

**Michael Huhn
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region**

**Date: January 31, 2011
Person Contacted: Mr. Ed Nettleton (Left Rear Seat Passenger)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR11GA115**

Interviewers: Deputy Bernstein/Deputy Gardner,
Date: 1/31/11
Time: 1550 MST
Location: University Medical Center

Narrative:

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Mr. Nettleton in an in-person conversation on this date:

- Edwin Nettleton (private contractor, lives in VA)
- Seated in LH rear seat
- Witness sustained "cracked" wrist
- Trying to set down on ridge, pilot possibly decided he couldn't, witness was videotaping, saw skid hit rock, helicopter "pitched," witness surmised helicopter tail rotor hit the rising terrain to his left
- Started spinning around
- Plan was to land
- Discussion b/t Larry & pilot as to where to land. Witness thought that the initial landing site was to be in a clearing off a dirt road. But then the helicopter tried to land on the ridge
- Clearing was to right side of the ridge- pilot appeared to be trying to land on middle of ridge
- Helicopter coming down very slowly, helicopter touched down, then everything "went crazy"
- Witness felt like the tail or tail rotor "hit something"
- Helicopter seemed to be about 1 ft above ground and pilot was maneuvering to situate the helicopter more precisely
- Helicopter did several turns/rotations, then main rotors hit, then "cartwheeled" and tumbled down hill, then started sliding and eventually came to a stop
- Panzica exited helicopter, Nettleton remained inside due to concern about disturbing helicopter and continuing its descent down the hill
- Pilot had landed on ridge previously, but not at exact same spot
- Pilot pointed out previous landing site, then flew around mountain again, then approx 20 seconds before touching down at the attempted landing site
- Heard pilot exclaim "oh ("no", or "what's going on"- uncertain)
- Thought the pilot added power
- Helicopter then rose 3-4 feet off ground and then began to spin
- Felt helicopter rotate to right a few times then tilted to right and tumbled downhill

- No noises or alarms until main rotors struck the ground
- All pax were strapped in w lap & shoulder harnesses
- Post accident, pilot was talking for "a minute or two," in response to witness' query (per 911) for pilot's name- pilot responded with his first name
- Witness is private pilot (fixed wing), not very active in past 10 years (~4 hours)
- Wx on landing site was clear, he did not feel any buffeting or thermals
- No pre-flight safety briefings for pax (unlike witness' prior experience in DEA Blackhawks)- Just got into helicopter and departed
- Minimal intra-cabin chatter enroute
- The flight did conduct one circuit around Waterman peak
- This was witness' second ever helicopter flight
- Pax videotaped accident flight and thought he also captured landing
- Pilot did go to dentist on morning of accident; witness didn't know if pilot had any anesthesia