



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Borger, Texas	Accident Number:	GAA17CA144
Date & Time:	February 17, 2017, 18:00 Local	Registration:	N591P
Aircraft:	PITTS SPECIAL S 1C	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during the takeoff as the tailwheel lifted, the biplane veered "hard right" and exited the runway. He added that he "felt" he had enough speed to fly and attempted to lift off. Subsequently, the biplane struck a tree.

The biplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage and both wings.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the biplane 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 pilot's failure to maintain directional control of the biplane during takeoff.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Takeoff	Runway excursion
Takeoff	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Takeoff	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	53,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
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:	July 1, 2015
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 4, 2016
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 967.4 hours (Total, all aircraft), 30 hours (Total, this make and model), 877.7 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 4.4 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3.4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0.5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PITTS SPECIAL	Registration:	N591P
Model/Series:	S 1C NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1967	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Unknown	Serial Number:	CP-1
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-360
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	180
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:	KBGD,3054 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	23:51 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	188°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	130°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.63 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	19°C / 0°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Borger, TX (BGD)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Borger, TX (BGD)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	18:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	HUTCHINSON COUNTY BGD	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	3055 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	17	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	6299 ft / 100 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:	35.7,-101.394165(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Swenson, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Albert Hilliard; FAA; Lubbock, TX
Original Publish Date:	April 10, 2017
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=94732

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).