



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

|                                |                                   |                         |                    |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | Atlanta, GA                       | <b>Accident Number:</b> | ATL03LA051         |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | 03/01/2003, 0630 EST              | <b>Registration:</b>    | N642AS             |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | Aerospatiale ATR-72-212           | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 1 Serious, 15 None |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 121: Air Carrier - Scheduled |                         |                    |

## Analysis

According to the captain, during cruise flight at 17,000 feet the airplane encountered turbulence. The area of turbulence was not forecasted. During the encounter the seat belt sign was illuminated. The cabin attendants informed the captain the passengers were uninjured and a flight attendant had received minor injuries. After landing the paramedics boarded the airplane, and examined the attendants. The flight attendant was transported to the emergency room where it was determined that one flight attendant had a broken femur.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The flight's encounter with severe turbulence that resulted in serious injury to a flight attendant.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

### Findings

1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE, CLEAR AIR

## Pilot Information

|                                  |   |                              |   |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Airline Transport   | <b>Age:</b>                  | 41  |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land   | <b>Instrument Rating(s):</b> | Airplane                                      |
| <b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b> | None  | <b>Instructor Rating(s):</b> | Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 5641 hours (Total, all aircraft), 4076 hours (Total, this make and model), 3845 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 222 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 82 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft) |                              |   |

## Co-Pilot Information

|                                  |                             |                              |          |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Airline Transport; Military | <b>Age:</b>                  | 35       |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Multi-engine Land           | <b>Instrument Rating(s):</b> | Airplane |
| <b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b> | Helicopter                  | <b>Instructor Rating(s):</b> | None     |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              |                             |                              |          |

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                       |                                   |                             |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                 | Aerospatiale                      | <b>Registration:</b>        | N642AS          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                  | ATR-72-212                        | <b>Engines:</b>             | 2 Turbo Prop    |
| <b>Operator:</b>                      | ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST AIRLINES INC   | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b> | Pratt & Whitney |
| <b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b> | Flag carrier (121)                | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b> | PW127           |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>        | Part 121: Air Carrier - Scheduled |                             |                 |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|   |                       |                                     |                              |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>     | Instrument Conditions | <b>Condition of Light:</b>          | Night/Dark                   |
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | ATL, 1026 ft msl      | <b>Weather Information Source:</b>  | Weather Observation Facility |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | Overcast / 400 ft agl | <b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b> | 11 knots / , 70°             |
| <b>Temperature:</b>                     | 7° C                  | <b>Visibility</b>                   | 6 Miles                      |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   |                       |                                     |                              |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | VALPARAISO, FL (VPS)  | <b>Destination:</b>                 | ATLANTA, GA (ATL)            |

## Airport Information

|                             |                                      |                                  |         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Airport:</b>             | THE WILLIAM B HARTSFIELD ATLAN (ATL) | <b>Runway Surface Type:</b>      | Unknown |
| <b>Runway Used:</b>         |                                      | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> | Unknown |
| <b>Runway Length/Width:</b> |                                      |                                  |         |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                             |                       |                            |      |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>       | 1 Serious, 3 None     | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>    | None |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b>  | 12 None               | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>      | None |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>     | N/A                   | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b> | None |
| <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> | 33.640278, -84.426944 |                            |      |

## Administrative Information

|                                      |  |                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b> | Eric H Alleyne   | <b>Adopted Date:</b> | 06/28/2006 |
| <b>Investigation Docket:</b>         | 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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> . |                      |            |

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