



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	RAIFORD, Florida	<b>Accident Number:</b>	MIA95TA199
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	August 10, 1995, 10:10 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N461MC
<b>Aircraft:</b>	CESSNA 404	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	3 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Public aircraft		

## Analysis

WHILE LANDING ON A WET, SOFT, SOD RUNWAY, THE PILOT LOST CONTROL OF THE AIRPLANE. THE NOSE GEAR COLLAPSED AND THE AIRPLANE SKIDDED OFF THE RUNWAY INTO A DITCH.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S SELECTION OF UNSUITABLE TERRAIN FOR LANDING.

### Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

#### Findings

1. (F) AIRPORT FACILITIES, RUNWAY/LANDING AREA CONDITION - SOFT
2. (C) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: NOSE GEAR COLLAPSED  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

#### Findings

3. LANDING GEAR, NOSE GEAR - OVERLOAD

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - DITCH

## Factual Information

On August 10, 1995, about 1010 eastern daylight time, N461MC, a Cessna 404, registered to and operated by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, a 14 CFR Part 91 public use flight, experienced a nose gear collapse on landing at Raiford Prison Airstrip, Raiford, Florida. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time and an IFR flight plan had been filed. The airplane was substantially damaged and the pilot and two passengers reported no injuries. The flight had originated from Titusville, Florida, about 0930 the same day.

The pilot reported that while landing on the wet, sod airstrip the airplane decelerated rapidly, and the nose gear collapsed. The airplane then skidded into a ditch.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline transport; Commercial; Flight instructor	<b>Age:</b>	56, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane; Helicopter	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	July 14, 1994
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	5597 hours (Total, all aircraft), 35 hours (Total, this make and model), 5253 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 93 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	CESSNA	<b>Registration:</b>	N461MC
<b>Model/Series:</b>	404 404	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	0674
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	10
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	August 11, 1994 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	8200 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	351 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	3547 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	CONTINENTAL
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	GTSIO-520-M
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	<b>Rated Power:</b>	375 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<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>	GNV ,179 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	25 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	09:47 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	290°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 3000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	7 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 25000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	6 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	30°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	27°C / 23°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	TITUSVILLE , FL (TIX )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	IFR
<b>Destination:</b>	(FL28)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	IFR
<b>Departure Time:</b>	09:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	RAIFORD PRISON AIRSTRIP FL28	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	200 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Wet
<b>Runway Used:</b>	33	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	4000 ft / 100 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop;Traffic pattern

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	3 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	30.059595,-82.229812(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Alston, Andrew
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	GEORGE ERDEL; JACKSONVILLE , FL
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	January 19, 1996
<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=37847">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=37847</a>

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