



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	BUFFALO, New York	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI91LA115
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	March 23, 1991, 18:15 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N7449U
<b>Aircraft:</b>	BOEING 727-222	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	None
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 3 Minor, 39 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 121: Air carrier - Scheduled		

## Analysis

THE AIRCRAFT WAS IN CRUISE FLIGHT AT FL 310 WHEN IT ENCOUNTERED CLEAR AIR TURBULENCE. A FLIGHT ATTENDANT IN THE AFT GALLEY WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED. TWO FLIGHT ATTENDANTS IN THE CABIN, AND A PASSENGER WHO WAS IN THE LAVATORY RECEIVED MINOR INJURIES. THE WEATHER BRIEFING CONTAINED A FORECAST FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF TURBULENCE. THE FLIGHT WAS DIVERTED TO AN ALTERNATE AIRPORT TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE INJURED PERSONS.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A CLEAR AIR TURBULENCE ENCOUNTER.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: ALTITUDE DEVIATION, UNCONTROLLED  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

### Findings

1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE, CLEAR AIR

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline transport; Flight instructor	<b>Age:</b>	59, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	Yes
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	January 31, 1991
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	16033 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10200 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 151 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 67 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	BOEING	<b>Registration:</b>	N7449U
<b>Model/Series:</b>	727-222 727-222	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Transport	<b>Serial Number:</b>	21903
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	159
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	January 2, 2000 Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	190500 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	3 Turbo fan
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	P&W
<b>ELT:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	JT8D-15
<b>Registered Owner:</b>		<b>Rated Power:</b>	15500 Lbs thrust
<b>Operator:</b>	UNITED AIRLINES	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	Flag carrier (121)
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	UALA

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Dusk
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	BUF ,800 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	30 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	17:50 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	220°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 4200 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	15 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Overcast / 5500 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	15 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	230°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	9°C / 6°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	MANCHESTER , NH (MHT)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	IFR
<b>Destination:</b>	CHICAGO , IL (ORD)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	IFR
<b>Departure Time:</b>	17:25 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	NONE	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 2 Minor, 4 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	None
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Minor, 35 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 3 Minor, 39 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	42.930675,-78.750335(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Doub, Mark
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	ROBERT MCCOLLOUGH; DETROIT , MI
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	February 8, 1993
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=15029">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=15029</a>

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