



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: September 2, 2020
Person Contacted: Ryan Wickenhagen [REDACTED]
NTSB Accident Number: ERA20CA301 – Savannah, Georgia

This investigator spoke to Mr. Wickenhagen by phone. He reported the following:

- The flight itinerary that he provided to the FAA was reviewed. Mr. Wickenhagen did not recall any hard landings during the series of flights from Las Vegas to Savannah (SAV).
- He stated that the damage appeared to be from the nose gear touching down first; however, he did not recall this happening on any of the recent flights.
- After arriving at SAV on July 16, he remained there overnight and proceeded to the airport the next morning for his flight to Norfolk, VA (ORF). He commenced the preflight there around 0900 EDT. He observed wrinkling of the fuselage skin and had a local mechanic check it out. The mechanic thought the damage was minor and the pilot proceeded to ORF.
- There were no other pilots who would have been flying the airplane when the damage occurred.
- A mechanic in ORF determined that the damage was more significant and a ferry permit was requested. The Richmond FAA FSDO became involved and determined that the damage was substantial and the ferry permit was denied.
- Most of Mr. Wickenhagen's flight experience is in military rotorcraft.