



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	SAIPAN, PO	Accident Number:	LAX90LA132
Date & Time:	04/01/1990, 1355	Registration:	N350AP
Aircraft:	AEROSPATIALE AS350B	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

THE PILOT AND PAX WERE CRUISING OVER THE PHILIPPINE SEA WHEN THE PILOT FELT AN EXTREME VIBRATION. THE PILOT MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN THE 7-FT SEA. THE PILOT REPORTED THAT PRIOR TO THE HELICOPTER OVERTURNING HE OBSERVED THAT 'ONE OF THE ELASTOMERIC SPHERICAL THRUST BEARINGS WAS COMPLETELY GONE.' THE HELICOPTER SUBSEQUENTLY OVERTURNED, SANK AND HAS NOT BEEN RECOVERED. THE ACFT'S ROTOR SYSTEM HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN INVOLVED IN A SUDDEN STOPPAGE MISHAP AND HAD THEREAFTER BEEN REPAIRED AND RETURNED TO SERVICE BY OTHER THAN THE CURRENT COMPANY MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PARTIAL FAILURE OF A ROTOR SYSTEM COMPONENT FOR UNDETERMINED REASONS.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) ROTOR SYSTEM - FAILURE,PARTIAL
2. ROTOR DRIVE SYSTEM - UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: DITCHING

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE
4. EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER
6. TERRAIN CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	28, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
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:	02/15/1990
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	6975 hours (Total, all aircraft), 675 hours (Total, this make and model), 6775 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 147 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 89 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AEROSPATIALE	Registration:	N350AP
Model/Series:	AS350B AS350B	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	1252
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	7
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/31/1990, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	4 Hours	Engines:	1 Turbo Shaft
Airframe Total Time:	1955 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	TURBOMECA
ELT:	Installed, activated	Engine Model/Series:	ARRIEL
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	641 hp
Operator:	MICRONESIAN AVIATION CORP.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:	MACAW HELICOPTERS	Operator Designator Code:	FCYA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	35 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots / 12 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	20°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	-18°C / -18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	KOBLERVILLE, OF	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Company VFR
Destination:	ANATAHAN ISLAND, OF	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	WAYNE POLLACK	Report Date:	11/09/1992
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish Date:			
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).