



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	MISSING ACFT, MS	Accident Number:	MIA84FA126
Date & Time:	03/31/1984, 0000	Registration:	N44NC
Aircraft:	CESSNA 402B	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	6 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning

Analysis

THIS ACFT DISAPPEARED ON A FLT FROM FT LAUDERDALE, FL TO BIMINI, BAHAMAS. AFTER DEPARTURE, THE ACFT FLT PLAN WAS ACTIVATED BY RADIO. THIS WAS THE LAST COMMUNICATION WITH THE ACFT. AN ITAP RADAR READOUT REVEALED AN ACFT FLT THAT DEPARTED AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. THIS TARGET HEADED FOR BIMINI, & AFTER ABOUT 10 MIN, SLOWED TO 90 KTS AIRSPEED. ABOUT 4 MINUTES LATER THE TARGET ENTERED A 5400 FPM RATE OF DESCENT AND DISAPPEARED OFF RADAR. TWO WITNESSES SAW AN ACFT CRASH INTO THE WATER NEAR BIMINI BETWEEN 0830 AND 0900 ON 3/31. THE MISSING ACFT DEPARTED FT LANDERDALE AT 0823 ON 3/31/84. THE INJURY INDEX & ACFT DAMAGE ARE PRESUMED.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: MISSING AIRCRAFT
Phase of Operation: UNKNOWN

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	29, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Multi-engine Sea; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	01/04/1984
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	4500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1510 hours (Total, this make and model), 4500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 150 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N44NC
Model/Series:	402B 402B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	402B0852
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	10
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/19/1984, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	42 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6387 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520-E
Registered Owner:	OWEN C. BELL	Rated Power:	300 hp
Operator:	ASSOCIATED AIR SERVICE	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Unknown	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	FLL, 10 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0087 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	18° C / 8° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	FORT LAUDERDALE, FL (FLL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	BIMINI (MYBS)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0823 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	3 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	3 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	Unknown
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	Unknown
Total Injuries:	6 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JEFFREY L KENNEDY	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 pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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](#).