

Air Accident Investigation Department Aviation Accident Preliminary Report



Information:

Location	Accident number
Mastic Point, Andros	AO-18-000004
Date & Time	Registration
17 th January, 2018	N62769
Aircraft	Injuries
Flight Conducted Under	Six Fatalities
Instrument Flight Rules	

Narrative:

On the 17th January, 2018 at 11:54 am, the Air Accident Investigation Department (AAID) of the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation was notified by ATC of an overdue aircraft, Piper Aztec N62769 with 6 souls on board en-route to the Lynden Pindling International Airport from the San Andros Airport. ATC advised that after coming into radar contact with Nassau approach control, the aircraft was observed to reverse course heading back to Andros. Shortly after, radar contact was lost.

Around 5:00 pm, US Coast Guard who was assisting in the search and rescue efforts, confirmed that a debris field was located in approximately 2 ft. of water some 3-4 miles SE of Mastic Point, Andros. Also confirmed by the US Coast Guard, two bodies were seen in the debris field. The wreckage and bodies were assumed to be that of missing aircraft N62769. On the 18th January, investigators from the AAID with assistance from the Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority (BCAA) were dispatched to the scene.

Local police authorities advised the investigation team that recovery efforts were on going by the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, local mariners as well as local pilots. Shortly after 10 am the investigative team was advised that the debris field was located. Around midday, the recovery team returned to Mastic Point dock with components from the aircraft and some recovered remains of the aircraft's occupants. Investigations commenced, however, a limited amount of debris was recovered. Major components of the aircraft required to determine whether mechanical issues may have played a role in the accident have not been recovered.

Around the time of the accident, weather reports obtained from the Meteorological Department forecasted weather conditions to be Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC) in the central Bahamas, however, remnants of a cold front remained in the area. According to other pilots in the airspace around the time of the accident, and other witnesses on the ground, conditions were not favorable for flight under Visual Flight Rules (VFR).

Investigations are on going by the Air Accident Investigation Department and the Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority.

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This is preliminary information, subject to change, and may contain errors. Any errors in this report will be corrected when the final report has been completed.

Aircraft and Owner / Operator Information:

Aircraft Manufacturer

Piper Aircraft

Registration

N62769

Model / Series

PA23-250

Aircraft Category

Normal

Amateur Built

No

Air Carrier

Operating

Certificate

Operator

N/A

N/A

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan:

Conditions at Accident site

Instrument Meteorological
Conditions

Condition of Light

Day

Observation facility

Elevation

7 ft.

Observation Time

1200 UTC, 8:00 am

LCL

Distance from Accident

Site

25 NM

Temp /Dewpoint

24 C/ 29 C

Lowest Cloud Condition

Few 020

Wind Direction / Gust

Speed

020/09

Lowest Ceiling

Visibility

Unrestricted

Altimeter Setting

30.13

Type of flight Plan

Filed

VFR

Departure Point

San Andros (MYAN)

Destination

Lynden Pindling
International (MYNN)

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Wreckage and Impact Information:

Debris field was located, however limited debris was recovered. Based on visual inspection of debris recovered, it is believed that a high speed/high impact occurred. Aircraft destroyed, but major components not recovered.

Crew Injuries	Aircraft Damage
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1 Fatal

Destroyed

Passenger Injuries	Aircraft Fire
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5 Fatal

N/A

Ground Injuries	Aircraft Explosion
------------------------	---------------------------

0

N/A

Total Injuries	Latitude, Longitude
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6 Fatal

25 00 N, 77 56 W

Administrative Information:

Investigator in Charge

Capt. Delvin Major

Additional Information

Note
