



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Coalinga, California	Accident Number:	WPR11CA066
Date & Time:	November 26, 2010, 15:15 Local	Registration:	N74400
Aircraft:	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AVN. CORP. AA-5B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Runway excursion	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot, she did not perform a flight control check prior to takeoff. During the departure roll, when the airplane reached 70 miles per hour, she realized that the gust lock was still installed in the control column. She attempted to remove the device, but was unsuccessful. She reduced the engine power in an attempt to stop the airplane, but it continued off the end of the runway; the nose gear separated, and it came to rest in a dirt field. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the firewall and right wing.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to remove the gust lock prior to takeoff.

Findings

Aircraft	Gust lock or damper - Incorrect use/operation
Personnel issues	Preflight inspection - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Prior to flight	Preflight or dispatch event
Takeoff-rejected takeoff	Runway excursion (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	75,Female
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 8, 2009
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	February 28, 2009
Flight Time:	1282 hours (Total, all aircraft), 400 hours (Total, this make and model), 921 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AVN. CORP.	Registration:	N74400
Model/Series:	AA-5B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	AA5B-0213
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 15, 2010 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	16 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2370 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Textron Lycoming
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A4K
Registered Owner:	Anna Longwell	Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:	Anna Longwell	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	NLC,232 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	15 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	90°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	160°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.15 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / 1°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Coalinga, CA (308)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Palo Alto, CA (PAO)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	15:14 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Harris Ranch 308	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	470 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	14	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2820 ft / 30 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:	36.13972,-120.360275(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Dunks, Kristi
Additional Participating Persons:	Bjorn Beijens; Federal Aviation Administration; Fresno, CA
Original Publish Date:	April 12, 2011
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=77889

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