



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Mocksville, North Carolina	Accident Number:	ERA12CA378
Date & Time:	May 28, 2012, 14:00 Local	Registration:	N817V
Aircraft:	PDPS PZL-BIELSKO SZD-55-1	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot, the glider's heading differed about 5 degrees from that of the towplane when the towplane began its takeoff roll. The pilot used rudder to correct the heading, but the glider dragged a wing and yawed 70 degrees to its right. The glider lifted 3 to 5 feet above the runway, the pilot released the tow, the glider touched down in a sideslip, and the resultant side load on the tail landing gear "buckled the tailboom 90 [degrees]." The pilot reported that there were no mechanical deficiencies with the glider that would have prevented normal operation, and that the accident might have been prevented by ensuring alignment of the glider with the towplane prior to the takeoff roll.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The glider pilot's failure to attain and maintain directional control during takeoff.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Lack of action - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Takeoff-rejected takeoff	Abnormal runway contact

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	50, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	May 19, 2012
Flight Time:	107 hours (Total, all aircraft), 7 hours (Total, this make and model), 87 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PDPS PZL-BIELSKO	Registration:	N817V
Model/Series:	SZD-55-1	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	551192035
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	February 28, 2012 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1102 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:	1143 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KINT,969 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	16 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	17:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	45°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 4200 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.09 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / 19°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Mocksville, NC (43NC)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Mocksville, NC (43NC)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	14:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Bahson Gliderport 43NC	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	810 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry;Vegetation
Runway Used:	01L	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3000 ft / 260 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	36.019165,-80.509719(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Rayner, Brian
Additional Participating Persons:	Kenneth Humphries; FAA/FSDO; Greensboro, NC
Original Publish Date:	November 26, 2012
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=83827

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