



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	BOYNTON BEACH, Florida	Accident Number:	MIA92LA122
Date & Time:	May 4, 1992, 16:00 Local	Registration:	N99946
Aircraft:	LET L-13	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

THE FLT TURNED BASE WITH PARTIAL SPOILERS EXTENDED THEN TURNED FINAL, & ENCOUNTERED A 'SEVERE DOWNDRAFT.' THE PLT RETRACTED THE SPOILERS BUT THE DESCENT CONTINUED UNTIL IMPACT WITH TREES APPROXIMATELY 300 FT SHORT OF THE RWY. HE HAD ACCUMULATED 3 HRS TOTAL TIME MAKE & MODEL DURING 8 DUAL & 12 SOLO FLIGHTS IN THE PRECEDING 30 DAYS.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: PREMATURE EXTENSION OF THE SPOILERS BY THE PILOT DURING APPROACH TO LAND. CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACCIDENT WAS HIS LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT AND IN-FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH A DOWNDRAFT.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT
2. (C) SPOILER EXTENSION - PREMATURE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OF AIRCRAFT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: DESCENT

Findings

4. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	39, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land; Multi-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 10, 1991
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	9171 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	LET	Registration:	N99946
Model/Series:	L-13 L-13	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	025822
Landing Gear Type:		Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 2, 1992 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	18 Hrs	Engines:	0 Unknown
Airframe Total Time:	2754 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	WILLIS, B.N.	Rated Power:	
Operator:	WILLIS, B.N.	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:	PBI ,19 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	15:50 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	43°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	7 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots / 17 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	260°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	31°C / 11°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	15:50 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	WILLIS GLIDERPORT 1X4	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	26.509868,-80.149116(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Monville, Timothy
Additional Participating Persons:	JOHN FLYNN; FORT LAUDERDALE, FL
Original Publish Date:	August 26, 1993
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=33089

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