

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198602657**

Grumman AA-5A Cheetah

06 July 1986

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198602657
Location: Tangalooma QLD
Date: 06 July 1986
Highest Injury Level: Minor
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: N/A

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	2	0
Total	0	0	3	0

Aircraft Details: Grumman AA-5A Cheetah
Registration: VH-SYX
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Private (Pleasure)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Tangalooma QLD
Departure Time: N/A
Destination: Tangalooma QLD

Approved for Release: April 30th 1987

Circumstances:

The first take-off attempt towards the South was abandoned because the pilot was uncertain whether the aircraft would become airborne in the distance available. He noted that the windsock indicated calm conditions, and after completing another engine run, elected to take-off towards the North. However, the windsock was sheltered from the prevailing wind and did not indicate the five to seven knot tailwind existing for the initial part of the takeoff. Full power was applied before the brakes were released, however acceleration appeared to be uneven, reducing as the wheels passed through soft areas on the strip. The aircraft struck a fence shortly after lift-off, and touched down in a nose-high attitude. It then bounced several times, struck a mound of sand and debris, and overturned. The investigation established that with the tailwind and soft wet surface conditions existing at the time there was insufficient runway length available. The pilot recognised the slow acceleration of the aircraft, but delayed his decision to abort the takeoff attempt.