



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	GOLDEN MEADOW, LA	Accident Number:	FTW88FA136
Date & Time:	07/20/1988, 1924 CDT	Registration:	N33VX
Aircraft:	DOUGLAS DC-6A	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	3 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 129: Foreign		

Analysis

AFTER ABT 4.3 HRS ON AN OVERWATER FLT, THE CREW RPRTD THEY HAD 15 MIN OF FUEL REMAINING. SUBSEQUENTLY, 3 OF 4 ENGS LOST PWR FM FUEL EXHAUSTION. DRG AN EMERG LNDG, THE ACFT HIT A LEVEE & WAS EXTENSIVELY DMGD. MOST OF THE WRECKAGE CAME TO REST IN A DAINAGE CANAL. BODIES OF THE CREW WERE RCVRD FM THE WATER ON 7/22/88. DRG AN INV, NO FUEL WAS FND IN THE FUEL TANKS & NO FUEL SPILL WAS EVIDENT. RECORDS SHOWED THE ACFT HAD DEPD EL SALVADOR WITH 7 HRS OF FUEL. NO REASON FOR THE LOSS OF 2.7 HRS OF FUEL WAS VERIFIED; BUT ABT 1 MONTH AFTER THE ACDNT, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE OPERATOR RPRTD FINDING AN OPENDRAIN VLV IN THE WRECKAGE, INSIDE THE #4 ENG NACELLE. A METALLURGICAL EXAM INDCD THE VLV HAD BEEN IN AN OPEN PSN FOR AN EXTDD TIME. NO GND PSNL SAW FUEL DRAINING FM THE ACFT DRG START, TAXI OR TKOF. THE CREW HAD NO CTL OF THE VLV IN FLT. THERE WAS EVIDENCE THE #1, #2 & #3 ENGS WERE NOT PROVIDING PWR DRG IMPACT. ALL X-FEED VLV CTLS WERE FND IN X-FEED PSNS. ETHANOL WAS FND IN THE PLT'S & COPLT'S BLOOD, BUT THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT IT WAS THE RESULTED OF POSTMORTEM CHANGES.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: DESCENT

Findings

1. 3 ENGINES
2. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DUSK
4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - DIRT BANK/RISING EMBANKMENT
5. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial; Flight Engineer	Age:	36, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last Medical Exam:	02/15/1988
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	6000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3500 hours (Total, this make and model), 110 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	DOUGLAS	Registration:	N33VX
Model/Series:	DC-6A DC-6A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Transport	Serial Number:	44615
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	3
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	07/13/1988, AAIP	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	100000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	19 Hours	Engines:	4 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	27978 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	R-2800-CB/3
Registered Owner:	UNIV. AIR EQUIPMENT LEASING	Rated Power:	2200 hp
Operator:		Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	Air Cargo
Operator Does Business As:	HISPANOLA AIRWAYS	Operator Designator Code:	HPAF

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:	HUM, 10 ft msl	Observation Time:	1851 CDT
Distance from Accident Site:	25 Nautical Miles	Direction from Accident Site:	285°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2500 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	27° C / 24° C
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 10000 ft agl	Visibility	7 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	0 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	EL SALVADOR, OF	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	NEW ORLEANS, LA (NEO)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1445 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	3 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	EUGENE ROTH	Adopted Date:	06/18/1990
Additional Participating Persons:	JEAN PYATT; WASHINGTON, DC DICK TEMPLE; BATON ROUGE, LA JOHN S ABLE; BATON ROUGE, LA J. & H LORTZ & JOHNSON; DALLAS, TX		
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/ .		

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