



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	CULLMAN, AL	Accident Number:	ATL84MA114
Date & Time:	03/05/1984, 1836 CST	Registration:	N3291Q
Aircraft:	CESSNA 421B	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	6 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

PLT CLEARED FOR NIGHT NDB RWY 19 APCH TO FOLWOM FIELD. ERRATIC RADAR TRACK DRG PROCEDURE TURN AND INBD INTERCEPT. WITNESSES DESCRIBED 200 FT CEILING AND REDUCED VIS IN FOG AT AIRPORT. OTHER WITNESSES OBSERVED ACFT ON NORTHBOUND COURSE, FOLLOWED BY TURN TO WEST AT ROOFTOP HEIGHT, WELL BELOW MDA, AT A POINT ONE MILE NORTHEAST OF ARPT. ENG OPERATION SOUNDED NORMAL. ACFT CONTACTED TREES AT ABOUT AIRPORT ELEVATION, 1 MILE NORTH OF AIRPORT. WRECKAGE PRODUCED 632 FT PATH. SEVERED LIMBS, PROP DMG AND ENG EXAMINATION REVEALED EVIDENCE OF POWER AT IMPACT. 62 YEAR OLD PILOT HAD NOT FLOWN WITH CFI IN YEARS, INSTRUMENT CURRENCY UNKNOWN. PLT FND TO HAVE SEVERE CORONARY ATHEROSCLEROSIS WITH NEAR TOTAL OCCLUSION OF RT CORONARY ARTERY AND EVIDENCE OF PAST TOTAL OCCLUSION OF LEFT CIRCUMFLEX CORONARY ARTERY. CEILING LOWER THAN FCST FOR AREA. FLT PURPOSE TO CARRY EMPLOYEES TO MEET TRUCK, GO JOB SITE. LIMITATION ON PLT MEDICAL CERTIFICATE, NOT FOR NIGHT FLIGHT. SUNSET AT 1745 CST, 51 MINUTES BEFORE ACCIDENT.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - FAF/OUTER MARKER TO THRESHOLD (IFR)

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
4. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)
5. (C) IFR PROCEDURE - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) VISUAL/AURAL PERCEPTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. (C) MINIMUM DESCENT ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. (C) LACK OF RECENT INSTRUMENT TIME - PILOT IN COMMAND
9. (C) MISSED APPROACH - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
10. (C) PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	62, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	05/13/1983
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	3423 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1599 hours (Total, this make and model), 60 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N3291Q
Model/Series:	421B 421B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	421B0911
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	7
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/06/1983, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	7450 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	429 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2478 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Teledyne Cont
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	GTS10-520-H
Registered Owner:	ANDERSON TILE/CARPET DISTRIB.	Rated Power:	375 hp
Operator:	ANDERSON TILE/CARPET DISTRIB.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	HSV, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1849	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	1 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 200 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots / 15 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	360°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	7° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MONTGOMERY, AL (MGM)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	CULLMAN, AL (3A1)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1743 CST	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	FOLSOM FIELD (3A1)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	960 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Used:	19	IFR Approach:	ADF/NDB
Runway Length/Width:	5200 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	5 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	6 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JOHN B DRAKE	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	PAUL& G BAKER & SALOTTOLO; WASHINGTON, DC CYNTHIA L BOWMAN; ATLANTA, GA EUGENE W SHERMAN; BIRMINGHAM, AL WAYNE EDMONDS; VANDALIA, OH		
Publish Date:			
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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