



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator, IIC
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: March 2, 2022
Statement from: Justin Elliott (Front Left Seat Passenger on N5185R)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA20LA105 – Fayetteville, NC

Mr. Elliott, who was the left, front seat passenger on N5185R, provided a written statement in the form of a deposition excerpt. The deposition was taken on May 5, 2021 at Linden, NC.

The following is a summary of the statement relative to the preflight, taxi, and takeoff on February 17, 2020:

Mr. Elliott agreed to go on an orientation flight with two other passengers. The other passengers were in the aft seats. The instructor, Jake Parsons, was in the cockpit with Mr. Elliott. Mr. Parsons did not provide any instruction prior to getting into the airplane. Once inside, Mr. Parsons provided instruction on how to secure the seat belt, how to use the headset, and showed him the "steering wheel (yoke)". They performed the checklist items.

After engine start, Mr. Parsons asked Justin if he would like to "drive" the airplane to the runway. Justin was reluctant at first, but Mr. Parsons reassured him that it was all right and so he taxied the airplane to the runway.

Mr. Parsons provided him with instructions on when to initiate the takeoff. He recalled that it was about 70-80 mph, and that he (Mr. Parsons) would give him the call to "either push in or pull out." Mr. Elliott could not recall which direction he moved the yoke during the takeoff. When the airplane reached about 75 mph, Mr. Parsons instructed him to rotate "slowly." Both he and Mr. Parsons were on the controls during the takeoff.

After liftoff, the airplane “tilted too far back” and he could only see the sky out the windshield. The airplane “started going straight up” and “...I was kind of, you know, freaking out...”

As the airplane lifted off, his hands were still on the yoke. As the airplane pitched up, he took his hands off the yoke. He estimated that he kept his hands on the yoke after liftoff for a “couple of seconds.” He also stated that no one told him to take his hands off the yoke before he took his hands off the yoke.

Mr. Parsons called out that he was trying to regain control and not to touch anything. Then we started “going down.” There were alerts going off in the cockpit. Then we crashed into the ground. Mr. Elliott was not sure how he got out of the airplane.