



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	LAKELAND, FL	Accident Number:	MIA00LA133
Date & Time:	04/13/2000, 1830 EDT	Registration:	N905AS
Aircraft:	Air & Space. 18A	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

Witnesses stated the gyroplane jumped into the air about 30 to 50 feet, made a right turn down runway 32 climbing to about 150 to 200 feet, turned right down a cone line (crosswind), leveled the gyroplane and climbed another 100 feet. The gyroplane was observed to make a right turn, level briefly, and begin another right, which continued until the rotor blades were near vertical. The gyroplane slid sideways towards the ground in a high sink rate and collided with terrain. Examination of the airframe, flight controls, and engine assembly and accessories revealed no evidence of a precrash mechanical failure or malfunction. The reason for the in-flight loss of control was not determined.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's in-flight loss of control while maneuvering for undetermined reasons resulting in an uncontrolled descent and subsequent in-flight collision with terrain.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

2. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	69
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Multi-engine Sea; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider; Gyroplane; Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Glider; Gyroplane; Instrument Airplane; Instrument Helicopter
Flight Time:	25000 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Air & Space.	Registration:	N905AS
Model/Series:	18A 18A	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	AIR & SPACE AMERICA INC.	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A1D
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:	LAL, 142 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 15000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 210°
Temperature:	28° C	Visibility	15 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	LAKELAND, FL (LAL)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Lakeland-Linder Regional (LAL)	Runway Surface Type:	Unknown
Runway Used:		Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	27.988889, -82.018611		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): CARROL A SMITH

Adopted Date: 09/30/2003

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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