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Murphy Death Crash Probe Continues

Roanoke, Va. (AP) - National Transportation Safety Board investigators continued to probe the history of the pilot and aircraft in which Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy and five companions were killed.

The twin-engine Aero Commander crashed into 3065-foot Brushy Mountain about 14 miles northeast of here last Friday during rainy and overcast weather.

NTSB investigators reported Tuesday they had not determined who owned the plane nor the background of the pilot, Herman L. Butler of Crossville, Tenn.

A team of three investigators concluded their crash scene inspection atop the mountain's cragged peak Tuesday and said the findings would be sent to Washington for more detailed analysis.

Joseph E. Zacko, head of the inspection team, said it was impossible to say immediately what caused the crash but said the pilot definitely wasn't making an approach Roanoke's Woodrum Airport, as earlier thought.

The spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration's flight service station at the airport said minimum visual flight rules were in effect at the time of the crash.

He said this meant that the measured cloud ceiling was 1,000 feet and visibility was three miles at the valley airport. The

surrounding peaks, however, were virtually obscured, he said.