

Chris [REDACTED] (trainee) – Interview 10/10/2020 (#39)

- Chris, a military pilot was receiving tail wheel and aerobatic instruction from CFI Erich [REDACTED]. Chris was the pilot flying and was seated in back. This was his 4th flight in this airplane.
- They planned for a 1630 Take Off; the flight was intended to be mostly traffic pattern work for a tail wheel endorsement. This was the first takeoff of the day.
- Chris noted that it was noisy; open air cockpit and he didn't hear anything unusual. He was wearing a Bose headset and had the volume turned all the way up.
- He reported that the runup was normal and they did everything "by the book".
- Chris stated it seemed to be a normal takeoff until Erich said "what's that? Chris didn't sense anything abnormal at that point.
- Erich immediately grabbed the controls and banked the airplane back towards the runway. Chris made a mayday call on the Tower frequency.
- He stated the turn was a good decision because there was a freeway right in front of them; going straight ahead wouldn't of worked.
- When asked about any mechanical problems with the airplane Chris said that everything had been fine. He stated the engine was fairly new and asked me "how reliable are these engines?"
- Chris suffered a broken nose and a lacerated hand.

-----//NOTHING FOLLOWS//-----

James [REDACTED]

NTSB, IIC