



Check pilot's Statement

Paul K. Rho
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: August 16, 2022
Name of the Co-pilot: Justin Rodgers
NTSB Accident Number: WPR22LA288

The following is the statement provided by Mr. Justin Rodgers, the check pilot on the rear seat.

On 7/28/22 at about 1200 hours, I was participating in State of AK DPS, public use, mission training in the Southern Wrangell Mountains. I was occupying the aft seat in DPS aircraft N82735. Trooper Steve Cantine was operating the aircraft as PIC from the forward seat. During the mission training, we previewed and selected a remote strip to land on. Length of strip, weather and wind, altitude and temperature, aircraft weight and loading, smoothness and firmness of the strip and pilot capability were considered and determined a safe landing and departure could be accomplished. After a safe landing, it was determined the strip was softer on both ends than expected. A go/no-go point was selected and a take-off was attempted. The take-off was unsuccessful and was aborted causing damage to the right elevator. No injuries occurred. The aircraft was returned to the strip manually by hand, the elevator was replaced by a licensed mechanic, and the aircraft was returned to service and flown from the strip.