

SNJ-5/T-6 type airplane, Raton, NM

DATE August 24, 2001

AIRCRAFT SNJ-5/T-6, Registration No. N2686D

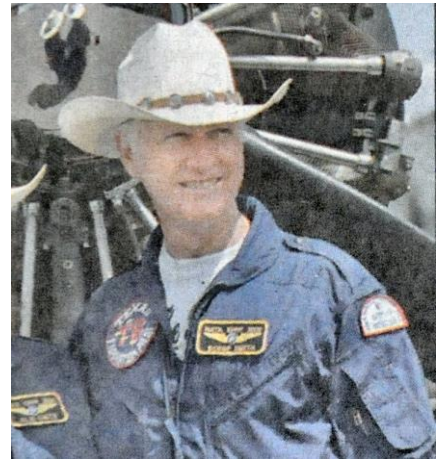
GENERAL LOCATION North of Raton, NM Airport

PEOPLE ABOARD Pilot and passenger

REFERENCES NTSB ID. Docket DEN01FA152, Probable Cause and Full Narrative

HISTORY

The pilot, a retired Delta Airlines captain "Scoop" Smith who performed aerobatic routines with his wife Julie at air shows, was performing low-level aerobatic maneuvers north of the airport. In the middle of a maneuver, his engine quit, affecting his ability to recover control at a point near the ground. Witnesses stated that the engine appeared to re-start but it was not clear that full power was reached in time to allow complete control. The aircraft disappeared behind a hill and was last seen heading into the ground.



In spite of earlier indications that the engine was not performing properly, a subsequent NTSB tear-down report stated "No cause for the reported loss of power...was discovered at this investigation." The NTSB probable cause(s) of this accident was stated as: "a nonmechanical (sic) total loss of engine power for undetermined reasons while performing an aerobatic maneuver, and an inadvertent stall. A contributing factor was the insufficient (sic) altitude to affect a safe recovery."

