

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Vehicle Recorder Division
Washington, D.C. 20594

November 13, 2015

Personal Electronic Devices

Specialist's Factual Report
By Ben Hsu

1. EVENT SUMMARY

Location: Summerfield, Florida
Date: April 6, 2014
Aircraft: Vans Aircraft RV-7
Registration: N57DC
Operator: Private
NTSB Number: ERA14FA182

2. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Division received the following personal electronic devices (PEDs):

Device Manufacturer/Model:	Apple iPhone 4S
Serial Number:	DNPH2STDDTF9
Device Manufacturer/Model:	Samsung Galaxy S4
Serial Number:	990004425193301

Both devices exhibited minor damage due to impact (Figures 1 and 2). The devices were examined using laboratory hardware and software. No accident-related data was found on either device.

2.1. Device Description

PEDs are a category of devices comprised primarily of portable computing devices and mobile phones. Portable computing devices are typically capable of internet access, email, messaging services, and can run user-installed applications to perform specific tasks. Depending on the model, mobile phones can perform many of the same tasks as portable computing devices, plus have voice call and text messaging capabilities. PED user and system data is typically stored on non-volatile memory¹ and can be accessed through manufacturer-provided interfaces.

¹ Non-volatile memory is semiconductor memory that does not require external power for data retention.



Figure 1: Photo of iPhone 4S (S/N DNP2STDDTF9)



Figure 2: Photo of Samsung Galaxy S4 (S/N 990004425193301)