



**Federal Aviation
Administration**

SAN JUAN FSDO-63
525 FD ROOSEVELT AVE OFC 901 SAN JUAN PR 00918-8059
787-282-6545, Fax: 787-282-6563

Memorandum

Date: 12/28/ 2016

Email Delivered

To: Daniel Boggs
Air Safety Investigator, NTSB
45065 Riverside Parkway
Ashburn, VA 20147

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Dennis Ortiz, POI
FSDO-63 San Juan, PR [REDACTED]

Prepared by: Dennis Ortiz
Subject: ERA17CA056

. On October 25, 2016 aircraft N161PD, a Bell OH-58A helicopter, operated as a public aircraft by the PR Police Department, made a hard landing during a training flight. The aircraft sustained substantial damages to its tail boom. The instructor pilot and PIC for the flight was Mr. Daniel D Camacho, commercial pilot certificate number [REDACTED]. The accident occurred at the Mercedita Airport, Ponce PR north taxiway.

The FSDO was notified about this accident on November 1, 2016. The investigation team arrived the site on November 2, 2016.

The preliminary inspection revealed that the aircraft sustained damages on its tail boom. The tail boom had marks indicating a bending upward action. This affects the flying characteristics of the aircraft. During the inspection interviews were conducted to the instructor pilot and the trainee. Those interviews revealed that the Police Department was using a document called OH-58 AIRCREW TRAINING MANUAL as their training document. The instructor was demonstrating a low level autorotation. Subsequently, the aircraft made a hard landing losing control.

The FSDO-63 received from the Police personnel a building surveillance video. This video shows the moment when the helicopter had this accident. The video show that the aircraft was flying low over the north taxiway, at one point it abruptly losses altitude and

impacted the ground bouncing for around 370 feet and losing control. During that incident the video shows how the tail boom bended up and down.

The maneuver was conducted contrary to how it is described in the training document. The training document requires a maneuver entry on base leg. The maneuver was conducted after take off.

The investigation concluded that the qualifications for the pilot to hold a Flight Instructor certificate is questionable and a re-examination of that certificate will be required as per USC title 49 § 44709.