



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Lansing, IL	Accident Number:	CHI03LA048
Date & Time:	01/01/2003, 1430 CST	Registration:	NONE
Aircraft:	Air Command Commander Elite	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The un-registered gyrocopter was destroyed when it impacted terrain. The un-certified pilot received fatal injuries as a result of the crash. A witness to the accident stated that the gyrocopter made a westerly turn at an altitude of about 50 feet above ground level and passed in front of him at an altitude of 100 feet above ground level. The witness said within seconds he observed the gyrocopter in an abrupt climb followed by a quick descent, followed by an even faster climb. The witness said the gyrocopter then tumbled to the ground. The witness described the incident as a classic phugoid oscillation or "pilot induced oscillation." The Rotorcraft Flying Handbook refers to this as "an unintentional up-and-down oscillation of the gyroplane accompanied with alternating climbs and descents of the aircraft." The weather was reported as: Wind 020 degrees at 16 knots and gusts at 21 knots; visibility 10 statute miles; sky condition overcast at 2,100.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The inadvertent pilot induced oscillation. Factor to the accident was the wind gusts.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) PORPOISE/PILOT-INDUCED OSCILLATION - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS

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

Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	None	Age:	45
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Air Command	Registration:	NONE
Model/Series:	Commander Elite	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	532
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:	IGQ, 616 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 2100 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	16 knots / 21 knots, 20°
Temperature:	-1 °C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Lansing, IL (IGQ)	Destination:	Lansing, IL

Airport Information

Airport:	Lansing Municipal Airport (IGQ)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:		Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:			

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:	41.539722, -87.531944		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): John M Brannen

Adopted Date: 03/30/2004

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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