



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Patrick M. Murray
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

June 6, 2013

Subject: ERA13FA219 – N85KY, Valkaria, FL April 29, 2013.
Name: Ernie Boyette – President of Rotor Flight Dynamics, inventor of the Dominator Gyroplane.

In a personal and telephone interview, Mr. Hutton stated the following:

The Dominator gyroplane is an inherently stable machine. During flight with the power cut off, the gyroplane is designed to use the rotor speed to safely descend to the ground.

In discussing the crash dynamics of N85KY, investigators were trying to identify how the postcrash damage to the gyroplane occurred. Mr. Boyette recollected a similar crash in which a pilot hit the ground with the nose wheel slightly off the ground. The ensuing result was one in which the gyroplane bounced upward, forward, and impacted the ground inverted because the rotor blades are still producing 500 pounds of lift at touch down. The bouncing action contributed to the forward inversion of the accident.

In reviewing the accident video, Mr. Boyette stated that the initial approach to runway 14 was normal. He stated that it appeared that the pilot seemed to "check" his speed just prior to entering a vertical descent to the ground. Mr. Boyette stated that the only way to get the gyroplane into this configuration is to have power off and the control stick slightly aft of center.

This information was reviewed by Mr. Boyette for accuracy.

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