



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	MARATHON, FL	Accident Number:	ATL96FA074
Date & Time:	04/01/1996, 0258 EST	Registration:	N6427W
Aircraft:	Cessna P210N	Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

During an over-water arrival at night, the pilot reported that the destination airport was in sight, and he canceled his VFR advisories. The controller acknowledged, advised the pilot to squawk 1200, and told him that a frequency change was approved. The pilot acknowledged at 0257:10, then there was no further radio communication with the pilot. At 0257:08, the encoded altimeter showed the airplane was at 1,200 feet, and radar data showed the airplane was descending with a ground speed of 183 to 189 knots. The final radar targets showed the airplane had descended to 200 feet, the heading was about 213 degrees, and the ground speed had increased to nearly 200 knots. Subsequently, the airplane descended into the water about 7 nautical miles north-northeast of the airport. The wreckage was recovered, and examination of the flight controls revealed no evidence of preimpact failure or malfunction. The landing gear and flaps were found retracted. The engine was recovered, and after replacement of components that were not recovered, the engine was started and operated normally. The propeller was recovered almost 1 year and 4 months after the accident; examination of it revealed no evidence of preimpact failure or malfunction. The airplane owner said that at about 1900 hours, before departing on the 1st leg of the flight, the pilot advised that he was tired due to his work/flying schedule. The owner stated that he was not aware that the pilot was going to fly the airplane after that conversation.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: failure of the pilot to maintain sufficient altitude during an over-water approach at night. Factors relating to the accident were darkness and pilot fatigue.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
2. TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER
3. (C) ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) FATIGUE (FLIGHT AND GROUND SCHEDULE) - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	27
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine
Flight Time:	1720 hours (Total, all aircraft), 29 hours (Total, this make and model), 1481 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 119 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 44 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N6427W
Model/Series:	P210N P210N	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	EDWARD ANDREWS, JR.	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520-AF
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	EYW, 4 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 50°
Temperature:	23° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	WEST PALM BEACH, FL (PBI)	Destination:	, FL (MTH)

Airport Information

Airport:	MARATHON (MTH)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): ROFF H SASSER Adopted Date: 08/29/1997

Investigation Docket: NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov, or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/>.

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