

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Vehicle Recorder Division
Washington, D.C. 20594

January 2, 2018

Personal Electronic Devices

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

1. EVENT SUMMARY

Location: McKinleyville, California
Date: July 29, 2016
Aircraft: Piper PA-31T Cheyenne II
Registration: N661TC
Operator: Cal-Ore Life Flight
NTSB Number: WPR16FA153

2. GROUP

A group was not convened.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

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

Device Manufacturer/Model: **Apple iPad 4**
Serial Number: **DMPKP6HUF18Y**

Device Manufacturer/Model: **Samsung Galaxy S5**
IMEI: **99000584783529**

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 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.

3.2. Device Condition

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Laboratory, an examination revealed the iPad experienced significant impact damage, as shown in figure 1. The unit was disassembled, and the internal component board removed and placed in a surrogate unit. The surrogate-repaired unit started normally and prompted for a 4-digit passcode.

The Samsung Galaxy S5 suffered minor, cosmetic damage. There was no microSD card installed. The unit started normally and was not password protected.

Figure 1. iPad, as received.



3.3. Data Description

The passcode for the iPad could not be determined. In agreement with the Investigator-in-Charge, no further efforts were made to recover data from this device.

The Samsung Galaxy S5 was examined by photo-documenting the user interface. No pertinent information was discovered.