



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: September 5, 2017
Person Contacted: Mr. David Detscher – FAA Coordinator – FAA ATL FSDO
NTSB Accident Number: ERA17LA305 – Lawrenceville, GA

This investigator interviewed Mr. Detscher by telephone. He reported the following:

- He examined the wreckage after the accident. The helicopter impacted the ground on its left skid and came to rest on its left side. The aft tail boom severed during the impact. There was structural damage to the fuselage. The main rotor blades separated during the impact sequence. One blade was found 220 feet from the main wreckage, and the other two blades were found about 20 feet from the main wreckage.
- Mr. Detscher reported that the helicopter was returning from a mission and was proceeding to the helipad. There was a building near the helipad and strong, gusting winds around the building prevented a landing on the helipad. The pilot maneuvered the helicopter for another approach to the helipad due to the wind conditions. The helicopter taxied out towards runway 25 and proceeded to make a right turn, away from the prevailing wind. The helicopter then yawed right, pitched up and went into an uncontrollable, right spin until it collided with the ground.
- Mr. Detscher's examination of the wreckage did not reveal any evidence of a mechanical malfunction or anomaly.