



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION(S)

RE: Robert Westlake / Single-Pilot Exemption Training

The Cessna 500 was certified to be operated by a pilot and co-pilot. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) can delegate an exemption to an authorized training facility to train, test, and approve pilots to operate several aircraft, including the Cessna 500, single-pilot without a designated second-in-command. A pilot must apply, train, and successfully complete an FAA approved single-pilot authorization course annually to be exempt for single pilot operations.

As part of the investigation, contact was established with training facilities that provided the single-pilot exemption for the Cessna 500 to determine if Mr. Westlake had the exemption. These facilities included Sierra industries, Flight Safety International (FSI), Simuflite and CAE.

According to a representative of Sierra Industries, Mr. Westlake's airplane had the Sierra Industries Eagle wing-modification and wing extension. The airplane had been issued a single-pilot conformity certificate (No.20) under the previous owner and it was qualified to fly under Sierra Industries single-pilot exemption. However, there were no records (going back to 2000) that Mr. Westlake trained under the Sierra Industries single-pilot exemption.

A representative of FSI reported that they had no record of issuing Mr. Westlake any type of authority in the accident airplane and there was no record of him attending any training courses at FSI since July 2004.

Simuflite and CAE reviewed their single-pilot exemption holders back to 2000 and found no record of Robert Westlake having trained at either facility.

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