



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Michael Huhn
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: September 26, 2013

Persons Contacted: Mr. Jimmy Ray (JR Helicopter/Seller)

NTSB Accident Number: WPR13FA417

Narrative:

The following is a synopsis of the information provided in a telephone conversation with Mr. Ray on this date:

- Mr. Ray's company, JR Helicopter & Aircraft Services Inc was the previous owner of the helicopter, and sold it to the accident pilot, Mr. Chad Nelson
- JR Helicopter was located in Texas, and the pilot lived in Arizona
- Originally the pilot wanted to truck the helicopter to AZ but eventually decided to fly it back with a CFI
- As part of the purchase, Mr. Ray provided the pilot with the "military log books" and all the "inspection" documents
- Subsequent to the purchase the pilot telephoned Mr. Ray regularly for maintenance assistance and/or guidance
- The pilot also called Mr. Ray for direct parts purchases, plus advice regarding parts the pilot located on EBay
- The pilot told Mr. Ray that he purchased a main rotor (MR) "mast assembly" from another vendor but that the unit ended up being unusable ("no good") and that the seller "made good" on the pilot's return of the unit.
 - Mr. Ray stated that there were a lot of related discussions on the "Barnstormers" website
- Mr. Ray put the pilot in contact with "Eric" at "Airwolf" to help the pilot with inspection/testing/maintenance issues on the MR TT straps
 - The pilot and Airwolf were supposed to confer the week prior to the accident but that schedule slipped and that never occurred
- According to Mr. Ray the sight glass in one of the MR dampers was cloudy, and the pilot wanted to send it back to Mr. ray for either cleaning or a replacement unit
 - That did not occur
- The pilot reportedly purchased a damper from another seller
 - The pilot planned to install it himself and asked Mr. Ray for maintenance/replacement advice, which he provided
 - The seller of the damper was Mr. Doug Zych, who reportedly lived in Virginia
 - Information regarding this transaction was also reportedly available on the Barnstormers site