



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	PAGO PAGO,	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX91LA398
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	September 19, 1991, 17:14 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	VHUYX
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-60-602P	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Ferry		

## Analysis

DURING LANDING ROLLOUT THE PILOT LOST DIRECTIONAL CONTROL OF THE AIRPLANE. THE AIRPLANE VEERED OFF THE RUNWAY AND COLLIDED WITH BUSHES AND A STORM DRAIN. THE PILOT REPORTED THAT ALL SYSTEMS HAD OPERATED NORMALLY EARLIER IN THE FLIGHT. THE REASON FOR THE MECHANICAL FAILURE OF THE NOSE WHEEL/GEAR STEERING SYSTEM WAS NOT ESTABLISHED.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE MECHANICAL FAILURE OF THE AIRPLANE'S NOSE WHEEL/GEAR STEERING SYSTEM. A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR WAS THE PILOT'S INABILITY TO MAINTAIN DIRECTIONAL CONTROL FOLLOWING THE LOSS OF STEERING EFFECTIVENESS.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

### Findings

1. (C) LANDING GEAR, NOSE GEAR ASSEMBLY - FAILURE, PARTIAL
2. NOSEWHEEL STEERING - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

- 3. (F) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
- 4. GROUND LOOP/SWERVE - UNCONTROLLED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

- 5. TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH VEGETATION
- 6. TERRAIN CONDITION - RAVINE

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial; Foreign	<b>Age:</b>	52, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine land; Multi-engine sea	<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>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	December 7, 1990
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	3650 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2000 hours (Total, this make and model), 3550 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	VHUYX
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-60-602P PA-60-602P	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>		<b>Serial Number:</b>	60-8265003
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	7
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	January 2, 2000 Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	6000 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-540-AA15
<b>Registered Owner:</b>		<b>Rated Power:</b>	290 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	APOLLO AIR P/L	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 3000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	20 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	13 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	160°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>		<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	IFR
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	VFR
<b>Departure Time:</b>	09:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	PAGO PAGO INTL. PPG	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	31 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	5	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	9000 ft / 150 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Pollack, Wayne

**Additional Participating Persons:** RUSSELL STONE; HONOLULU , HI

**Original Publish Date:** May 3, 1993

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=27362>

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