



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	BLAIRSTOWN, NJ	Accident Number:	IAD00LA025
Date & Time:	03/04/2000, 1352 EST	Registration:	N97VT
Aircraft:	I.C.A. Brasov IS-28B2	Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The glider was towed to 3,000 feet and released over a ridge where it was thermaled to 3,500 feet. After descending to 2,000 feet over the ridge to look for more thermals, the pilot decided to return to the airport. During the return to the airport, the pilot encountered wind conditions that inhibited the glider from maintaining altitude. The pilot positioned the glider to make an off airport landing in a field approximately 3 miles southeast of the airport. The glider collided with trees bordering the field, then fell to the ground. Winds were reported out of the north at 10 knots gusting to 16 knots. The pilot reported a total time of 1,250 hours, of which 380 were in gliders and 10 hours in make and model. The pilot also reported there were no mechanical deficiencies with the glider.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the encountering of wind conditions in flight that inhibited the pilot from maintaining altitude.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: APPROACH

Findings

1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT
2. COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Findings

3. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	48
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Instructor Rating(s):	Glider
Flight Time:	1288 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10 hours (Total, this make and model), 1162 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 16 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	I.C.A. Brasov	Registration:	N97VT
Model/Series:	IS-28B2 IS-28B2	Engines:	Unknown
Operator:	AERO CLUB ALBATROSS	Engine Manufacturer:	
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	12N, 583 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots / 16 knots, 360°
Temperature:	9° C	Visibility	20 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BLAIRSTOWN, NJ (1N7)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	BLAIRSTOWN (1N7)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): LEAH D YEAGER Adopted Date: 12/04/2000

Investigation Docket: NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov, or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/>.

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