



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Samantha Link
Aviation Accident Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: September 25, 2019
Person Contacted: Mr. Jack Hunter (Owner of Airplane and Western Sky Aviation Warbird Museum)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR18LA217

Narrative:

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

- The airplane was built by its previous owner. It was never flown or certified, but it was hangered and well maintained until the owner suffered some health-related issues and donated it to the Western Sky Aviation Warbird Museum (its current owner).
- The museum certified the airplane and went through the entire airplane at its most recent annual.
- The pilot was very involved with the museum. He helped a lot on the weekends, during events, etc.
- The pilot was also heavily involved with the accident airplane. He was very meticulous about maintenance, safety, and ensuring everything operated as optimally as possible.
 - For example: during an engine run, the pilot was unsatisfied with how the carburetors operated, so they were removed and sent in for maintenance.
- The pilot was “the most professional pilot around,” and had thousands of hours from the military and previous careers. He had previous light airplane experience, but not quite as light as the accident airplane.
- He estimated that the pilot had about 5 hours in the accident airplane. He was very specific to fly it when the wind was calm to ensure he really understood the airplane and how it handled. The pilot wasn’t a daredevil and was extremely safety conscious.
 - The pilot taxied the airplane around quite a bit just practicing and getting used to the controls, he was very cautious.

- Before the accident occurred, the pilot mentioned that the airplane flew beautifully and had plenty of power. He was very happy with it; he thought it was extremely well built and was a sturdy machine.
- Mr. Hunter said, the accident was “a complete fluke.” There was a gust of wind that came out of nowhere, it shook the building, some lights even fell. The airport is in the desert; therefore, it is not uncommon for random gusts of wind like that.
- When asked, he said that the purpose of the accident flight was to just fly the airplane and better understand it and its controllability.
- The pilot was an overall happy person. He was very friendly, joking, and he was a great person to have around.
- He did not believe the pilot had any medical related issues.
- Since the airplane is an experimental, there was no flight instructor for this airplane for the pilot to learn from.

END.

Submitted by: Samantha Link