



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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Western Pacific Region

Date: September 6, 2018
Person Contacted: Mr. Simpson Cheng (Student of CFI)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR18FA249

Narrative:

During a telephone conversation with Mr. Cheng, he reported the following:

- He met the certified flight instructor (CFI) during a Rotor F/X discovery flight early in the summer (about May/June). Since then, he decided to take lessons with the CFI because he seemed thorough and knowledgeable.
 - Since the discovery flight he flew with the CFI twice a week for most of the summer and has accrued about 40 hours with him. Lately, he (Mr. Cheng) has only been able to fly once a week.
 - He found the discovery flight on Groupon
 - The discovery flight included a ground lesson as well as a flight lesson. The flight was about 30 minutes.
 - He never got the GoPro video of his flight; however, they are posted on Rotor F/X's YouTube page.
- He met with the CFI for a lesson on Saturday, September 1st.
 - They practiced touch and go landings at Whiteman airport the entire lesson
 - He believes they got fuel before the flight, but he didn't totally recall. He knows they went over for air, and since the fuel area happened to be next to it, he thinks they got fuel. He does recall having to check the tanks for water.
- CFI:
 - The CFI was quiet and didn't really make small talk, however, he was a nice guy who knew his stuff.
 - He seemed like a safe and competent pilot.
 - He spoke clearly when speaking with the tower.

- o It would randomly look like he was laughing, but he wasn't. It was like a twitch or something.
 - o He would also randomly move his arm like he was stretching his wrist. Also similar to a twitch.
 - o The pilot did not mention having any health related issues.
- Mr. Cheng reported that the accident airplane had some problems:
 - o The airplane's engine cowling was missing screws
 - o For the previous few months the airplane would sometimes not start
 - The CFI figured out some tricks to get it to start, for example:
 - The CFI would jockey the throttle and the mixture levers while turning the key to get the "perfect starting combination."
 - At one point recently, the CFI informed him that it was easier to start the airplane without using the primer.
 - About one month ago the airplane would not start at all. Jay came over and jumped the airplane, and they conducted their flight as usual.
 - o The beacon light would sporadically not work
 - o Several months ago, the throttle assembly came out of the panel during the run up.
- He mentioned that he recently asked the flight instructor what to do if they lose the engine during takeoff and the CFI told him that you turn back to the runway. Mr. Cheng was a touch confused by this answer because "wouldn't you continue forward if momentum already has you going in that direction?"

END.

Submitted by: Samantha Link