
Threatening note, Boeing 757-223, October 29, 2001

Micro-summary: This Boeing 757-223 was diverted and evacuated following the discovery of a threatening note, injuring a passenger.

Event Date: 2001-10-29 at 1950 EST


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


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


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		NTSB ID: IAD02LA007		Aircraft Registration Number: N640A	
		Occurrence Date: 10/29/2001		Most Critical Injury: Serious	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place Dulles		State VA	Zip Code 20101	Local Time 1950	Time Zone EST
Airport Proximity: On Airport		Distance From Landing Facility:		Direction From Airport:	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Boeing		Model/Series 757-223		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 October 29, 2001, about 1950 eastern standard time, a Boeing 757-223, N640A, operating as American Airlines flight 785, performed an unscheduled landing and emergency evacuation at Washington/Dulles International Airport, Dulles, Virginia, after a threatening note was found by a passenger. The 2 certificated airline transport pilots, 6 flight attendants, and 140 passengers were not injured. One passenger was seriously injured. An instrument flight rules flight plan was filed for the flight that originated at LaGuardia International Airport, New York, New York, at 1819, destined for Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, Dallas, Texas. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the passenger flight conducted under 14 CFR part 121.</p> <p>According to statements provided by flight attendants, the threatening note was found by a passenger in seat 11F when she extended her seat back tray, around 1900. The note was immediately given to a flight attendant, who informed the flight crew of its contents.</p> <p>The flightcrew reported that after they reviewed the note, they declared an emergency and diverted to Washington/Dulles International Airport. The airplane landed uneventfully at 1945, and was taxied onto a taxiway where the captain instructed the flight attendants to conduct an emergency evacuation using the slides.</p> <p>All eight slides deployed normally; however, during the evacuation, one passenger broke her ankle while exiting the bottom of the slide. She was transported to the hospital, treated for her injuries, and returned to the airport to continue on the flight.</p>					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					
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 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: IAD02LA007				
		Occurrence Date: 10/29/2001				
		Occurrence Type: Accident				
Landing Facility/Approach Information						
Airport Name		Airport ID:	Airport Elevation	Runway Used	Runway Length	Runway Width
Washington Dulles Int'l Arpt		IAD	313 Ft. MSL			
Runway Surface Type: Unknown						
Runway Surface Condition: Unknown						
Type Instrument Approach: Unknown						
VFR Approach/Landing: Unknown						
Aircraft Information						
Aircraft Manufacturer		Model/Series		Serial Number		
Boeing		757-223		24598		
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Transport						
Landing Gear Type: Retractable - Tricycle						
Homebuilt Aircraft? No	Number of Seats:	Certified Max Gross Wt.	240000 LBS	Number of Engines: 2		
Engine Type:	Engine Manufacturer:	Model/Series:	Rated Power:			
Turbo Fan	General Electric					
- Aircraft Inspection Information						
Type of Last Inspection		Date of Last Inspection	Time Since Last Inspection	Airframe Total Time		
Continuous Airworthiness			Hours	Hours		
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information						
ELT Installed? Yes	ELT Operated? No	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? No				
Owner/Operator Information						
Registered Aircraft Owner		Street Address				
AMERICAN AIRLINES INC		City		State	Zip Code	
		Dallas		TX	75261	
Operator of Aircraft		Street Address				
Same as Reg'd Aircraft Owner		Same as Reg'd Aircraft Owner				
		City		State	Zip Code	
Operator Does Business As: American Airlines			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: IAD02LA007
	Occurrence Date: 10/29/2001
	Occurrence Type: Accident

First Pilot Information

Name On File	City On File	State On File	Date of Birth On File	Age 52
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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

Airplane Rating(s): Multi-engine Land

Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: None

Instrument Rating(s): Airplane

Instructor Rating(s): None

Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? Yes	Current Biennial Flight Review?
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Medical Cert.: Class 1	Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Date of Last Medical Exam: 12/2001
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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	5000	1000		5000						
Pilot In Command(PIC)	3000	1000		1000						
Instructor										
Last 90 Days	150									
Last 30 Days	50									
Last 24 Hours	10									

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 New York	State NY	Airport Identifier LGA	Departure Time 1819	Time Zone EST
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Destination Dallas	State TX	Airport Identifier DFW	
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Type of Clearance: IFR

Type of Airspace: Class B

Weather Information

Source of Briefing: Company

Method of Briefing: Telephone

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Weather Information

WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
IAD	1951	EST	313 Ft. MSL	NM	Deg. Mag.

Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Few 14000 Ft. AGL Condition of Light: Night

Lowest Ceiling: None Ft. AGL Visibility: 10 SM Altimeter: 30.45 "Hg

Temperature: 4 °C Dew Point: 1 °C Wind Direction: Variable Density Altitude: 1103 Ft.

Wind Speed: Calm Gusts: Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions

Visibility (RVR): Ft. Visibility (RVV) SM Intensity of Precipitation:

Restrictions to Visibility: None

Type of Precipitation: None

Accident Information

Aircraft Damage: None 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				6	6
Other Crew					
Passengers		1		140	141
- TOTAL ABOARD -		1		148	149
Other Ground					
- GRAND TOTAL -		1		148	149

National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION



NTSB ID: IAD02LA007

Occurrence Date: 10/29/2001

Occurrence Type: Accident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

Jill M. Andrews

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

Norm Swanke
Aviation Safety Inspector
Federal Aviation Administration
Dulles, VA