

file 450

No hint of trouble in crash transcripts

FAYETTEVILLE (AP) — Radio transmissions from a military plane that crashed during a July exhibition at Fort Bragg, killing four servicemen and injuring two, gave no hint that the flight was in trouble, transcripts show.

An accident report, portions of which were released to the Fayetteville Observer under the Freedom Of Information Act, shows that a series of problems led to the crash, the newspaper reported Tuesday.

Transcripts of the radio transmission from the C-130E transport plane were part of an accident investigation report from the Air Force Inspection and Safety Center at Norton Air Force Base, California.

The release of the full accident report shows only that the pilot's ascent from a low-altitude parachute extraction system maneuver "did not sufficiently arrest" descent, and the plane hit the ground.



File photo

Spectators turn away from crash in July at Ft. Bragg

According to a summary of the report written by Col. Sherman W. Bear, president of the investigating board, the airplane's "flare," or ascent, did not keep the plane from hitting the ground.

In addition, the extraction parachutes did not properly inflate when the aircraft hit the ground because parts of the plane became entangled with the large chutes. Only one chute fully deployed and eventually pulled a Sheridan armored reconnaissance vehicle from the plane.

An explosion occurred as the plane's right wingtip struck an Ar-

my vehicle at the end of the runway, according to the report. The airplane, in flames, came to rest about 2,040 feet from the initial impact.

At 9 a.m. that day, Capt. Garry Bardo Jr. started the plane's engines at Pope Air Force Base. The airplane was one of four C-130s flying a formation toward Fort Bragg's Sicily Drop Zone.

After takeoff at about 9:37 a.m., the C-130 flew designated routes over Pope and Fort Bragg. The aircraft crashed at 10:25 a.m., the report said.

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