



# Federal Aviation Administration

## Memorandum

Date: February 02, 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) CC CC position for the time period from January 15, 2009, 2025 UTC, to January 15, 2009, 2058 UTC.

<u>Agencies Making Transmissions</u>	<u>Abbreviations</u>
TRACON TMU	TMU
LaGuardia ATCT Cab Coordinator	CC
TRACON LGA Area Final Position	FNL
TRACON LGA Area Sequencer Position	SEQ
TRACON LGA Area Departure Position	DEP
LGA Port Authority	PA
Kennedy ATCT	JFK
Teterboro ATCT	TEB
Unknown	UNK

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

*Daniel Lai*

Daniel Lai  
 Staff Support Specialist  
 LaGuardia ATCT

2025  
 2026  
 2026:13      TMU      hey laguardia tracon t m u  
  
 2026:17      CC      okay  
  
 2026:18      TMU      um the wavey apreq is out until midnight zula  
  
 2026:21      CC      okay laguardia got it

2026:22 TMU and white i need five minutes in trail over white no exclusion until midnight zulu

2026:27 CC five minutes white no exclusion midnight z

2026:30 TMU yup

2026:31 CC got it

2026:32 TMU thanks  
2027

2027:29 FNL coordinator final request

2027:33 CC ah i didn't call did you call me

2027:36 FNL yeah piedmont forty three sixty two overhead ah i'd like to go overhead behind his company

2027:41 CC piedmont forty three sixty two overhead okay that's good yeah you got it

2027:45 FNL alright thanks

2027:50 SEQ tower stop your departures got an emergency returning

2027:54 CC who is it

2027:57 SEQ it's (unintelligible) fifteen twenty nine he uh bird strike he lost all engines he lost the thrust to the engines he's returning immediately

2027:59 CC cactus fifteen twenty nine which engines

2028:01 SEQ he lost thrust in both engines he said

2028:04 CC got it

2028:09 DEP hey sequencer departure

2028:10 CC yes go ahead

2028:13 DEP yeah the cactus fifteen forty nine that just departed ah he

2028:15 CC fifteen twenty nine or forty nine somebody else said fifteen twenty nine

2028:19 DEP fifteen forty nine

2028:21 CC okay fifteen forty nine i got it a bird strike he lost his thrust in both both engines he's returning (unintelligible)

2028:26 DEP ah he wants to return immediately and au he wants to land runway ah three one

2028:29 CC got it landing runway three one

2028:32 DEP okay

2028:33 CC okay

2028:37 CC and runway four's available if he needs it

2028:42 DEP okay runway four's available thank you tower we'll get back to you

2028:49 CC tower

2028:50 PA yeah tower bird strike which which airline

2028:53 CC okay listen ah we're going to tell you something important it's cactus fifteen forty nine we see somebody low level in the hudson river below four hundred okay you're gonna need to um alert the new york and new jersey port authority police over there

2030:06 PA new york and new jersey port authority police

2030:09 CC okay he's in the hudson river he's just about a mile and

a half north of the lincoln tunnel last sighted below  
nine hundred feet we still got a target on him but he  
looks like he's low level

2030:18 PA okay

2030:19 CC okay

2030:20 PA alright

2030:21 CC good and that's cactus fifteen forty nine one five four  
niner

2030:24 PA one five four niner and what is what airline is that

2030:28 CC ah it's u s air cactus

2030:29 PA okay thanks

2030:38 CC kennedy laguardia

2030:41 JFK kennedy

2030:42 CC get me a police department helicopter have you got one  
on your frequency

2030:45 JFK say again

2030:48 CC get me a police department helicopter if you got one on  
your frequency right now

2030:52 JFK we don't have one right now but we we'll make a call

2030:54 CC you get anybody you send them right into the lincoln  
tunnel we had a cactus airbus go down in the water

2030:57 JFK got it okay

2030:58 CC okay  
2031

2031:15 CC sequencer tower

2031:25 CC okay that cactus we got a report he went down in the river abeam the intrepid

2031:28 SEQ yeah tower

2031:29 SEQ okay thank you

2031:30 CC okay

2031:30 SEQ okay  
2032

2032:25 SEQ laguardia tower

2032:29 SEQ laguardia tower approach

2032:31 CC you calling

2032:34 SEQ yeah you have ah do you have that cactus in sight

2032:37 CC no the cactus is gone he's down in the river right now

2032:39 SEQ he actually went down

2032:40 CC he went down in the hudson river abeam the intrepid ah he's sending out the rescue everybody's been notified and just be careful with your arrivals okay

2032:47 SEQ okay

2032:48 CC mike whiskey  
2033  
2034

2034:35 CC sequencer tower

2034:42 CC sequencer tower

2034:43 SEQ yeah what do you have

2034:44 CC do you recall the position of the air strike or when he reported it

2034:47 SEQ ah let me talk to the controller hang on

2034:49 CC call me back  
2035

2035:05 SEQ yeah tower he was about five north of the airport when he

2035:09 CC five north of the airport altitude

2035:10 SEQ ah he said he was out of four thousand feet

2035:12 CC thank you

2035:13 SEQ okay  
2036

2036:07 SEQ hey sequence ah

2036:08 CC yes

2036:10 SEQ if you want to let departures go they're released

2036:11 CC alright well let me just ah okay okay we will ah we i got your release we will let you know if we're gonna roll anybody right now okay

2036:20 SEQ okay b r

2036:21 CC mike whiskey  
2037

2037:23 FNL sequencer approach

2037:25 CC sequence

2037:26 FNL yeah ah what's the status of the airport are we just gonna run normal arrivals to the airport

2037:30 CC ah right now the airport is open we're not releasing any departures until we make a decision on that okay

2037:37 FNL keep the arrivals that we're holding coming in now

2037:39 CC ah stand by let me call you right back

2037:40 FNL okay check

2037:59 SEQ approach

2038:00 CC tower

2038:01 PA yeah are you holding everything or you gonna let them go

2038:03 CC we we're not releasing anybody we're still holding arrivals what would you like us to do

2038:08 PA well we're still doing a surface check right now wait to see what they say but he definitely went in the hudson

2038:13 CC that's that is ah i'm pretty ah i'm ninety nine percent sure because he ain't here and we watched him low and when he dropped off the radar near the intrepid we got a report that they're dispatching float ah floatation ah rescue ah equipment

2038:27 PA by (unintelligible) the intrepid

2038:28 CC right right abeam the intrepid is where he went down and ah the last report is he was still floating

2038:32 PA he was still floating in the water

2038:34 CC that's the last report that i overheard in the tower cab

2038:37 PA okay thank you

2038:38 CC mike whiskey

2038:39 PA thank you

2038:44 CC hey sequence

2038:50 SEQ yeah tower

2038:51 CC listen ah we're gonna continue to hold the arrivals port authority's gotta do surface checks on the airport before we can really send the arrivals

2038:56 SEQ okay we'll hold all arrivals you get back to us  
2039

2039:01 CC i'll call you as soon as they can

2039:02 SEQ and you're not gonna depart anyone else (unintelligible)

2039:03 CC we're not departing anybody now mike whiskey

2039:04 SEQ okay  
2040  
2041

2041:39 CC hey port

2041:47 PA yes tower

2041:48 CC hi how you doing

2041:49 PA hi

2041:50 CC ah listen just to ah we're just gonna let you know ah and confirm with you that we're gonna take arrivals to runway three one you guys are done with your surface check correct

2041:56 PA yes ah let me call and i'll call you right back

2041:59 CC okay they're gonna start running arrivals because we we spoke to one of the vehicles on the tower frequency call me back and confirm we can accept arrivals to runway three one



2042:06 PA okay

2042:07 CC mike whiskey

2042:07 PA okay

2042:23 FNL hey sequence i'm sorry coordinator final we're gonna start running them in slowly

2042:27 CC okay mike whiskey

2042:37 CC teterboro laguardia

2042:40 TEB teterboro

2042:41 CC do you guys know what's going on over in the hudson

2042:45 TEB ah airbus went down right

2042:46 CC yeah i don't know if you guys got any activity going over that way ah

2042:50 TEB no they told us there was a t f r around it

2042:52 CC i'm sorry

2042:53 TEB they told us there was a t f r around it

2042:55 CC (unintelligible) give you a heads up thanks mike whiskey  
2043

2043:01 UNK are you the one that gave me the (unintelligible)

2043:02 CC (unintelligible)

2043:07 UNK are you tango tango

2043:08 CC i'm sorry

2043:09 UNK what's your initials

2043:10 CC alpha golf

2043:11 UNK alpha golf

2043:13 CC okay thanks  
2044  
(2045-2046)  
2047

2047:17 SEQ hey coordinator ah coordinator sequence

2047:22 CC i'm here al

2047:23 SEQ hey billy how much mile how many ah how much spacing you  
want on the expressways

2047:27 CC we really don't need much you know what we're we're  
holding off on the departures until we get a little bit  
more guidance from ah maybe leo ah akin ah we really  
don't need much just give us four four to five

2047:41 SEQ okay we'll give you we'll give you five

2047:41 CC okay

2047:42 SEQ okay thanks  
2048  
(2049-2054)  
2055

2055:43 PA hello (unintelligible) what's up

2055:47 CC did you got words about the (unintelligible)

2055:48 PA (unintelligible) we got survivors we got survivors  
alright they're picking em up

2055:52 CC okay very good

2055:55 PA there are numerous survivors

2055:56 CC thank you very much

2055:57 PA the plane's still afloat

2055:58 CC thank you so much

2056:00 PA you welcomed bye  
2057

2057:01 CC tower

2057:03 DEP hey how you doing

2057:04 DEP have we started departing again

2057:07 CC ah we you guys released us we're just gonna we we are  
released for departure but we haven't released any  
departures yet

2057:14 DEP okay (unintelligible) is there a particular reason why  
you're doing that

2057:15 CC i can call you back with a reason okay

2057:16 DEP i certainly appreciate that

2057:17 CC okay

2057:18 DEP bye  
2058

End of Transcript