

# National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Research and Engineering

Washington, DC 20594



WPR22FA148

## **PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE**

Specialist's Factual Report

August 10, 2022

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## **A. EVENT SUMMARY**

Location: Counselor, New Mexico  
Date: April 9, 2022  
Time: 1200 p.m. mountain daylight time (MDT)  
Airplane: Taylorcraft BL-65, N24345

## **B. PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE SPECIALIST**

Specialist: W. Deven Chen  
Electrical Engineer - Recorder Specialist  
National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

## **C. DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

A recorder group was not convened. The NTSB Vehicle Recorder Division received the following personal electronic device (PED) that belonged to the flight instructor:

Recorder Manufacturer/Model:	Apple iPad Mini 6
Part Number:	A2568
Recorder Serial Number:	TGPC20Y340

### **1.0 Recorder 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.

#### **1.1 Recorder Condition**

The device was in good condition upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Division, as shown in Figure 1. The device powered on normally and was locked with a 4-digit passcode. The device was unlocked with a passcode provided to the investigation team.

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



**Figure 1.** Front and back of the Apple iPad Mini 6 as Received.

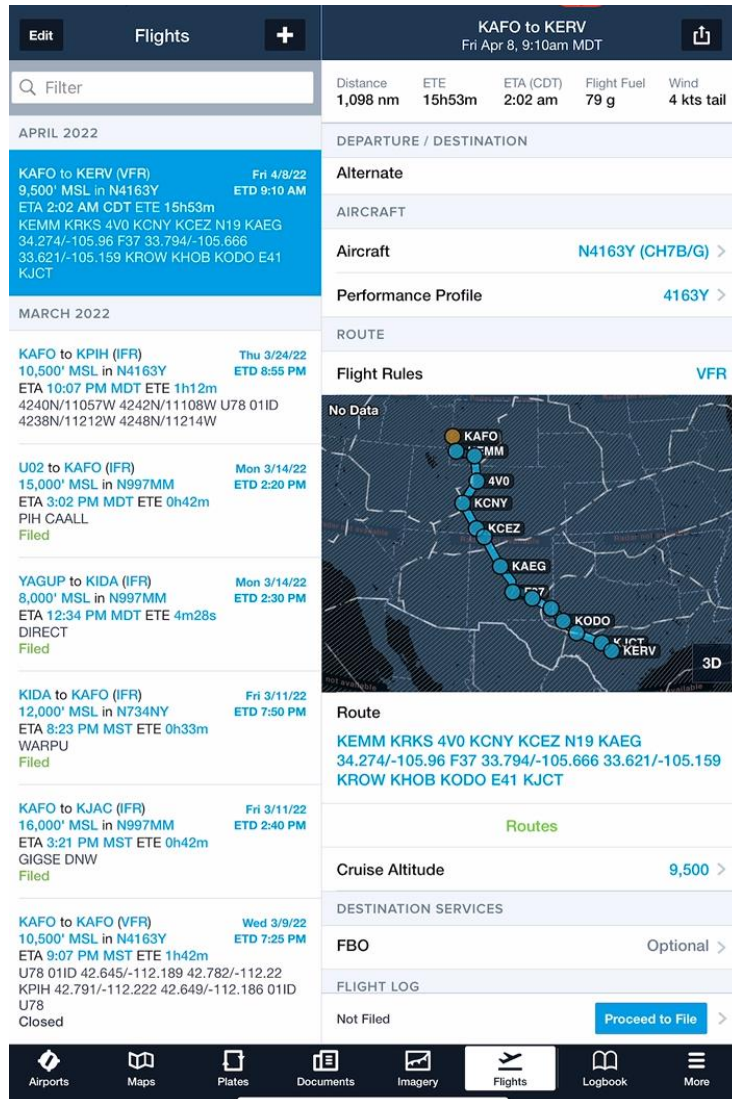
## **1.2 Recording Description**

Numerous applications were running on the background of the device, including ForeFlight<sup>2</sup>. ForeFlight showed a flight plan, associated with registration N4163Y, from KAFO (Afton Municipal Airport) to KERV (Kerrville Municipal Airport), highlighted in blue in the top right of Figure 2, was planned on April 8, 2022. There were only two flight track logs, KAFO to KEMM (Kemmerer Municipal Airport) and KEMM to KRKS (Southwest Wyoming Regional Airport) of this flight plan that were recorded on April 8, 2022, and the event flight track log was not recorded on the device.

Text messages were reviewed for event related content. Selected text messages sent from the flight instructor to two individuals on the contact list on the device were considered pertinent to this investigation. Those text messages are included in Table 1.

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<sup>2</sup> ForeFlight - Integrated flight App for pilots to plan, brief and file flight plans; it also logs flights.



**Figure 2.** ForeFlight showing a flight plan from KAPO to KERV planned on April 8, 2022.

**Table 1.** Text messages from the flight instructor to two people on the contact list.

4/8/2022 1:35 PM	To contact-1	We just landed in kemmer avg ground speed was 55 kt we cleared south end pass by 50 feet lmao
4/8/2022 1:59 PM	To contact-2	We cleared south end by like 50 feet [face with tears of joy emoji]
4/8/2022 2:52 PM	To contact-2	We bout didn't get off the runway in kemmer he packed like a 50 pound suitcase
4/8/2022 8:47 PM	To contact-2	We got one more leg another 80 miles. We got this bad boy up to 9500 feet earlier
4/9/2022 12:21 PM	To contact-2	We spent 3 hours tryna start it rip
4/9/2022 12:21 PM	To contact-2	Finally got it started the mechanic had to heat the plugs