



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	ST. THOMAS, VI	Accident Number:	MIA85FA029
Date & Time:	11/10/1984, 1906 AST	Registration:	N81MC
Aircraft:	Gates Learjet 24F	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal, 1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

WHILE EXECUTING A NIGHT VISUAL APPROACH TO RUNWAY 9 IN VISUAL METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS THE AIRCRAFT WAS ALLOWED TO DESCEND; CRASHING INTO WATER 2 MILES SHORT OF THE RUNWAY. THE PILOT WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE AIRPORT AND FAILED TO MAKE USE OF A FULL INSTRUMENT LANDING SYSTEM AND VISUAL APPROACH SLOPE INDICATING SYSTEM WHICH WERE OPERATIONAL FOR RUN-WAY 9 AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT. THE PILOT STATED THERE WERE NO MECHANICAL MALFUNCTIONS WITH THE AIRCRAFT WHICH ATTRIBUTED TO THE ACCIDENT. THE AIRCRAFT WAS EQUIPPED WITH A RADAR ALTIMETER SYSTEM WHICH ALSO WAS NOT USED BY THE PLT. THE PLT PERFORMED TWO MISSED APPROACHES BECAUSE THE ARPT WAS NOT IN SIGHT. THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED DURING THE 3RD ATTEMPT. NEITHER THE PIC NOR THE CO-PLT WERE PROPERLY CERTIFICATED FOR THE FLT.

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 TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. (F) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) PLANNED APPROACH - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH GEOGRAPHIC AREA - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) CREW/GROUP COORDINATION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
7. (C) PROPER GLIDEPATH - NOT ATTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER, GLASSY
9. (C) PROPER ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	39, 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):	None	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	07/16/1984
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	10190 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3000 hours (Total, this make and model), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Gates Learjet	Registration:	N81MC
Model/Series:	24F 24F	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Transport	Serial Number:	344
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/05/1984, AAIP	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	13500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	22 Hours	Engines:	2 Turbo Fan
Airframe Total Time:	2643 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	GE
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	CJ-610-6
Registered Owner:	LISLE AIRCRAFT INC.	Rated Power:	2950 lbs
Operator:	LISLE AIRCRAFT INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	STT, 11 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	2 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1845 AST	Direction from Accident Site:	85°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2000 ft agl	Visibility	40 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	150°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-18°C / -18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	FT.LAUDERDALE, FL (FLL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	1537 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class D; Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	HARRY S. TRUMAN (STT)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	11 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	9	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5358 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal, 1 Serious, 1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JEFFREY L KENNEDY	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	LEE BROOKS; SAN JUAN, PR FRANKLIN D SCHICK; WICHITA, KS WILLIAM THOMPSON; CINCINNATI, 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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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