



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	OSTEEN, Florida	Accident Number:	MIA86FA103
Date & Time:	March 24, 1986, 12:10 Local	Registration:	N77TS
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-23-250	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

BEFORE THE FLT, THE PLT & PAX WERE OBSERVED DRINKING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON THE WAY TO THE ARPT. AFTER MUCH DIFFICULTY TAXIING TO THE RWY, THE FLT WAS CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF AFTER ENTERING THE ACTIVE RWY WITHOUT CLEARANCE. AFTER TAKING OFF, THE ACFT WAS SEEN DEPARTING WITH THE GEAR STILL EXTENDED. SHORTLY AFTER DEPARTING, WITNESSES SAW THE ACFT NEAR A LAKE FLYING ERRATIC WITH THE RGT ENG SPUTTERING. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE ACFT DIPPED DOWN TOWARD THE WATER & MADE A RGT TURN. AT ABOUT THAT TIME, THE RGT WING CONTACTED THE WATER & THE ACFT CARTWHEELED & CRASHED. AN EXAM OF THE RGT ENG REVEALED THAT THE FUEL INJECTOR LINE TO THE #6 CYLINDER HAD FAILED UNDER A RUBBER GROMMET DUE TO FATIGUE. ALSO, THE FUEL SELECTORS WERE FOUND POSITIONED SO THAT BOTH ENGS WOULD FEED FROM THE LEFT OUTBOARD TANK, A CONDITION THAT WAS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR TAKEOFF. ADDITIONALLY, THE RGT PROP HAD NOT BEEN FEATHERED. TOXICOLOGY TESTS SHOWED THE PLT HAD A BLOOD/ALCOHOL LVL OF 289 MG/DL (0.289%) & THE PAX HAD 146 MG/DL (0.146%).

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(PARTIAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF
Phase of Operation: CLIMB

Findings

1. (F) FUEL SYSTEM,LINE - FATIGUE

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

2. (C) JUDGMENT - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) IMPAIRMENT(ALCOHOL) - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) PROPER ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	58, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 15, 1985
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	11500 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N77TS
Model/Series:	PA-23-250 PA-23-250	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	27-2665
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	March 21, 1986 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	2 Hrs	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5935 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-C4B5
Registered Owner:	GEORGE C. STANDEN	Rated Power:	250 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	SFB ,57 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:47 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	270°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	15 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	12 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	60°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	20°C / 8°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	SANFORD , FL (SFB)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	INDIANTOWN , FL (X58)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:05 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	28.84049,-81.159698(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Kennedy, Jeffrey
Additional Participating Persons:	BILLY PHILLIPS; ORLANDO , FL JAMES HALL; LAKELAND , FL
Original Publish Date:	March 25, 1988
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=31491

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