



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	CASEY, Illinois	Accident Number:	CHI91DEV02
Date & Time:	July 18, 1991, 08:05 Local	Registration:	N2821
Aircraft:	O'CONNELL STITS SA-3B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

A STUDENT PILOT PURCHASED AN INACTIVE, HOMEBUILT AIRPLANE, THREE YEARS OUT OF INSPECTION. THE OWNER TOOK THE AIRPLANE FOR A TRIAL FLIGHT WITH ANOTHER STUDENT PILOT AS PASSENGER. ON THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE TAKEOFF, THE AIRPLANE SETTLED INTO A BEAN FIELD AT THE DEPARTURE END. THE OWNER REPORTED NO MALFUNCTION OR FAILURE, AND NONE WAS FOUND.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN A PROPER RATE OF CLIMB AFTER TAKEOFF. A FACTOR IN THE ACCIDENT WAS THE PILOT'S LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN MODEL.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. TERRAIN CONDITION - CROP
2. (C) PROPER CLIMB RATE - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OF AIRCRAFT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	27, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 11, 1990
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	42 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	O'CONNELL	Registration:	N2821
Model/Series:	STITS SA-3B STITS SA-3	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	TO 452
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 7, 1987 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1375 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	6 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	165 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-290G
Registered Owner:	HAROLD R. PARKER	Rated Power:	125 Horsepower
Operator:	JEFF G. SHOTT	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	HUF ,585 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	38 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	07:45 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	60°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	2 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	22°C / 20°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	N/A - None - Haze		
Departure Point:	CASEY , IL (1HB)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	08:05 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	CASEY MUNI 1H8	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	654 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	36	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	1965 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	39.299133,-87.980895(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Atkins, Russell
Additional Participating Persons:	JOHN RHOADS; SPRINGFIELD , IL
Original Publish Date:	March 24, 1993
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=14862

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).