

Memorandum of Conversation

Date: January 24, 2020

Time: 1100 central standard time

Conversation Including: Qasem Jaafari, Student Pilot

Conversation Regarding: CEN20CA064, N715RK

Duration of Call: 30 Minutes



Summary & Factual Information from Conversation:

NTSB Investigator Fox called Mr. Jaafari who was the student pilot involved in a helicopter accident that occurred about 1615 CST on January 21, 2020, at the Independence Municipal Airport (IIB), Independence, Iowa.

Mr. Jaafari stated that he was Saudi Arabia citizen and that for the previous two years he had attended the University of Dubuque receiving ground and flight instruction. Mr. Jaafari stated that had about 62 hours of flight experience, all of which were flown in helicopters. He had flown about 5 hours as pilot-in-command, which had been accumulated over 3 solo flights. His first solo flight was flown in December 2019.

Mr. Jaafari stated that earlier in the day he and his flight instructor had completed a preflight inspection of the helicopter before they departed Dubuque Regional Airport (DBQ), Dubuque, Iowa, for the dual-instruction flight to IIB. After landing at IIB, the flight instructor deboarded to allow Mr. Jaafari to fly solo to Monticello Regional Airport (MXO), Monticello, Iowa. Mr. Jaafari stated that he made 2 uneventful landings at MXO before he flew the helicopter back to IIB.

Mr. Jaafari stated that after he arrived at IIB he hover-taxied to the ramp. Mr. Jaafari stated that he had intended to land toward south, which was heading into the wind. Mr. Jaafari stated that the reported winds were from 180°. Mr. Jaafari stated that he "lost control" of the helicopter as he maneuvered over the ramp. Mr. Jaafari stated that the helicopter entered a left spin and that he was unable to regain directional control before it impacted a nearby hangar and the ground. Mr. Jaafari believed the wind direction might have changed during the landing. Mr. Jaafari stated that there were no mechanical malfunctions that would have precluded normal operation of the helicopter.

--- End of interview summary ---

I can attest that the above summary and factual information was taken on the above stated day, and is correct to the best of my knowledge:

Signed: _ Andrew Todd Fox _

Dated: _ January 24, 2020 _

Andrew Todd Fox
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator