

controller insofar as this position of operation was concerned. He was under direct supervision of a qualified controller at the time of the collision.

PROBABLE CAUSE

The National Transportation Safety Board determines that the probable cause of this accident was the minimum opportunity for the flightcrews to see and avoid the other aircraft due to the background lights behind the Cessna and the decrease in the Cessna pilots' visual field resulting from the aircraft's wing while turning.

RECOMMENDATION

The National Transportation Safety Board believes that it is an unsafe practice to engage in student familiarization flights in high-density traffic areas at night. Prior to any such flight, the student and the instructor should familiarize themselves with traffic flow patterns in the area in which they intend to fly. Midair collision accidents can be avoided only by the exercise of extreme vigilance on the part of flightcrews.

The Board recommends that:

The Federal Aviation Administration disseminate this report to all pilot schools and bring this message to the attention of all flight instructors.

BY THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD:

/s/ JOHN H. REED  
Chairman

/s/ OSCAR M. LAUREL  
Member

/s/ FRANCIS H. McADAMS  
Member

/s/ LOUIS M. THAYER  
Member

/s/ ISABEL A. BURGESS  
Member

December 29, 1971