



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Coldfoot, Alaska	Accident Number:	GAA19CA252
Date & Time:	March 31, 2019, 14:59 Local	Registration:	C-GTNV
Aircraft:	Aerospatiale AS350	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Miscellaneous/other	Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Other work use		

Analysis

The chief pilot reported that the helicopter pilot told him that, while attempting to net a calf during a caribou capture flight, he got within shooting range for the net gun, but the calf suddenly "broke right." He then turned the helicopter to follow the calf, and while turning, the pilot thought the shot would not be possible and that he should set up for another run, but the gunner fired. The pilot heard a "bang," followed by a strong vibration. The pilot landed the helicopter without further incident.

The pilot reported that postaccident examination revealed that one of the main rotor blades had sustained substantial damage, which he assumed was from a net weight.

The chief pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the helicopter that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The gunner's improper net gun firing, which resulted in a net weight impacting the rotor blades.

Findings

Personnel issues	Incorrect action performance - Not specified
Environmental issues	(general) - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Miscellaneous/other (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Commercial; Foreign	Age:	57, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 24, 2019
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 19, 2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 10866 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3964 hours (Total, this make and model), 9880 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 77 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 47 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Aerospatiale	Registration:	C-GTNV
Model/Series:	AS350 B	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:	1982	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	1655
Landing Gear Type:	High skid	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	February 1, 2019 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4961 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Turbo shaft
Airframe Total Time:	11784.8 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Turbomeca
ELT:	C126 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	Arriel 1D1
Registered Owner:	Trans North Turbo Air Limited	Rated Power:	732 Horsepower
Operator:	Trans North Turbo Air Limited	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Foreign air carrier (129), Rotorcraft external load (133)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	15 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	0°C / -10°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Coldfoot, AK (CXF)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Company VFR
Destination:	Coldfoot, AK (CXF)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 None	Latitude, Longitude:	67.21389,-149.810562(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Benhoff, Kathryn
Additional Participating Persons:	Daniel S Foster; FAA; Fairbanks, AK
Original Publish Date:	November 6, 2019
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=99395

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