



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	SAIPAN, PO	Accident Number:	LAX90LA132
Date & Time:	04/01/1990, 1355	Registration:	N350AP
Aircraft:	AEROSPATIALE AS350B	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

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	28
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	
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	Engines:	1 Turbo Shaft
Operator:	MICRONESIAN AVIATION CORP.	Engine Manufacturer:	TURBOMECA
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)	Engine Model/Series:	ARRIEL
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots / 12 knots, 20°
Temperature:	-18° C	Visibility	35 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	KOBLERVILLE, OF	Destination:	ANATAHAN ISLAND, OF

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
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

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

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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