



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Noreen Price
Aviation Accident Investigator
Alaska Regional Office

Date: February 1, 2018
Persons Contacted: Charles Stence, mechanic
NTSB Accident Number: ANC18LA021, N412MF

Narrative:

Mr. Stence is the certified mechanic who recently completed the condition inspection on the accident gyroplane. The interview was conducted by phone with the NTSB investigator-in-charge, Noreen Price. Mr. Stence made the following statements:

- Mr. Stence has been an FAA certificated airframe and power plant technician since 2005. He has had an inspection authorization (IA) authority since 2011. He currently operates Copa Air Services at the Indiantown Airport.
- He has limited experience working on gyroplanes, but he is a qualified Rotax mechanic, and this gyroplane had a Rotax 914.
- Mr. Stence created a checklist for the annual condition checks for this airframe. He used the Rotax checklist for the engine.
- The accident airplane had been at his shop for a few days for the annual condition inspections. There were discrepancies observed during the inspections. The logbooks were annotated.
- The engine was powered up one hour prior to the pilot's arrival for a final check. Mr. Stence ran it up to 4,000 rpm vice maximum because the small airframe was too difficult to handle with that power. He did sync the carburetors at that time.
- Recently, the pilot called about a rough running engine. Mr. Stence inspected the engine and discovered a carburetor issue. He found that a main jet was not fully engaged. He also resynced the carburetors.
- Mr. Stence did not witness the takeoff attempt nor the accident. He did respond to the accident scene after the first responders arrived. He turned off the fuel and the master switches. He noted that the propellers were sheared off near the base, so he suspects that there was power on.