



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	AUBURN, AL	Accident Number:	ATL85MA282A
Date & Time:	09/22/1985, 1236 CDT	Registration:	N873LP
Aircraft:	Gates Learjet 35A	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal, 5 Serious, 1 Minor

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Business

Analysis

DRG ARRIVAL, THE AIRCREW OF A GATES LEAR JET 35A, N873LP, CANCELED THEIR IFR CLEARANCE & CONTACTED THE AUBURN UNICOM, THEN ENTERED THE TRAFFIC PATTERN TO LAND ON RWY 18. THE UNICOM OPERATOR RPRTD THAT THE LEAR JET CREW HAD RPRTD THEIR POSITION ON EACH PORTION OF THE TRAFFIC PATTERN. AT APRX THE SAME TIME, THE PLT OF AN UNREGISTERED, EXPERIMENTAL, CHALLENGER II WAS IN THE TRAFFIC PATTERN FOR RWY 10. THE 2 RWYS INTERSECTED AT THEIR APCH ENDS. JUST BEFORE LANDING, THE 2 ACFT COLLIDED AS THEY WERE CROSSING OVR THE INTERSECTION & CRASHED ON THE ARPT. THE CHALLENGER (A 2 PLACE VERSION OF AN ULTRALIGHT VEHICLE) WAS NOT EQUIPPED WITH A RADIO & THE UNICOM OPERATOR WAS UNAWARE OF ITS PRESENCE IN THE TRAFFICPATTERN. THE LEAR JET PLT STATED THAT NEITHER HE NOR HIS COPLT HAD SEEN ANY OTHER TRAFFIC AT THE ARPT. NO INDICATION WAS FOUND THAT EITHER CREW HAD TAKEN EVASIVE ACTION. AN EXAM OF THE CRASH SITE REVEALED EVIDENCE THAT THE COLLISION HAD OCCURRED APRX 50 FT ABV THE INTERSECTION.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: MIDAIR COLLISION

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. CONTROL TOWER - UNAVAILABLE
2. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT OF OTHER AIRCRAFT
3. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT OF OTHER AIRCRAFT

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	40, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Unknown	Last FAA Medical Exam:	02/22/1985
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	8000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1100 hours (Total, this make and model), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Gates Learjet	Registration:	N873LP
Model/Series:	35A 35A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Transport	Serial Number:	104
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	11
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	AAIP	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	17000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	16 Hours	Engines:	2 Turbo Fan
Airframe Total Time:	4171 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	GARRETT
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	TFE-731-2-2B
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	3500 lbs
Operator:	LOUISIANA PACIFIC CORP.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	CSG, 397 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1248 CDT	Direction from Accident Site:	100°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 3500 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 3500 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	Variable	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	DESTIN, FL	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1200 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	AUBURN-OPELIKA (AUO)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	776 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	18	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3945 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	4 Serious, 1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal, 5 Serious, 1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	PHILLIP POWELL	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	THOMAS SMITH; BIRMINGHAM, AL ALAN C PIENE; BIRMINGHAM, AL FRANK SCHICK; WICHITA, KS KENNETH W PEPPARD; WASHINGTON, DC		
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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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](#).