



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	ANDALUSIA, Alabama	Accident Number:	ATL83LA382
Date & Time:	September 26, 1983, 09:00 Local	Registration:	N8031V
Aircraft:	AERO COMMANDER A-9	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

AFTER SPRAYING 2 FIELDS, THE PLT WAS EN ROUTE TO SPRAY A 3RD FIELD WHEN A SEVERE VIBRATION OF THE ACFT WAS ENCOUNTERED. HE ELECTED TO LAND IN THE 1ST AVAILABLE FIELD & DUMPED HIS CHEMICAL LOAD. DURING THE LANDING, THE ACFT HIT A TERRACE & NOSED OVER. THE PLT STATED THAT HE DID NOT REALIZE THE FIELD WAS UNEVEN & TERRACED UNTIL THE ACFT WAS ON THE GROUND. GRASS & TALL WEEDS WERE GROWING IN THE FIELD. AN INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT THE UPPER RIGHT ENG MOUNT HAD FAILED. NO FATIGUE WAS FOUND; HOWEVER, THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF HAMMERING, INDICATING MULTIPLE IMPACTS AFTER THE INITIAL FAILURE.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) ENGINE ASSEMBLY, MOUNT - FAILURE, TOTAL
2. (C) ENGINE ASSEMBLY - VIBRATION

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

3. LOAD JETTISON - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: NOSE OVER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

4. PRECAUTIONARY LANDING - INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND

5. (C) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

6. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH VEGETATION

7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIDDEN OBSTRUCTION(S)

8. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - DIRT BANK/RISING EMBANKMENT

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	35, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 16, 1983
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	8000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 150 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AERO COMMANDER	Registration:	N8031V
Model/Series:	A-9 A-9	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	1598
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 1, 1983 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1668 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-540-B2B5
Registered Owner:	FERRIN D. EASON	Rated Power:	235 Horsepower
Operator:	FERRIN D. EASON	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	
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:	CEW ,215 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	32 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	08:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	180°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	7 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	70°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	18°C / 13°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	FLORALA , AL (0J4)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	08:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	31.299377,-86.479652(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Drake, John

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date:

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=6215>

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The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).