

Richard Davis
CNN Executive Vice President of News Standards and Practices
Atlanta, GA
January 6, 2007

Mr. Davis,

This is an open letter about the CNN Presents show 'No Survivors' on the crash of TWA Flight 800. The 'No Survivors' show contains inaccurate and misleading information. Even after I and others pointed out its significant errors, CNN continues re-airing the piece.

I informed CNN's public affairs office of the errors when it first aired in July of this year. An official there (named below) assured me that my concerns would be forwarded to the CNN Presents executive producer. Either the producer never received these concerns, or he/she did not care to consider them. As a scientist and Chairman of Flight 800 Independent Researchers Organization, I can assure you that my concerns are valid and are based over five years of careful research with cooperation and encouragement from present and former federal aviation accident investigators.

CNN should retract several of the findings presented in the 'No Survivors' show and stop the piece from re-airing again. I would also be more than happy to appear on CNN to challenge the findings presented in the piece at any time.

Please visit <http://flight800.org/cnnPresentsTWA800Errors.pdf> for a more detailed critique of the show (highly recommended) and see my July '06 correspondence with CNN's office of Public Information (below).

Thank you,

Tom Stalcup, PhD
Chairman, Flight 800 Independent Researchers Organization
Woods Hole, MA

----- Original Message -----

From: Public Information
To: Tom Stalcup
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 2:22 PM
Subject: RE: CNN Presents' 'No Survivors' Misrepresenting Evidence

Thank you, Tom. I've just received it and am now forwarding to the executive producer. Thank you for sending.

From: Tom Stalcup
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 3:09 PM
To: Public Information
Subject: CNN Presents' 'No Survivors' Misrepresenting Evidence

Hello Debby,

Thank you for getting back to me on this. Here is my letter to CNN Presents' producers of 'No Survivors'

Tom

Dear CNN Presents Producers,

I am very troubled by the synopsis of a planned two-hour documentary on TWA Flight 800 entitled 'No Survivors' scheduled to air on the 15th and 16th of this month. It appears the show has not been thoroughly researched and in fact may misrepresent what happened to Flight 800. It seems to be heavily slanted toward the government's disproved theories and scenarios, against alternative theories that fit the evidence much better.

-CNN Animation-

The synopsis reads, "While the cockpit and first-class section began to fall, the remainder of the fuselage continued to climb through the summer sky for approximately 30 seconds." This alleged climb was first proposed in 1997 by the CIA in a production entitled "What Did the Eyewitnesses See". The CIA and government officials allege that the witnesses saw Flight 800 climbing sharply, not a missile. But the CIA video and all government simulations to date have been disproved, using the official radar record of the doomed flight. Thus, CNN's animation, which appears to rely on discredited NTSB simulation data, is not "realistic," as the synopsis states.

The radar data shows Flight 800 increasing ground speed in the seconds after it first exploded. It is physically impossible for Flight 800 to climb, as the government has repeatedly shown, while increasing ground speed. This breaks the law of conservation of energy. If you would like to confirm this, please hire a scientist or mathematician to review the simulation data in the NTSB's final report. A close look at this data illustrates how the simulation data from the government's final report does not match the radar data. The NTSB's simulated climbs show simulated reductions in ground speed. In reality radar data indicated that Flight 800 descended immediately, as evidenced by an increase in ground speed. See: http://flight800.org/petition/pet_sect5.htm

-Witness Evidence-

Another troubling aspect of the synopsis is its absence of an honest description of the witness evidence. It mentions in passing how some "eyewitnesses reported seeing what they thought was a missile," but then quickly goes to Jim Kallstrom, who now believes it was mechanical malfunction. The witnesses do not share Kallstrom's sentiment. The overwhelming statistics of the relevant witness accounts refute the official crash scenario. 86% of 182 witnesses who reported the origin and/or trajectory of a rising streak reject the official explanation because they reported the streak rising from the surface and/or heading in a direction inconsistent with any portion of the plane in the official crash sequence.

Take Naneen Levine for example. She drew a picture in front of CNN's camera's. Her picture shows an object ascending steeply, arcing off to the right. She was looking south, so the streak rose to the west. And as we all know, Flight 800 was heading east. The streak she saw couldn't have been Flight 800. And even with all the government's efforts, Levine still believes "it was a missile," according to CNN's July 12, 2006 'Pierre Salinger Syndrome' story. But as the statistics show, Naneen was not alone. Many witnesses saw a streak rising to the west, and they described wreckage falling to the east after the object exploded.

Witness 649 (numbered by the NTSB) drew a detailed picture of the streak rising, heading west and out to sea, and colliding with a "shiny object that produced white smoke". Witness 649 said the collision occurred between and above two buildings in the distance. A line of site study has determined that Flight 800 lost electrical power precisely between and above these two buildings from 649's perspective.

-Supersonic Wreckage-

There is no mention in the synopsis about perhaps the most crucial piece of evidence that went missing during the investigation. This piece of wreckage was recovered by the Navy one half mile south of where Flight 800 first exploded. Multiple radar sites recorded it fly off the plane at apparent supersonic speeds, perpendicular to the flight path just as the jetliner lost electrical power. This wreckage, for some reason, never made it into the NTSB's debris field database. The government has not explained this piece of wreckage, its recovery location, its disappearance, or its high-speed trajectory. I am interested to see how and if your two hour documentary explains this evidence to the public.

Ten years after the crash, and with several producers on the story, the public should be given an accurate presentation of what happened to Flight 800. The radar data, forensic findings, and the people who witnessed the crash are all consistent with one theory. Meanwhile, some government officials are isolated with another, that relies on disproved analyses and bad science. It is disheartening to read a synopsis of a two-hour documentary that sides with a disproved government theory, flying in the face of compelling evidence to the contrary.

If the synopsis released accurately reflects the contents of the CNN Presents documentary 'No Survivors,' it should be pulled immediately based on the principles of journalistic integrity.

Sincerely,

Tom Stalcup, PhD
Chairman, Flight 800 Independent Researchers Organization