

Memorandum of Conversation

Date: 5 October 2021

Time: 0924-1015 central daylight time

Conversation Including: Gregory A. Jacobi; Pilot

Conversation Regarding: CEN21LA454, N161JB



Summary & Factual Information from Conversation:

Mr. Jacobi stated that the accident occurred during a practice flight for the *ArkanSTOL Ozark Backwoods Challenge*. The intended flight profile was a timed course consisting of multiple takeoffs-and-landings on several turf runways to demonstrate the short-takeoff-and-landing (STOL) capabilities of the airplane and the pilot flying. Mr. Jacobi intentionally flew the airplane at a low altitude throughout the flight.

Mr. Jacobi stated the weather conditions at the time of the accident included clear skies with light surface winds from the south. The intended flight path was in a river valley with tall ridges on either side of the river and there was a known risk of encountering downdrafts while flying the course.

Mr. Jacobi stated that the flight departed to the east on River Runway then landed to the north on Traveler Strip. After an uneventful landing, Mr. Jacobi made a 180° turn on Traveler Strip and then departed to the south. Mr. Jacobi said that the airplane encountered a downdraft while in a left turn to align for a landing to the north on Grit Strip. The airplane was less than 100 ft above the ground when it encountered the downdraft. In response to the airplane descending rapidly, Mr. Jacobi increased the engine throttle from near idle to maximum power. Mr. Jacobi stated that the engine "stumbled" briefly because he rapidly increased the throttle. Mr. Jacobi then leveled the airplane's wings and lowered the airplane pitch to increase airspeed. The airplane's left main landing gear collided with a tree while Mr. Jacobi flew the airplane toward an open area for a landing. The collision with the tree caused the airplane to spin before it impacted the ground. After the accident, Mr. Jacobi turned off the master switch, fuel shutoff valve, and emergency locator transmitter.

Mr. Jacobi stated that there were no mechanical anomalies with the airplane or engine that would have precluded normal operation during the flight.

Mr. Jacobi confirmed that he was not injured during the accident. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage and right wing.

--- 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: _ 5 October 2021 _

Andrew Todd Fox
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator