



## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

**Albert P. Nixon**  
**Senior Aviation Accident Investigator**  
**Western Pacific Region-Aviation Safety**

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**Date: Feb 28, 2023**  
**Subject: Record of Conversation with Frank Whittier (Accident Pilot)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR23LA023**

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In a conversation with Frank Whittier, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- Due to the vibrations on takeoff roll, and the short width of the runway, he inadvertently veered of the left side of the runway.
- The vibrations were caused by the affect of the rough runway surface on the nose gear.
- About the same time of the runway excursion, he decided to abort the takeoff on runway 21.
- Once the left main landing gear went off the runway edge, it dragged in the sand, and caused a loss of performance and directional control of the airplane.
- He was unable to steer the airplane in the sand.
- The airplane came to rest off about 30 ft off the side of the runway and about one-third down the runway.
- There were no mechanical issues with the airplane.
- The engine operated correctly, no roughness, and or power loss. It was not the engine.
- He has since flown in another Mooney and experienced the effect of a rough surface on the nose gear.
- He plans to share his experience with other pilots to help prevent them from experiencing what he did during this accident.