



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Brian C. Rayner
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

September 21, 2018

Subject: ERA18LA253 Montauk, NY
Name: Richard Tasca – Pilot

Mr. Tasca was the owner/pilot of the airplane in the accident referenced above. He was interviewed by telephone, and the following is a summary of the interview.

Private Pilot Single engine land – instrument airplane – 750 hours total time all of it in make and model. 3rd class medical January 4, 2018. Must wear corrective lenses.

Mr. Tasca provided a detailed written statement about the history of the flight. He said the airplane was performing as designed, except for the seat sliding aft at rotation, where his feet came off the pedals and he could not maintain directional control.

According to Mr. Tasca, he had had no previous adverse experiences with the pilot's seat in his current airplane, and neither had he experienced a problem with the pilot's seat in either of his previous two Cirrus airplanes.

The airplane was hangered always and had accrued 248 total aircraft hours.

The written statement provided is below:

This sequence of events occurred on 9-16-2018 at approximately 16:06 local time: Prior to intended VFR departure from KMTP I conducted a normal pre-flight inspection. Upon entering the cockpit I adjusted my seat as normal. I ran the start-up and pre-takeoff checklist. I taxied onto runway 24 and advanced the throttle and tracked the centerline with right rudder input. Upon rotation my seat abruptly slid backwards to the outermost distance from the controls. At this point I was unable to reach the rudder pedals and the throttle lever. I was initially able to maintain level flight with aileron input, but I was unable to fully counteract the left rolling tendency and the aircraft veered to the left and impacted trees and scrub brush lining the runway. After the aircraft came to rest I was able to secure the switches, assist my passenger and exit the aircraft.