



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	TRACY, CA	Accident Number:	LAX89DVD02
Date & Time:	02/04/1989, 1545 PST	Registration:	N51K
Aircraft:	WAR REPLICAS P-51	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation -		

Analysis

DURING A LOCAL TEST FLIGHT, THE PILOT LOST CONTROL OF THE HALF-SCALE P-51 AIRPLANE WHILE TURNING FROM DOWNWIND TO BASE. THE AIRPLANE COLLIDED WITH THE TERRAIN SHORT OF THE RUNWAY. INSPECTION OF THE AIRPLANE REVEALED THAT THE AILERON CONTROL BELLCRANK WAS NOT INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECORDS HELD BY THE PILOT/MANUFACTURER. WITNESSES REPORTED SEEING BOTH AILERONS AND THE WINGS FLUTTERING BEFORE THE CRASH. EVIDENCE INDICATED AILERON OVERTRAVEL. THE COCKPIT CONTROL STICK WAS NOT EQUIPPED WITH CONTROL TRAVEL STOPS.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE IMPROPER INSTALLATION OF THE AILERON CONTROLS OF THIS HOMEBUILT ACFT BY THE PILOT/MANUFACTURER WHICH LED TO THE INFLIGHT LOSS OF CONTROL OF THE AIRPLANE. CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACCIDENT WAS THE PILOT'S INEXPERIENCE IN THE AIRPLANE.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - BASE TURN

Findings

1. (C) FLIGHT CONTROL,AILERON ATTACHMENT - IMPROPER
2. (C) MAINTENANCE,MODIFICATION - NOT CORRECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) FLIGHT CONTROL,AILERON - FLUTTER
4. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OF AIRCRAFT - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	43, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	11/11/1986
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	622 hours (Total, all aircraft), 9 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	WAR REPLICAS	Registration:	N51K
Model/Series:	P-51 P-51	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	001
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	9 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	9 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	HONDA
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	1829CC
Registered Owner:	PETER M. NIEBER	Rated Power:	104 hp
Operator:	PETER M. NIEBER	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	-18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	TRACY, CA (036)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1530 PST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	TRACY (036)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	192 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	29	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3680 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	RALPH S CARR	Report Date:	01/11/1990
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish Date:			
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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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).