



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Toledo, OH	Accident Number:	CEN11LA455
Date & Time:	07/01/2011, 1830 EDT	Registration:	N433GC
Aircraft:	Couvillion S-17	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he found no discrepancies during the preflight inspection and that the engine run-up and before-takeoff checks were normal. Immediately after takeoff, the airplane entered an uncommanded right turn. The pilot was unable to keep the airplane from turning to the right as it climbed to about 200 to 300 feet above the ground. He pulled the throttle to idle and landed the airplane in a field. The touchdown was hard, and the airplane impacted a rock pile during the landing roll. Postaccident examination revealed that the right rudder pedal was sheared off and that the right rudder cable had slack in it and was twisted around the right rudder horn attachment fitting. If this twist had existing during the flight, it could have caused the uncommanded right turn; however, it is likely that the cable twisted around the rudder horn during the impact when the right rudder pedal separated and allowed the cable to go slack. Additionally, when the cable was straightened, it was noted to be the proper length, and rudder cable continuity was confirmed. Flight control cable continuity was also confirmed from the flight controls to the ailerons and the elevator. No mechanical discrepancy was noted that would have resulted in the uncontrolled right turn.

Flight Events

Initial climb - Loss of control in flight
Emergency descent - Off-field or emergency landing
Landing - Hard landing

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The loss of control during initial climb for undetermined reasons, which resulted in a hard landing.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-(general)-Attain/maintain not possible - C
Not determined-Not determined-(general)-(general)-Unknown/Not determined - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	52
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1353 hours (Total, all aircraft), 0 hours (Total, this make and model), 1112 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Couvillion	Registration:	N433GC
Model/Series:	S-17	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Joseph Deaton	Engine Manufacturer:	ROTAX
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	503
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	TDZ, 620 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots, 90°
Temperature:	29° C / 17° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Toledo, OH (TDZ)	Destination:	Toledo, OH (TDZ)

Airport Information

Airport:	Toledo Executive Airport (TDZ)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	04	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3799 ft / 75 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	James P Silliman	Adopted Date:	05/03/2012
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=81014		

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