



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	GRAND CANYON, AZ	Accident Number:	DCA86AA028A
Date & Time:	06/18/1986, 0933 MST	Registration:	N76GC
Aircraft:	de Havilland DHC-6-300	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	20 Fatal

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - - Sightseeing

Analysis

AT ABOUT 0933 MST, DEHAVILLAND DHC-6, N76GC, (OWNED & OPERATED BY CANYON AIRLINES) & BELL 206B, N6TC, (OPERATED BY HELITECK) COLLIDED WHILE ON SIGHTSEEING FLTS OVER THE GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK. AFTER COLLIDING IN FLT, BOTH ACFT CRASHED & BURNED IN THE TONTO PLATEAU/CRYSTAL RAPIDS AREA. DRG THE INV, NO REASON WAS FND TO EXPLAIN WHY NEITHER FLT CREW WAS ABLE TO SEE & AVOID THE OTHER ACFT. THE ACDNT OCCURRED IN AN AREA WHERE THE DHC-6 MAY HAVE BEEN IN A TURN. THE BELL 206B WAS NOT EQUIPPED WITH AN INTERCOM OR PUBLIC ADDRESS SYS TO COMMUNICATE WITH PASSENGERS; THUS, THE PLT MAY HAVE PERIODICALLY TURNED HIS HEAD DRG FLT TO NARRATE THE TOUR. THERE WAS EVIDENCE THE FAA FAILED TO EXERCISE ITS OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY OVR FLT OPNS IN THE GRAND CANYON AIRSPACE & THAT THE NATIONAL PARK SVC INFLUENCED THE SELECTION OF ROUTES BY THE SCENIC OPERATORS. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE MODIFICATION & CONFIGURATION OF THE ROTARY-WING ROUTES RESULTED IN THEIR INTERSECTING WITH THE ROUTES OF GRAND CANYON AIRLINES NEAR CRYSTAL RAPIDS.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: MIDAIR COLLISION
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (F) PROCEDURES/DIRECTIVES - INADEQUATE
2. (F) PRESSURE INDUCED BY OTHERS - OTHER GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL
3. (F) INADEQUATE SURVEILLANCE, INADEQUATE PROCEDURE - FAA(ORGANIZATION)
4. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT OF OTHER AIRCRAFT

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	27, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	01/29/1986
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	5970 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1556 hours (Total, this make and model), 5000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 290 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 111 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	de Havilland	Registration:	N76GC
Model/Series:	DHC-6-300 DHC-6-300	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal; Transport	Serial Number:	248
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	21
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	12500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	30569 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	PT6A-27
Registered Owner:	GRAND CANYON AIRLINES	Rated Power:	715 hp
Operator:	GRAND CANYON HELICOPTER	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Commuter Air Carrier (135); On-demand Air Taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	GCN, 6000 ft msl	Observation Time:	0958 MST
Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles	Direction from Accident Site:	90°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	25° C / 2° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility	50 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	8 knots, 200°	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Altimeter Setting:		Visibility (RVV):	0 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	GRAND CANYON, AZ (GCN)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	18 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	20 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	B. STRAUCH	Adopted Date:	03/07/1988
Additional Participating Persons:	H & J DONNER & YOUNG; WASHINGTON, DC B & J RICHARDSON & RYAN; WASHINGTON, DC E & R MUDROWSKY & RODRIGUBZ; WASHINGTON, DC J SIEGMAN		
Publish Date:			
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 pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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