



National Transportation Safety Board



Photo Credit: The Columbus Dispatch

Survival Flight Inc.
Bell 407
January 29, 2019
Zaleski, Ohio

Investigator-in-Charge presentation

Accident Flight

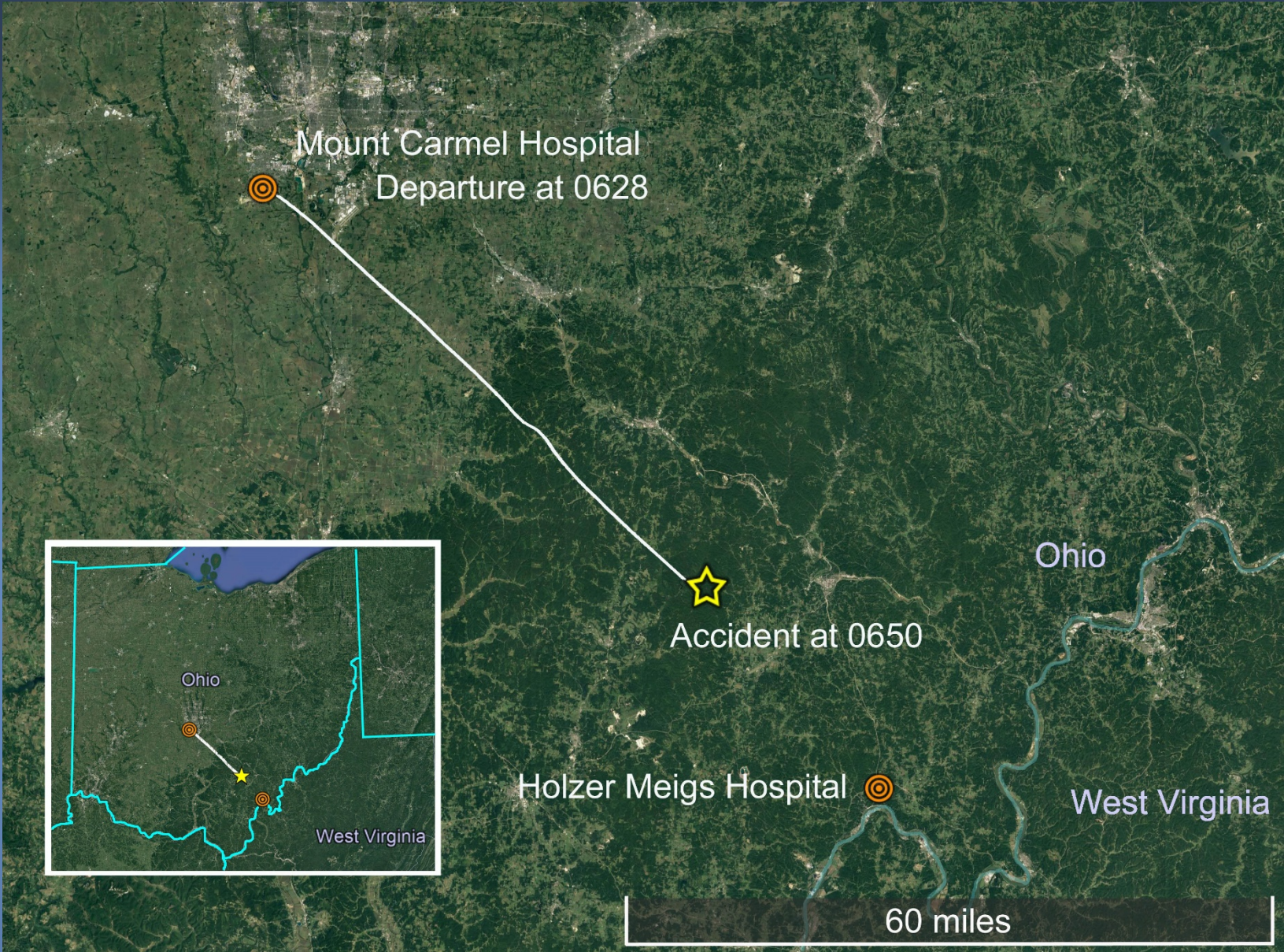
- Pilot, nurse, and paramedic fatally injured
- Viking Aviation LLC, dba Survival Flight Inc.
- Part 135 visual flight rules helicopter air ambulance (HAA) flight

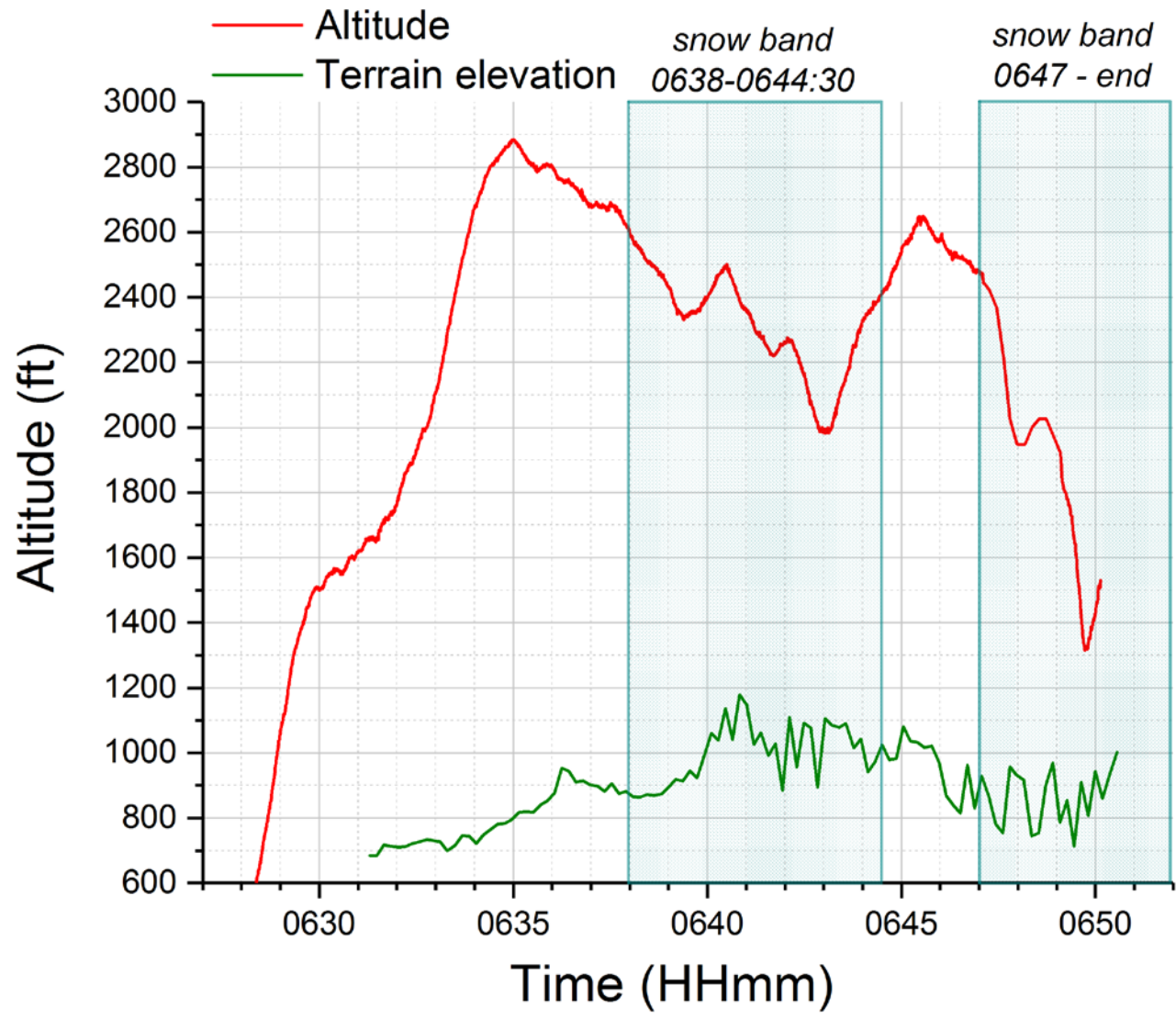
Accident Sequence

- First operator was contacted, declined citing “icing probability” and snow squalls
- Second operator was contacted, deferred for weather check
- Survival Flight was contacted, accepted flight in 28 seconds
- Second operator called back to decline flight due to “low ceilings and icing”

Accident Flight

- Night shift pilot accepted flight request
- Accident pilot agreed to fly it
 - Proceeded directly to helipad
 - Declined night vision goggles (NVGs)
- Night shift pilot notified medical crew, proceeded to helipad for preflight, engine start







Exclusions

- Pilot properly certificated
- Pilot performance not affected by medical conditions, toxins, alcohol, or other drugs
- No evidence of preimpact airframe, engine, rotor, or system anomalies or malfunction

Safety Issues

- Survival Flight's lack of comprehensive and effective flight risk assessment, risk management procedures
- Lack of helicopter or HAA experience requirement for FAA principal operations inspectors assigned HAA oversight

Safety Issues

- Need for flight data monitoring programs for Part 135 operators
- Lack of positive safety culture at Survival Flight
- No comprehensive safety management system at Survival Flight

Safety Issues

- Need for improvements to helicopter emergency medical services (HEMS)
Weather Tool
- Need for required crash-resistant flight recorder system that records cockpit audio, video

Flight Data Monitoring Equipment

- Not crash-resistant or -protected
- Accident flight: about 30 seconds of data not recovered
- Reiterate safety recommendations for crash-resistant flight recorder systems (A-13-12 and -13)

Parties to the Investigation

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Survival Flight Inc.
- Rolls-Royce Engines
- Woodward Inc.

ICAO Annex 13 Participants

Transportation Safety Board of Canada

Bell Textron Inc.



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