



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	TRACY, CA	Accident Number:	LAX89DVD02
Date & Time:	02/04/1989, 1545 PST	Registration:	N51K
Aircraft:	WAR REPLICAS P-51	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

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	43
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
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	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	PETER M. NIEBER	Engine Manufacturer:	HONDA
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	1829CC
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation -		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Witness
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:	-18°C	Visibility	0 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	TRACY, CA (036)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	TRACY (036)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	29	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3680 ft / 100 ft		

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
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): RALPH S CARR

Adopted Date: 01/11/1990

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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