



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	MILLHAVEN, GA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL83FA237
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	06/23/1983, 0157 EDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N333FB
<b>Aircraft:</b>	LOCKHEED L-18	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal

**Flight Conducted Under:** Part 91F: Special Flt Ops.

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## Analysis

THE ACFT COLLIDED WITH TREES DURING AN ATTEMPTED OFF ARPT LANDING AT NIGHT FOR MARIJUANA UNLOADING. THE ACFT WAS BEING FOLLOWED BY A U.S CUSTOMS HELICOPTER, THE OCCUPANTS OF THIS HELICOPTER SAID THE ACFT HAD MADE ONE MISSED APPROACH AND DURING THE GO-AROUND ON THE DOWNWIND LEG THE ACFT DESCENDED UNTIL IT HIT THE TREES. THERE WAS A LAYER OF'SCUD'AT ABOUT 100-200 FT AGL. VISIBILITY UNDER THE LOW LYING INTERMITTANT CLOUD LAYER WAS ABOUT 2 MILES. AFTER THE CRASH THE HELICOPTER LANDED ABOUT 30 YARDS AWAY BUT APPROACH ON FOOT WAS NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO HEAT FROM THE BURNING WRECKAGE.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

## Findings

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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - DOWNWIND

### Findings

1. (C) ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) DIVERTED ATTENTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
4. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
5. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	60, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	Yes
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Invalid Medical for flight	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	10/10/1977
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>			

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	LOCKHEED	<b>Registration:</b>	N333FB
<b>Model/Series:</b>	L-18 L-18	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>		<b>Serial Number:</b>	2467
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	18500 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	WRIGHT
<b>ELT:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	R-1820-76D
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	FALCON LEASING CORPORATION	<b>Rated Power:</b>	1425 hp
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	SAV, 150 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	55 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0142 EDT	Direction from Accident Site:	160°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 400 ft agl	Visibility	7 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 7500 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	40°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	PRESTON E HICKS	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:			
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 <a href="mailto:pubinquiry@ntsb.gov">pubinquiry@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).