



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Destin, FL	Accident Number:	ERA16FA279
Date & Time:	08/02/2016, 2025 CDT	Registration:	N2735A
Aircraft:	CESSNA 414A	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

On August 2, 2016, about 2025 central daylight time, a Cessna 414A, N2735A, descended into the Gulf of Mexico shortly after takeoff from Destin Executive Airport (DTS), Destin, Florida. The commercial pilot, the sole occupant was fatally injured, and the airplane was destroyed. The airplane was registered to and operated by Cessna 414 LLC, under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 as a personal flight. Night visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time, and an instrument flight rules (IFR) flight plan was filed and active for the flight. The flight originated about 1 minute earlier from DTS, and was destined for Abbeville Chris Crusta Memorial Airport (IYA), Abbeville, Louisiana.

According to preliminary air traffic control (ATC) information, while on the ground at DTS, the pilot contacted Eglin Air Force Base clearance delivery for his IFR clearance, as well as departure control for departure instructions. He was assigned a transponder code of 0746.

Witnesses reported hearing an engine run-up that included multiple throttle advances and reductions. The airplane then taxied to runway 14, and the pilot announced on the common traffic advisory frequency that the flight was departing. A pilot rated witness who was on the ramp preparing for a flight observed the airplane during the early part of the takeoff and reported it was flying between 50 and 100 feet with the landing gear retracted. The flight continued and witnesses who were on the beach south-southeast of the departure end of runway 14 noted the airplane flew over a building adjacent to them in a southerly direction at an estimated altitude of 150 feet. The airplane continued over the Gulf of Mexico, and then banked sharply to the right. One witness described the bank angle as the wings being nearly vertical. The airplane appeared to roll wings level, before it began descending and impacted the water.

Preliminary ATC information indicated the airplane was briefly observed on radar at 700 feet mean sea level. There was no contact by the pilot with ATC, and no distress call was heard.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CESSNA	Registration:	N2735A
Model/Series:	414A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	CESSNA 414 LLC	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	DTS, 22 ft msl	Observation Time:	1953 CDT
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Temperature/Dew Point:	29° C / 25° C
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 330°	Visibility	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.03 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Departure Point:	Destin, FL (DTS)	Destination:	Abbeville, LA (IYA)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Timothy W Monville
Additional Participating Persons:	Nina McBride; FAA/FSDO; Vestavia Hills, AL Ernest C Hall; Textron Aviation; Wichita, KS Christopher Lang; Continental Motors, Inc.; Mobile, AL Les Doud; Hartzell Propeller, Inc.; Piqua, OH
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.