



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: October 3, 2016
Person Contacted: Jerry Lietzke, FAA FSDO, Orlando, FL
NTSB Accident Number: ERA16LA305 – Eustis, Florida

This investigator interviewed Mr. Lietzke by telephone. He was the FAA inspector assigned to ERA16LA305, the E/A-B Storm that crashed at Eustis, FL on August 20, 2016.

- Mr. Lietzke reported that he did not travel to the accident site or examine the wreckage. Due to the type of aircraft (an experimental, amateur-built with a non-certificated automobile engine), his manager would not approve funding to travel to the site.
- The pilot reported that the aircraft battery “went dead” during a previous flight. The engine subsequently lost power and he force landed in a field without damage to the aircraft.
- The pilot bought a new battery and installed it. The engine then ran fine on the ground.
- The pilot attempted another takeoff, and the engine failed again. The pilot reported that the engine’s alternator was most likely not charging, which resulted in the battery depleting again. Once the battery dropped below minimum voltage, the engine stopped producing power.