

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety

Washington, DC 20594



CEN23FA333

AIRCRAFT EXAMINATION SUMMARY

July 30, 2023

A. ACCIDENT

Location: Oshkosh, WI
Date: 07/29/2023
Time: 1227 CDT
Aircraft: Rotorway 162F; N193AZ / ELA Eclipse 10; N221EL

B. AIRCRAFT EXAMINATION SUMMARY

IIC Aaron Sauer
NTSB
Denver, CO

Participants Michael Brockel
Federal Aviation Administration
Milwaukee, WI

Thomas Hakes
Federal Aviation Administration
Milwaukee, WI

SUMMARY:

On July 29, 2023, about 1227 central daylight time (CDT), a Rotorway 162F helicopter, N193AZ, and an ELA Eclipse 10 gyroplane, N221EL, were involved in a midair collision near Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The helicopter was destroyed, and the pilot and passenger were fatally injured. The gyroplane was destroyed, and the pilot and passenger received serious injuries. Both aircraft were operated as Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flights.

AIRCRAFT EXAMINATION:

Postaccident examination of the helicopter revealed both outboard sections of the main rotor blades were separated and came to rest in the debris field. The main rotor blade's structure displayed impact marks and white paint transfers, consistent with the gyroplane's structure and paint color. The gyroplane's right horizontal and vertical stabilizers displayed shear cuts and separated structure consistent with helicopter main rotor blade contact. The gyroplane's main rotor mast was separated about mid-length with an impact signature consistent with the helicopter's main rotor

blade. Examination of both aircraft revealed no evidence of any preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.



Photograph 1. Separated outboard sections of the helicopter's main rotor blades.



Photograph 2. The upper photograph depicts the gyroplane's separated right horizontal stabilizer and lower vertical stabilizer. The lower photograph depicts the separated stabilizer section in comparison with the helicopter main rotor blade contact witness marks and white paint transfer.



Photograph 3. Gyroplane's separated rotor mast section and the helicopter's main rotor blade contact witness mark.