

# NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Vehicle Recorder Division  
Washington, D.C. 20594

July 12, 2016

## Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs)

Specialist's Factual Report  
By Bill Tuccio, Ph.D.

### 1. EVENT SUMMARY

Location: Clearwater, Florida  
Date: September 30, 2015  
Aircraft: Piper PA-30  
Registration: N21ND  
Operator: Private  
NTSB Number: ERA15FA378

### 2. GROUP

A group was not convened.

### 3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

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

Device Manufacturer/Model:	<b>Apple iPhone 5C</b>
Serial Number:	<b>Unknown</b>

Device Manufacturer/Model:	<b>Apple iPad 2</b>
Serial Number:	<b>F5QLT09YDKPH</b>

#### 3.1. 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 memory<sup>1</sup> and can be accessed through manufacturer-provided interfaces.

---

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

### **3.2. Device Condition**

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Laboratory, an examination revealed both units had sustained minimal impact damage. Both units started normally.

### **3.3. Data Description**

These devices are capable of storing data in the non-volatile memory. There is an optional security feature that requires a user-password to unlock the devices and access functions and stored data.

Power was applied to the devices and it was evident that the user-password security feature was enabled. According to the Investigator-in-charge, the password was not obtainable so the devices' functions and any stored data were not accessible. It is unknown whether there were any stored data pertinent to the event. No further attempts were made to access the data.