



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	East Hartford, CT	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA17FA011
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	10/11/2016, 1530 EDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N15294
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA 34-200	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Security/criminal event	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal, 1 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

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## Analysis

On October 11, 2016, about 1530 eastern daylight time, a Piper PA-34-200 twin-engine airplane, N15294, was destroyed when it impacted terrain near Hartford-Brainard Airport (HFD), Hartford, Connecticut. The flight instructor was seriously injured, and the private pilot was fatally injured. The airplane was registered to International Aviation, LLC, and operated by American Flight Academy as a 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 instructional flight. Visual meteorological conditions existed at the airport at the time of the accident, and no flight plan was filed for the local flight that departed HFD about an hour earlier.

The investigation of this event is being conducted under the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The NTSB provided requested technical assistance to the FBI, and any material generated by the NTSB is under the control of the FBI. The NTSB does not plan to issue a report or open a public docket.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The NTSB did not determine the probable cause of this event and does not plan to issue a report or open a public docket. The investigation of this event is being conducted under the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

## Findings

Personnel issues	Suicide - Pilot (Cause)
Not determined	Not determined - Other authority investigated (Cause)

## Factual Information

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## History of Flight

Other	Security/criminal event (Defining event)
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## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N15294
Model/Series:	PA 34-200 200	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1972	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	34-7350047
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3999 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	I0360 SER
Registered Owner:	International Aviation LLC	Rated Power:	hp
Operator:	American Flight Academy	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Pilot School (141)

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	East Hartford, CT (HFD)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	East Hartford, CT (HFD)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	EDT	Type of Airspace:	

## Airport Information

Airport:	HARTFORD-BRAINARD (HFD)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	18 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	N/A	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	41.736667, -72.649444 (est)

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Leah D Read	Report Date:	11/28/2016
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish Date:	08/13/2018		
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.		
Investigation Docket:	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=94182">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=94182</a>		

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.

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](#).