



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	AGUADILLA, PR	Accident Number:	MIA91FA140
Date & Time:	05/10/1991, 1120 AST	Registration:	N134FS
Aircraft:	MCDONNELL DOUGLAS DC-3C	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

THE AIRPLANE SUSTAINED A PARTIAL LOSS OF ENGINE POWER ON THE LEFT ENGINE ON TAKEOFF CLIMB DUE TO THE FAILURE OF THE NO. 8 ENGINE ASSEMBLY CYLINDER. THE AIRPLANE WAS OBSERVED BY WITNESSES AT 400 FEET AGL IN A 20 DEGREE LEFT BANK WHILE MANEUVERING TO RETURN TO THE DEPARTURE AIRPORT. THE ANGLE OF BANK INCREASED TO 60 DEGREES WITH A NOTICEABLE DECREASE IN AIRSPEED WHILE THE AIRPLANE DESCENDED BELOW 300 FEET AGL. THE LEFT WING DROPPED 90 DEGREES TO THE LEFT AND THE NOSE PITCHED DOWN VERTICALLY. THE AIRPLANE APPEARED TO REGAIN ELEVATOR AUTHORITY AND LEVELED OUT BEFORE ENCOUNTERING A SECONDARY STALL. THE AIRPLANE COLLIDED WITH THE TERRAIN AND WAS DESTROYED BY POSTCRASH FIRE.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT IN COMMAND'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN AIRSPEED (VS) AFTER A PARTIAL LOSS OF ENGINE POWER ON THE LEFT ENGINE DUE TO FAILURE OF THE NO. 8 ENGINE ASSEMBLY CYLINDER. THIS RESULTED IN AN IN FLIGHT LOSS OF CONTROL (STALL), AND IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(PARTIAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. 1 ENGINE
2. (C) POWERPLANT CONTROLS - IMPROPER USE OF - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) ENGINE ASSEMBLY,CYLINDER - FAILURE,TOTAL

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - TURN TO LANDING AREA (EMERGENCY)

Findings

4. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

6. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Occurrence #4: FIRE
Phase of Operation: OTHER

Findings

7. FUEL SYSTEM - RUPTURED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	42, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last Medical Exam:	05/14/1990
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	3068 hours (Total, all aircraft), 873 hours (Total, this make and model), 102 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 28 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	MCDONNELL DOUGLAS	Registration:	N134FS
Model/Series:	DC-3C DC-3C	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	99848
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	26900 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	R1830-90D
Registered Owner:	FOUR STAR AVIATION	Rated Power:	1200 hp
Operator:	FOUR STAR AVIATION	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	FHCA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	JBQ, 237 ft msl	Observation Time:	1153 AST
Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles	Direction from Accident Site:	80°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2000 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	29° C / 22° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	15 knots, 80°	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	0 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	AGUADILLA, PR (JBQ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	PONCE, PR (PSE)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1118 AST	Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	CARROL A SMITH	Adopted Date:	05/27/1993
Additional Participating Persons:	ANDRES A PACHECHO; SAN JUAN, PR		
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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