

National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594

Brief of Accident

Adopted 04/29/2003

FTW01FA063 File No. 13055	02/10/2001	Pecan Island, LA	Aircraft Reg No. N901NL	Time (Local): 12:00 CST	
Make/Model: Aero Vodochody / L-39C			Fatal	Serious	Minor/None
Engine Make/Model: Ivchenko / AI-25TL			Crew 1	0	0
Aircraft Damage: Destroyed			Pass 1	0	0
Number of Engines: 1					
Operating Certificate(s): None					
Type of Flight Operation: Personal					
Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation					

Last Depart. Point: Lafayette, LA	Condition of Light: Day
Destination: Local Flight	Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip	Basic Weather: Visual Conditions
	Lowest Ceiling: None
	Visibility: 10.00 SM
	Wind Dir/Speed: 020 / 015 Kts
	Temperature (°C): 6
	Obstr to Vision: None
	Precipitation: None

Pilot-in-Command	Age: 40	Flight Time (Hours)
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)		Total All Aircraft: 2038
Private; Single-engine Land; Helicopter		Last 90 Days: 90
Instrument Ratings		Total Make/Model: 316
None		Total Instrument Time: UnK/Nr

The tandem seat experimental jet aircraft impacted terrain while performing low level aerobatics. Witnesses observed the airplane flying inverted over the pilot's hunting camp just prior to ground impact. No anomalies were found with the airframe or engine during examination of the wreckage. Partial disassembly of the engine revealed that it was operating at the time of the accident. According to radar records and a statement provided by an FAA inspector, the pilot had flown "vigorous" aerobatic flight sequences in a different airplane several hours prior to the accident flight. The two types of aircraft flown on the day of the accident had dissimilar flight envelopes, configurations, sight pictures, and relative speeds. An FAA inspector, who had given the pilot aerobatic instruction in the past, stated that the pilot could have been impaired during the accident flight due to "acute fatigue" from the aerobatic flights he flew earlier on the day of the accident.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. AEROBATICS - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) ALTITUDE - LOW
3. (C) ALTITUDE/CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) FATIGUE - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. TERRAIN CONDITION - SWAMPY

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

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The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.  
the pilot's failure to maintain altitude/clearance from terrain while performing low level aerobatics. A factor was fatigue.