

Communication Summary

Information from: Mr. Andrew Lee, Senior Factory Flight Instructor



Summary & Factual Information: Mr. Lee was asked for a debrief of training given to Dr. Mike McCoy on Saturday September 21st and Sunday September 22nd in a Cirrus airplane that was similarly equipped with a yaw damper like the accident airplane was. Mr. Lee, in part, stated that he flew with Dr. McCoy for 6.3 hours over the course of four flights throughout the days.

The things he noticed were that Dr. McCoy was not using checklists properly. On the ground he was not performing a proper autopilot check. In his check he failed to override the yaw damper on the autopilot to insure that he could properly operate the rudder pedals if there was to be a failure in the system.

During several approaches he noticed that Dr. McCoy was not disengaging the autopilot with the autopilot disengage (red) button. Instead, he was using the autopilot (AP) button on the autopilot control panel. This led to the yaw damper remaining engaged after the master autopilot control had been toggled off. He improved on his checklist usage and began to use the autopilot disengage button.

Mr. Lee was specifically asked if he provided training on how to override the yaw damper and he replied that he taught him to incorporate it into his before takeoff checklist autopilot test.

Mr Lee was asked to verify if Dr. McCoy was able to override the yaw damper and he indicated that he could and he was able to achieve full deflection.

Mr. Lee was asked if Dr. McCoy confident in overriding the yaw damper during the ground tests and indicated that Dr. McCoy was able to do it and admitted to it when asked. However, he said something to the effect of "mine was harder when I had my accident."

Mr. Lee confirmed that the yaw damper override force were consistent with other yaw damper equipped Cirrus aircraft that he had flown.

I can attest that the above summary is correct to the best of my knowledge:

Edward F. Malinowski
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator