



Memorandum for Record

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Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Investigator in Charge

NTSB Accident Number: WPR19LA255
Aircraft Registration & Make/Model: N1168U / S-58ET
Accident Location: Azusa, California
Accident Date: September 11, 2019

During communications with the Federal Aviation Administration's representative, Mr. Robert Michaelson, and a review of photographs he provided, the helicopter sustained damage to the tail rotor assembly, 90-degree gearbox, and vertical stabilizer.

One tail rotor blade had separated from the tail rotor assembly. A section of the blade (shank) remained attached at the blade grip. The separated section was not recovered. The remaining three tail rotor blades exhibited dents and chord-wise bends. The 90-degree gear box fractured, exposing the internal gears. The tail rotor assembly moved downward. Two tail rotor blades lodged into the vertical stabilizer. The vertical stabilizer exhibited dents and holes in the sheet metal. See Figure 1.

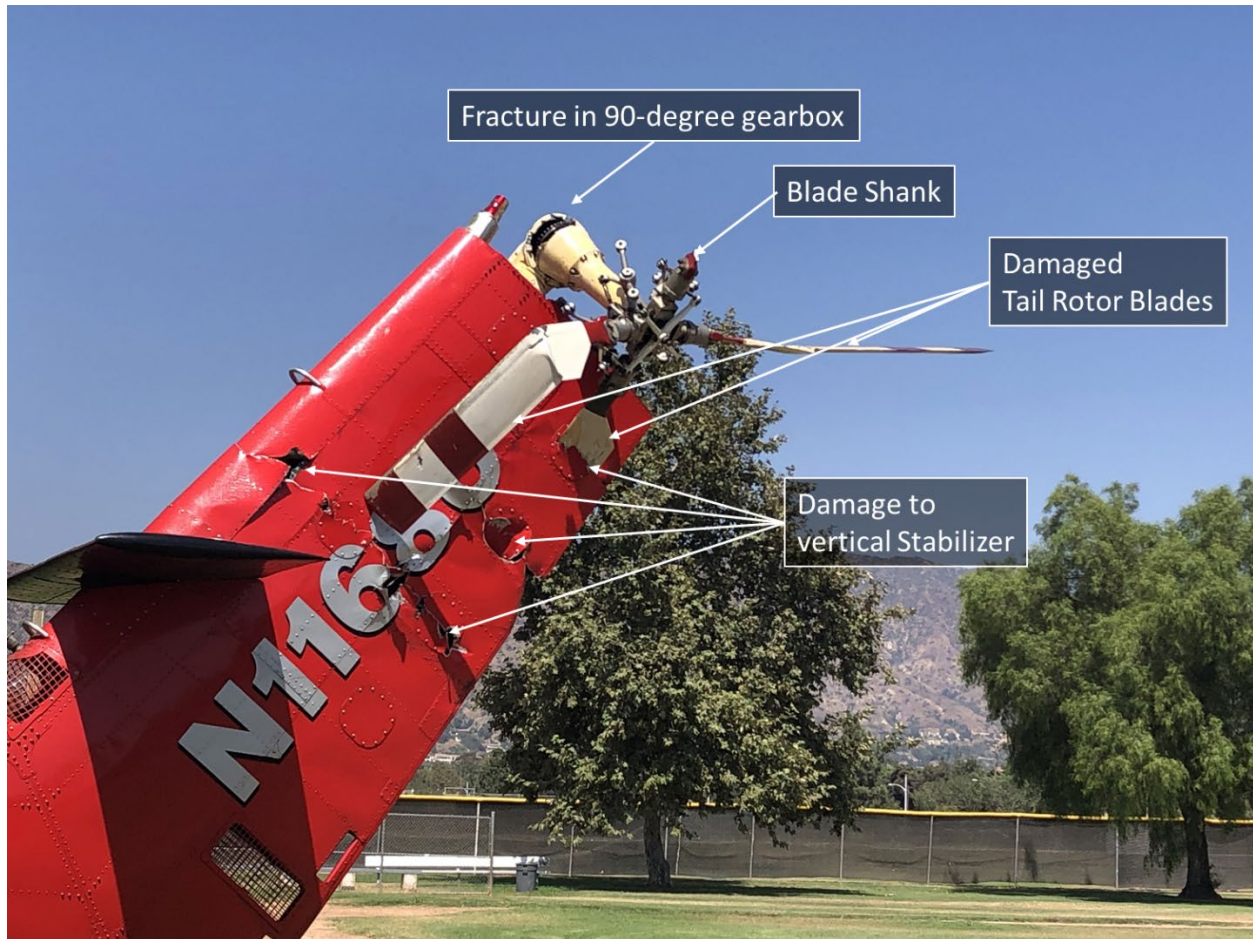


Figure 1. Left-side view of N1168U, showing damage to the tail rotor assembly, the remaining blade shank, damage to the 90-degree gearbox, and damage to the vertical stabilizer.