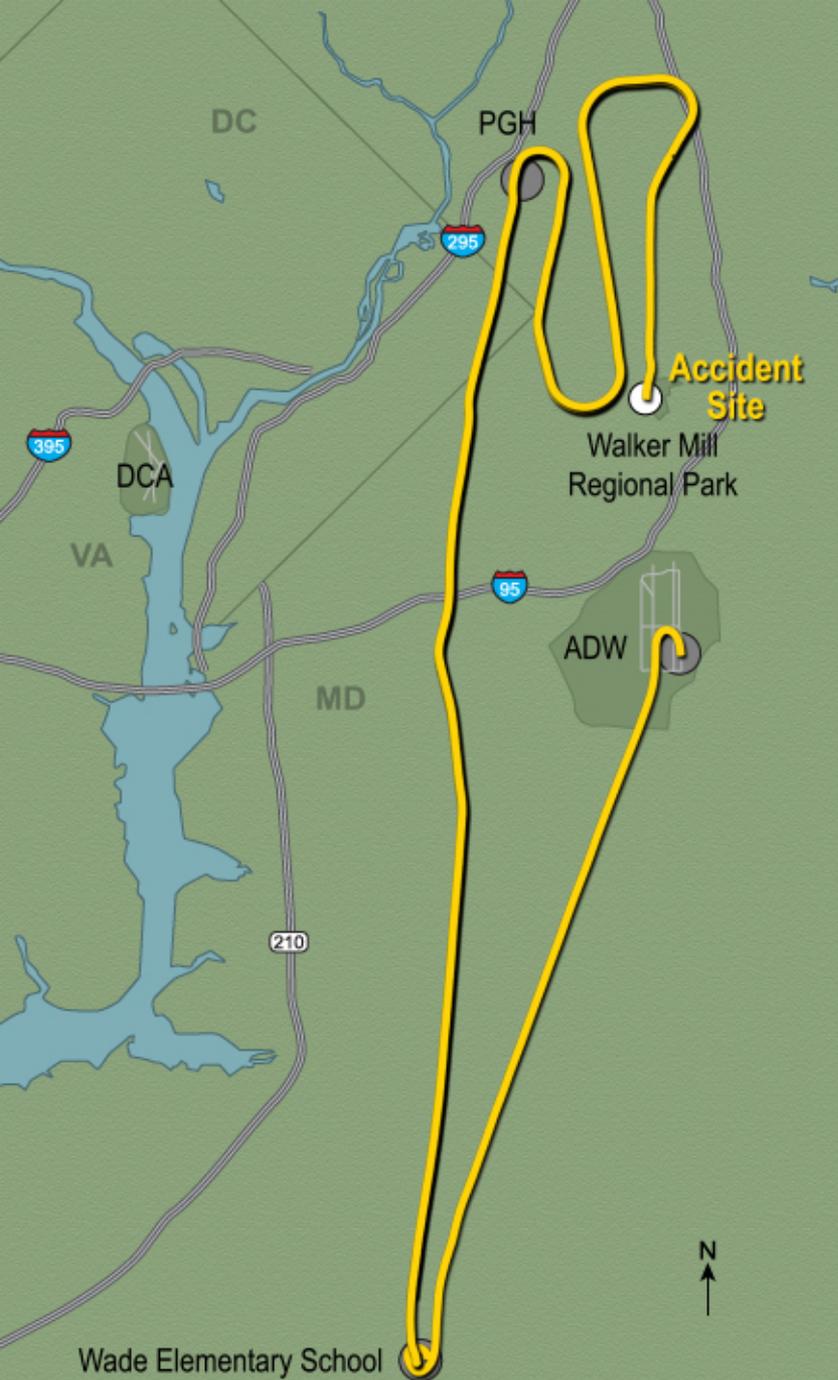
1550 feet

23:57:03



# Trooper 2 Flight Track

0158 MSP located wreckage



# Trooper 2 Wreckage



NTSB



# Findings

- Pilot certificated and qualified
- Helicopter certificated, equipped, and maintained properly
- No evidence of precrash mechanical failure or malfunction
- IFR conditions prevailed at accident site
- No flight data recorders installed

# Safety Issues

- Pilot performance and training
- Terrain awareness and warning system (TAWS)
- FAA and MSP oversight
- MSP duty officer performance
- Fatigue
- Air traffic control deficiencies
- Emergency response
- Flight recorder requirements

# Parties to the Investigation

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Maryland State Police
- American Eurocopter
- Turbomeca

# Accredited Representative

- BEA - Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses



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