



INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Elliott Simpson
Aviation Accident Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Interview Date: December 18, 2017 & April 30, 2018
Person Contacted: Jim Gray
NTSB Accident Number: WPR18LA050

Narrative:

During a telephone conversation, Mr. Gray stated the following:

- Mr. Gray confirmed he is the owner and builder of the accident helicopter, N716JB.
- After the accident, he found that oil was leaking from below the engine compartment, and a trail of oil was present on the ground in the areas that the helicopter was taxing.
- He recovered the helicopter to his hangar and removed the body panels around the engine. The sump contained about 2 quarts of oil (capacity 5 quarts), and the engine appeared to have seized.
- A few months after the accident he began to disassemble the helicopter for repair, and discovered that the oil pressure transducer line, which was attached to the oil filter housing by a brass compression fitting, had failed.
- The line was made of nylon tubing, which he purchased from a local automobile parts store.
- He had installed the tubing about one year before the accident, after the original kit-supplied plastic line had degraded and was leaking oil into the cabin. He discarded the oil line after finding the failure.