

Where is that confounded bridge, er, airplane?

At 00:41 on 8 March 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 (MH370) took off from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on its way to Beijing, China. At around 01:20, the airplane's transponder signal was lost. MH370 had over 7 hours of fuel on-board at that time. Radar 'tracks' had it over the Strait of Malacca about an hour and ten minutes later... way, way, way off course.

And then...

Let the speculation begin. Terrorist plots involving two Iranians traveling on stolen passports were postulated. Mechanical failures with strange climbs to 45,000 ft (yeah, right) and dives to 4000 ft were reported. And the Captain had built his own flight simulator? And programmed in turns similar to the radar tracks later released by the Malaysian government?

And, somehow, using engine reporting data beamed to satellites to track engine health, (signals never designed to track aircraft position), a probable flightpath has emerged... and miraculously pinpointed the most likely final resting place of the downed aircraft. Uh, huh.

Does any of this seem fishy to you?

The Indian Ocean is MASSIVE, and yet, and yet, the position of the aircraft has been determined???

As I write this, there have been 4 pings heard from the two black boxes on-board this doomed B777. Great. I personally have no doubt that they will find the aircraft. I have no doubt that they have known its position for some time. I have no doubt that they even know, and have known, the who, what, and why of this mystery for some time.

We, the public, are continually misled. Over my airline career I have repeatedly listened to the reporting of each and every major airplane accident, and have marveled at how inaccurate the initial explanation of each disaster has been. And regrettably, the final determination of the cause of each accident is always a footnote, usually years later, and very

few of us will even care.

As an aviation professional, I have subsequently deduced that as poorly and as inaccurately as the press reports aircraft incidents, they are probably as inept at EVERY newsworthy event... no matter what its subject. Their job is not to accurately inform and report as we expect, but to capture an audience's attention and hold it captive for as long as possible. Reality is not a consideration, as the truth is not nearly flashy enough to keep the public preoccupied.

In this rant I have not speculated on the fate of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. That's because I don't KNOW the FACTS. In the coming months, or maybe years, they will come out. Or, at least the information our various governments want to release will come out. And if you are still interested, and not caught up in the latest media circus, you might actually find some closure with the fate of 239 lost souls.

At least, I hope so.

Oh, and in case you haven't been paying attention... while the media has ensnared us with this airline imbroglio, the roots of World War Three might just be taking hold in the Crimea and Ukraine...

What a sad state of affairs.

Captain Steve