



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Chicago, IL	Accident Number:	DCA17CA147A
Date & Time:	06/30/2017, 2130 CDT	Registration:	N991AU
Aircraft:	AIRBUS A321 231	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Defining Event:	Ground collision	Injuries:	N/A
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 121: Air Carrier - Scheduled		

Analysis

On June 30, 2017 at 2130 central daylight time, the wingtip ("sharklet") of an Airbus A321, N991AU, operated by American Airlines flight 1162, contacted the horizontal stabilizer of a Bombardier CRJ700, N862AS, operated by SkyWest Airlines d.b.a. Eagle Flight 3407, during taxi at the Chicago O'Hare International Airport. The A321 received minor damage and the CRJ700 was substantially damaged. There were no injuries aboard either aircraft. The CRJ700 had landed and taxied to the terminal and had been instructed by air traffic control to follow another aircraft on taxiway A7. Another aircraft ahead stopped unexpectedly and the line of traffic ending with the CRJ700, had to stop. The A321 was taxiing along taxiway A, perpendicular to A7, and maneuvered to go around the protruding tail of the CRJ700. However, the left sharklet wingtip of the A321 contacted the horizontal stabilizer of the CRJ700.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

the A321 flight crew's incorrect evaluation of the clearance between the aircraft, leading to the inadvertent collision with the horizontal stabilizer of the CRJ700. Contributing to the accident was traffic congestion that resulted in the CRJ700 having to stop prior to fully clearing the perpendicular taxiway.

Findings

Personnel issues	Incorrect action performance - Flight crew (Cause)
Environmental issues	Traffic congestion - Effect on operation (Factor)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Taxi	Ground collision (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	55
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	03/31/2017
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	12/09/2016
Flight Time:	5000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5000 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Co-Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	51
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	04/14/2017
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	04/17/2017
Flight Time:	6759 hours (Total, all aircraft), 886 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	AIRBUS	Registration:	N991AU
Model/Series:	A321 231 231	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2016	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Transport	Serial Number:	7131
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	205030 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Turbo Fan
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	IAE
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	V2533-A5
Registered Owner:	AMERICAN AIRLINES INC	Rated Power:	11990 hp
Operator:	American Airlines	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Flag carrier (121)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Observation Time:	
Distance from Accident Site:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Partial Obscuration / 3000 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 5000 ft agl	Visibility	6 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 120°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.21 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Chicago O'Hare Int'l Airpot, IL (KORD)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	Los Angeles Int'l Airport, CA (KLAX)	Type of Clearance:	Unknown
Departure Time:	2130 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Air Traffic Control

Airport Information

Airport:	Chicago O'Hare International A (KORD)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:	N/A	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	N/A	Latitude, Longitude:	41.977222, -87.898333 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): William R English Adopted Date: 03/09/2018

Additional Participating Persons:

Publish Date: 03/09/2018

Note: This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.

Investigation Docket: <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=95481>

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