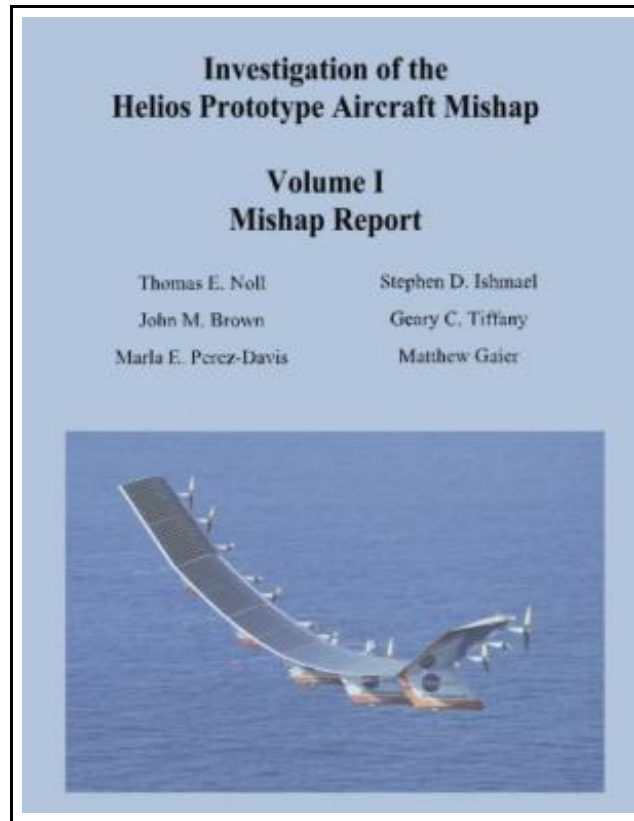


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(Prof. Loyce Runolfsson Jr.)

INVESTIGATION OF THE HELIOS PROTOTYPE AIRCRAFT MISHAP - VOLUME I MISHAP REPORT



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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 100 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.2in. The Helios Prototype vehicle was one of several remotely piloted aircraft funded and developed by NASA under the Environmental Research Aircraft and Sensor Technology (ERAST) project, and managed by NASAs Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC). This vehicle was a proof-of-concept, propeller-driven, flying wing built and operated by AeroVironment, Inc. The vehicle consisted of two configurations. One configuration, designated HP01, was designed to operate at extremely high altitudes using batteries and high-efficiency solar cells spread across the upper surface of its 247-foot wingspan. On 13 August 2001, this aircraft configuration reached an altitude of 96,863 feet, a world record for sustained horizontal flight by a winged aircraft. The other configuration, designated HP03, was designed for long-duration flight. The plan was to use the solar cells to power the vehicles electric motors and subsystems during the day and to use a modified commercial hydrogenair fuel cell system for use during the night. The vehicle was also equipped with batteries as a backup source of power. The aircraft design used wing dihedral, engine power, elevator control surfaces, and a stability augmentation and control system to provide aerodynamic stability and control. On 26 June 2003, HP03-2 took off at 10:06am local time from the Navys Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) located on the island of Kauai, Hawaii. The aircraft was under the guidance of AeroVironment, Inc. (AV) ground-based mission controllers. At that time the environmental wind conditions appeared to be within an acceptable envelope, and consisted of a wind shadow over and offshore from PMRF, bounded to the north, south, and above by zones of wind shear and turbulence separating this region from the ambient easterly trade-wind flow. However, compared...

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