
Loss of control during descent, Airbus A300B4-605R, May 12, 1997

Micro-summary: This Airbus A300B4-605R experience a loss of control during descent.


Event Date: 1997-05-12 at 1529 EDT


Investigative Body: National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), USA


Investigative Body's Web Site: <http://www.nts.gov/>

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		NTSB ID: DCA97MA049		Aircraft Registration Number: N90070		
		Occurrence Date: 05/12/1997		Most Critical Injury: Serious		
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB		
Location/Time						
Nearest City/Place WEST PALM BEACH		State FL	Zip Code 33406	Local Time 1529	Time Zone EDT	
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip		Distance From Landing Facility:		Direction From Airport:		
Aircraft Information Summary						
Aircraft Manufacturer Airbus Industrie		Model/Series A300B4-605R		Type of Aircraft Airplane		
Sightseeing Flight: No			Air Medical Transport Flight: No			
Narrative						
<p>Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:</p> <p>On May 12, 1997, about 1529 eastern daylight time, an Airbus A300B4-605R, N90070, flight 903, registered to Wilmington Trust Company Trustee, operated by American Airlines Inc., as a 14 CFR Part 121 scheduled domestic passenger flight, experienced an inflight loss of control, about 10 miles north of HEATT intersection in the vicinity of West Palm Beach, Florida. Instrument meteorological conditions prevailed and an IFR flight plan was filed. The airplane sustained minor damage. The airline transport pilot-in-command (PIC), commercial pilot first officer, 6 flight attendants, and 155 passengers sustained no injuries. One passenger sustained serious injuries, and one flight attendant received minor injuries. The flight originated from General Edward Lawrence Logan International Airport, Boston, Massachusetts, about 2 hours 16 minutes before the accident.</p> <p>According to American Airlines safety personnel, the PIC stated the cabin seatbelt signs were illuminated, and they were level at 16,000 feet. They had received an air traffic control (ATC) clearance to hold at HEATT intersection located southeast of West Palm Beach. Weather was depicted in the vicinity of the holding fix on the weather radar. They requested and received clearance from ATC to hold north of the holding fix. As they were approaching the holding fix, they encountered a loss of control. The airplane pitched up and down, rolled to the left and right, and descended rapidly. The flightcrew initiated the "Escape" procedure and recovered the airplane. The PIC was advised of passenger injuries by the flight attendants. He declared an emergency with ATC and landed at Miami International Airport, Miami, Florida, without further incident.</p>						
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION						

 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: DCA97MA049				
		Occurrence Date: 05/12/1997				
		Occurrence Type: Accident				
Landing Facility/Approach Information						
Airport Name		Airport ID:	Airport Elevation Ft. MSL	Runway Used	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type:						
Runway Surface Condition:						
Type Instrument Approach:						
VFR Approach/Landing:						
Aircraft Information						
Aircraft Manufacturer Airbus Industrie		Model/Series A300B4-605R		Serial Number 513		
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Normal						
Landing Gear Type: Retractable - Tricycle						
Homebuilt Aircraft? No		Number of Seats:	Certified Max Gross Wt. LBS		Number of Engines:	
Engine Type: Unknown		Engine Manufacturer:		Model/Series:	Rated Power:	
- Aircraft Inspection Information						
Type of Last Inspection Unknown		Date of Last Inspection	Time Since Last Inspection Hours		Airframe Total Time Hours	
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information						
ELT Installed?		ELT Operated?		ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site?		
Owner/Operator Information						
Registered Aircraft Owner WILMINGTON TRUST COMPANY		Street Address UNK				
		City		State	Zip Code	
Operator of Aircraft AMERICAN AIRLINES		Street Address DALLAS-FORT WORTH AIRPORT				
		City DALLAS		State TX	Zip Code 75261	
Operator Does Business As:				Operator Designator Code: AALA		
- Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held:						
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s): Flag Carrier/Domestic						
Operating Certificate:			Operator Certificate:			
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 121: Air Carrier						
Type of Flight Operation Conducted: Scheduled; Domestic; Passenger Only						
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION						

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: DCA97MA049
	Occurrence Date: 05/12/1997
	Occurrence Type: Accident

First Pilot Information

Name On File	City	State	Date of Birth On File	Age 41
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Sex: M	Seat Occupied: Left	Principal Profession: Civilian Pilot	Certificate Number: On File
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Certificate(s): Airline Transport; Flight Instructor; Flight Engineer

Airplane Rating(s): Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land

Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA:

Instrument Rating(s): Airplane

Instructor Rating(s): Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane

Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? Yes	Current Biennial Flight Review?
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Medical Cert.: Class 1	Medical Cert. Status: Without Waivers/Limitations	Date of Last Medical Exam: 02/1997
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- Flight Time Matrix	All A/C	This Make and Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multi-Engine	Night	Instrument		Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air
						Actual	Simulated			
Total Time	12000	500								
Pilot In Command(PIC)	7000	500								
Instructor	1350									
Last 90 Days										
Last 30 Days										
Last 24 Hours										

Seatbelt Used? Yes	Shoulder Harness Used? Yes	Toxicology Performed? No	Second Pilot? Yes
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Flight Plan/Itinerary

Type of Flight Plan Filed: IFR

Departure Point BOSTON	State MA	Airport Identifier BOS	Departure Time 1156	Time Zone EDT
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Destination MIAMI	State FL	Airport Identifier MIA	
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Type of Clearance: IFR

Type of Airspace:

Weather Information

Source of Briefing: Company

Method of Briefing:

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: DCA97MA049
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	Occurrence Type: Accident

Weather Information					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
PBI	1443	EDT	18 Ft. MSL	NM	Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Unknown				Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Day
Lowest Ceiling: Broken		2500 Ft. AGL		Visibility: 10 SM	Altimeter: 29.00 "Hg
Temperature: 23 °C	Dew Point: 22 °C	Wind Direction: 200		Density Altitude: Ft.	
Wind Speed: 4	Gusts:	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Instrument Conditions			
Visibility (RVR): Ft.	Visibility (RVV) SM	Intensity of Precipitation:			
Restrictions to Visibility:					
Type of Precipitation: Rain					

Accident Information		
Aircraft Damage: Minor	Aircraft Fire: None	Aircraft Explosion: None

Classification: U.S. Registered/U.S. Soil					
- Injury Summary Matrix	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	TOTAL
First Pilot				1	1
Second Pilot				1	1
Student Pilot					
Flight Instructor					
Check Pilot					
Flight Engineer					
Cabin Attendants			1	6	7
Other Crew					
Passengers		1		155	156
- TOTAL ABOARD -		1	1	163	165
Other Ground	0	0	0		0
- GRAND TOTAL -	0	1	1	163	165

National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION



NTSB ID: DCA97MA049

Occurrence Date: 05/12/1997

Occurrence Type: Accident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

RICHARD G. RODRIGUEZ

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

MAX ROJAS

MIAMI FSDO