

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: CEN25LA132 (N39158, Taylorcraft BC12-D and U.S. Army AH-64Es and UH-60L) - Accident Update 03/28/2025
Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 8:01:35 PM
Attachments: [44BCA11C-54AF-4FBB-81F3-C6EE88AA0399.mp4](#)

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Mr. Hodges,

I apologize it's taken so long to get this information typed up. These are the events as I recall them the morning of March 22, 2025.

On March 22, 2025 a flight of 3 Taylorcraft were returning to KRUE after having breakfast at 51AR that morning. Approximately 5 miles out from KRUE we heard a radio transmission from the KRUE airport manager that there were 3 Army helicopters located on taxiway A that were preparing to depart. The helicopters were waiting for incoming traffic before departing. My aircraft was the first to land, landing long on 07 in the grass as far away from the helicopters as possible. Immediately after landing, I taxied my airplane to the far east end hangars to store it. Once my aircraft was back in the hangar, my girlfriend and I got into our separate vehicles to drive back down to the ramp. I stopped my truck behind my girlfriend, who was filming a video of the helicopters flying down taxiway A. We were in front of Aerosafe maintenance hangar on taxiway B at approximately A4. Once she was done taking a video, we proceeded driving towards the ramp in our separate vehicles. Once we reached the newly connected area of Taxiway B (just east of the Open Air Hangars) we observed Taylorcraft N39158 coming over the power lines at the end of runway 07. I observed the plane touchdown on the numbers, it proceeded to bounce 3 times, made a 90° left turn and within 10 feet of leaving the runway it turned upside down (tail over nose). My girlfriend and I immediately sped up and drove onto the runway to go check on the pilot.

It should be noted, the wind was blowing out of the south that morning.

Please see the attached video that my girlfriend took of the helicopters departing that day. I also attached a picture of the Snapchat info showing a date and timestamp that the video was taken. I did help turn off the ELT in case it's possible to get a timestamp off of it.

Please let know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,
Kevin Hopkins

On Fri, Mar 28, 2025 at 5:15 PM Michael Hodges [REDACTED] wrote:

Good afternoon sir,

Thanks for your time on the phone before.

When able, if you can please type up a detailed statement of what you observed with the accident with N39158 (Taylorcraft BC12-D) and the two U.S. Army AH-64Es and the one UH-60L.

If you can include the times and what was said on the unicom frequency afterwards, that would be helpful.

Also, if can you please draw an airport diagram of what happened with the Taylorcraft airplanes and the helicopters, that would be very helpful for me on my end.

I understand that there wasn't any security camera video footage showing the accident at that angle, however if you come across any other witnesses or security camera or witness video footage, please let me know.

Thank you for the help. Have a good weekend.

Mike

Mike J. Hodges, MS

Aviation Accident Investigator, Central Region

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