



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Byron, Georgia	Accident Number:	MIA07CA097
Date & Time:	May 15, 2007, 09:30 Local	Registration:	N33116
Aircraft:	Piper J3-C-65	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot attempted a "soft field" take-off with the nose up and tail down to give him limited visibility over the nose of the airplane. He stated that a left quartering tailwind caused the airplane to drift to the right into a fence on the right side of the runway.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilots failure to maintain directional control of the airplane during takeoff.

Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ROLL/RUN

Findings

1. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. OBJECT - FENCE

Factual Information

The pilot stated he departed Houston County airport at about 08:45 EDT and landed at Seaborn Smith's Airport (GE27) at about 09:15. There was about a 5 to 7 knot wind from the southeast. Both runways are grass and both are East - West. I headed upwind to the East and spent a few minutes before departing GE27. I attempted a "soft field" take-off with a nose up - Tail down. This gave me limited visibility over the nose of the airplane. The left quartering tailwind caused me to drift to the right into a fence on the right side of the runway. The accident occurred about 09:30 EDT.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	75, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
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 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	August 1, 2005
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 1, 2005
Flight Time:	1175 hours (Total, all aircraft), 113 hours (Total, this make and model), 1175 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N33116
Model/Series:	J3-C-65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	5834
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 1, 2006 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1220 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	69 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2626 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	A-65
Registered Owner:	Jeff S. Pierce, Jr	Rated Power:	65 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MCN,354 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	7 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	09:50 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	55°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 3300 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.25 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	25°C / 15°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Houston County, GA (5A2)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Byron, GA (GE27)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	08:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Seaborn Smith GE27	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	500 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	27	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2800 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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:	32.60361,-83.756942

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Kennedy, Jeffrey
Additional Participating Persons:	William Moore; FAA ATL FSDO; Atlanta, GA
Original Publish Date:	June 27, 2007
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=65787

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