



National Transportation Safety Board

Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	WEST PATERSON, NJ	Accident Number:	ATL88MA184
Date & Time:	05/24/1988, 0316 EDT	Registration:	N500RW
Aircraft:	LEARJET 35A	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	4 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning		

Analysis

WITNESSES RPTED A NORMAL TAKEOFF. RADAR INDICATED THE ACFT TURNED RIGHT AS CLEARED AND BEGAN CRUISE AT 1900 FT, HDG NW AT 235 KTS. 65 SECS AFTER CALLING CLEAR OF THE CONTROL ZONE THE ACFT'S RADAR TRACK ENDED. THE ACFT WAS FRAGMENTED BY THE IMPACT WITH ALL FLT CONTROL SURFACES AND ACFT EXTREMITIES FOUND AT THE IMPACT SITE. PITCH TRIM WAS FOUND IN THE NORMAL CRUISE SETTING WITH GEAR, FLAPS, AND SPOILERS IN THE RETRACTED POSITION. EXAM OF THE ENGS INDICATED OPERATION AT IMPACT. ACFT STRUCK THE TERRAIN IN APPROX 80 DEG NOSE DOWN, WNGS LEVEL ATTITUDE & HEADING OPPOSITE TO THE PREVIOUS DIRECTION OF FLT. IN FLIGHT SIMULATOR TESTS, WITH THE ACFT INITIALLY IN LEVEL FLT AT 1900 FEET AND THEN ROLLED INVERTED AND THE PITCH CONTROL MOVED AFT, THE ACFT ATTITUDE WAS SIMILAR TO THE ATTITUDE AT IMPACT. THERE WERE TWO UNAUTH PAX ON BOARD, ONE WAS THE COPILOT'S WIFE. THE IMPACT POINT WAS IN A VERY SMALL REGION OF UNCONTROLLED AIRSPACE VERY NEAR THE COPILOT'S AND RELATIVE'S HOMES. THE COPILOT WAS NEW TO JET OPERATIONS. THE ACFT DEPARTED WITH SEVERAL DISCREPANCIES UNCLEARED.

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: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
2. (C) MANEUVER - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) JUDGMENT - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) ALTITUDE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OPERATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OPERATION - COPILOT/SECOND PILOT
7. OPERATION WITH KNOWN DEFICIENCIES IN EQUIPMENT - ATTEMPTED - COMPANY MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	36, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	
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 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	05/02/1988
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	8910 hours (Total, all aircraft), 759 hours (Total, this make and model), 8047 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 114 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 42 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	LEARJET	Registration:	N500RW
Model/Series:	35A 35A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Transport	Serial Number:	35A
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	9
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/25/1988, Continuous Airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	17000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	45 Hours	Engines:	2 Turbo Fan
Airframe Total Time:	4735 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	GARRETT
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	TFE-731-2-2B
Registered Owner:	AIR SRV INC.	Rated Power:	3500 lbs
Operator:	UNITED EXECUTIVE JET, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:	JETCORP	Operator Designator Code:	DELA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	TEB, 9 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	7 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0300 EDT	Direction from Accident Site:	120°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2500 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 8000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	220°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	20°C / 16°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	TETERBORO, NJ (TEB)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	MORRISTOWN, NJ (MMU)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0312 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	TETERBORO (TEB)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	9 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	19	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	7000 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	4 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	PRESTON E HICKS	Report Date:	08/04/1989
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.ntsb.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](#).