



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Van Nuys, CA	Accident Number:	GAA18CA114
Date & Time:	01/29/2018, 1100 PST	Registration:	N767LW
Aircraft:	WAYNE MILLER SPORT COPTER II	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot of the experimental amateur-built gyroplane, during the takeoff roll on runway 34 in gusting wind conditions, the pilot did not allow the rotor rpm to adequately increase. He advanced the throttle and the nose pitched up. The gyroplane exited the left side of the runway and the rotor blades struck the propeller.

The gyroplane sustained substantial damage to the vertical stabilizer.

The METAR at the airport reported that about the time of the accident, the wind was from 350° at 17kts gusting to 22kts.

The pilot reported that this accident could have been prevented if he had confirmed the proper rotor rpm.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the gyroplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's decision to takeoff in gusting wind conditions with insufficient rotor rpm.

Findings

Aircraft	Prop/rotor parameters - Not attained/maintained (Cause) Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Gusts - Effect on operation (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Other weather encounter Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Runway excursion Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	55, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Gyroplane; Helicopter	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	12/04/2017
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	10/04/2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 15000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 23 hours (Total, this make and model), 3400 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 235 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 78 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	WAYNE MILLER	Registration:	N767LW
Model/Series:	SPORT COPTER II NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Gyroplane
Year of Manufacture:	2017	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	SC009
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	01/19/2018, Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	43 Hours as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Ly-Con
ELT:	C126 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO- 360-SCI
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	220 hp
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KVNY, 770 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1851 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	71°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	17 knots / 22 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	350°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.15 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26°C / -2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Van Nuys, CA (VNY)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Van Nuys, CA (VNY)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1100 PST	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	VAN NUYS (VNY)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	802 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	34R	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4013 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	34.209722, -118.490000 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Michael A Hicks	Report Date:	07/05/2018
Additional Participating Persons:	Jeff Cunningham; FAA; Van Nuys, CA		
Publish Date:	07/05/2018		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=96666		

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