

North Carolina
State Highway Patrol

MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Troop / District:	I/4	Registry #:	
Rank / Name (First, M.I., Last):	Master Trooper J.B. Barbour		

Statement

On Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 11:00 AM. Trooper Brandon Jones contacted F/Sgt M.A. Tribula and received permission to conduct a training flight in N123NC (S/N 610), a Bell 206 helicopter. After we both conducted a preflight Trp. Jones and myself spoke about the possibility of him flying single pilot over to the driving track to pick me due the ready hangar being a confined area and the limited capabilities of the Bell 206 helicopter. Trp. Jones picked me up at the driving track and we flew for approximately 1.5 hrs. Trp. Jones and myself completed the training task and decided to return to Raleigh. Before the first attempt was made for landing into the Ready Hangar we both observed the windsock located on top of the maintenance hangar. We both determined that a south to southwest approach would be the best approach since the wind was coming out of the east. On the approach into the ready hangar at approximately 400 to 500 AGL we entered a vortex ring state. Trp. Jones quickly recovered and conducted a go-around and made a second attempt at a landing into the ready hangar. On the second attempt Trp. Jones and myself quickly discussed with each other about just dropping me off at the driving track and flying single pilot back to the ready hangar. Trp. Jones made a very smooth approach into the driving track and dropped me off. Trp. R.M. Collie was waiting to pick me up and drive me back to the maintenance hangar. As Trp. Collie and myself came to the parking lot someone came up and advised that they heard a big bang coming from where the helicopter was just flying. Trp. Jones contacted Trp. Collie by phone to inform him as to what had happened. Trp. Collie and myself drove out of the driving track entrance and headed towards the ready hangar. We both observed N123NC sitting up right in the middle of Tryon Rd. I observed Trp. Jones out of the helicopter directing traffic.

Initials:	IBB
Signature:	
Date:	November 9, 2020
Reference:	Forced Landing N123NC