



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Robert Gretz
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: May 4, 2018
Person Contacted: Thomas Oliva, Beaufort, SC
NTSB Accident Number: ERA18LA095

Narrative:

Mr. Oliva was interviewed via telephone. He stated that he was taxiing his airplane on a taxiway for takeoff on runway 7. While taxiing, the accident gyroplane had just taken off and the accident pilot announced on the common traffic advisory frequency that he was departing on runway 25 and returning to runway 7, with a simulated engine out. Mr. Oliva estimated that the gyroplane climbed to 300 to 500 feet above ground level before performing the maneuver. By the time Mr. Oliva's airplane reached the runway 7 threshold, the gyroplane had crashed. Mr. Oliva further stated that it was possible that the accident pilot did not obtain enough altitude to perform the maneuver.



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Date: May 4, 2018
Person Contacted: Andrew Schmidt, Beaufort, SC
NTSB Accident Number: ERA18LA095

Narrative:

Mr. Schmidt was interviewed via telephone. He stated that he had walked out of Walmart and was sitting on the tailgate of his pickup truck in the Walmart parking lot while watching the accident gyroplane perform touch-and-go landings. Mr. Schmidt estimated that the gyroplane performed four touch-and-go landings over a period of 15 to 20 minutes before the accident occurred.