

TO: Brian Fricker
[REDACTED]

FROM: Gary W. Jones
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Training Accident of Helicopter, Hiller UH12B N5776

The accident occurred at about 10:30am on Saturday December 10, 2016. Location was 11/4 miles north of Tynan, Texas on FM796. The Helicopter was kept in a hanger on the Mengers and Sons farm. Weather was high overcast visibility was unlimited, wind out of the East at about 10 miles per hour and temperature in the fifties.

Both Tryne and Thomas Menger had asked me to come and fly with them and the goal was to solo them so they could practice maneuvers for a helicopter rating. They each had over 20 hours of training in the aircraft from a previous instructor. Due to maintenance problems and instructors other duties and minimum experience in a Hiller aircraft they had not been signed off to solo. They both demonstrated ability to fly the aircraft safely and complete all pre-solo maneuvers with the exception of cross country, night and other maneuvers that would be noted in the solo endorsement. We was in the process of second supervised solo flights and correcting any problems they might encounter and flying dual again to correct if needed. When the accident occurred it was Tryne second supervised flight after a dual flight of 1.2 hours. Total time for him dual given by me was 3.8 hours.

The approach was to the hanger area and looked to be a straight in auto. To a termination with power the reason I say looked, was the decent rate was slow and will not know for sure until I can talk to him. Regardless the deceleration/flare was too low and tail boom came in contact with ground and aircraft spun to the right and after a 180 degree turn landed on its left side. A small fire behind the engine started and his brother jumped on the gator and rushed to the aircraft and pulled him to safety. He left so fast I had to run to the crash site which was approximately 100 yards from the hanger where we was observing the flight The fire department arrived in about 15 minutes an the ambulance arrived in about 30 minutes. Air med ship arrived in about 45 minutes. He was taken to Corpus Christi hospital for treatment.

The aircraft was completely destroyed.

Gary W. Jones