
Turbulence injury, Boeing 767-300, May 7, 2003

Micro-summary: This Boeing 767-300 encountered turbulence while descending, significantly injuring a flight attendant.


Event Date: 2003-05-07 at 1615 EDT


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


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

Cautions:

1. Accident reports can be and sometimes are revised. Be sure to consult the investigative agency for the latest version before basing anything significant on content (e.g., thesis, research, etc).
 2. Readers are advised that each report is a glimpse of events at specific points in time. While broad themes permeate the causal events leading up to crashes, and we can learn from those, the specific regulatory and technological environments can and do change. ***Your company's flight operations manual is the final authority as to the safe operation of your aircraft!***
 3. Reports may or may not represent reality. Many many non-scientific factors go into an investigation, including the magnitude of the event, the experience of the investigator, the political climate, relationship with the regulatory authority, technological and recovery capabilities, etc. It is recommended that the reader review all reports analytically. Even a "bad" report can be a very useful launching point for learning.
 4. Contact us before reproducing or redistributing a report from this anthology. Individual countries have very differing views on copyright! We can advise you on the steps to follow.
-

		NTSB ID: NYC03LA104		Aircraft Registration Number: N650UA	
		Occurrence Date: 05/07/2003		Most Critical Injury: Serious	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place New Market		State VA	Zip Code 22824	Local Time 1615	Time Zone EDT
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip		Distance From Landing Facility:		Direction From Airport:	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Boeing		Model/Series B767-300		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 7, 2003, about 1615 eastern daylight time, a Boeing 767-300, N650UA, operated by United Airlines as flight 188, was not damaged during an encounter with turbulence near New Market, Virginia. The 2 pilots, 5 flight attendants, and 140 passengers were not injured; however, 1 flight attendant was seriously injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and an instrument flight rules flight plan was filed for the flight destined for Dulles International Airport (IAD), Dulles, Virginia. The scheduled passenger flight departed San Francisco International Airport (SFO), San Francisco, California, at 0849 Pacific daylight time, and was conducted under 14 CFR Part 121.</p> <p>According to a representative of the airline, when the flight was 90 miles west of Dulles, at flight level 210, thunderstorm cell activity was noted on the weather radar. The flight was given clearance to descend to 11,000 feet, and during the descent, an area of "moderate turbulence" was encountered, which lasted about 20-30 seconds. During the encounter, a flight attendant fell and twisted her ankle.</p> <p>Upon arrival at Dulles, the flight attendant was transported to a local hospital and diagnosed with a triple fracture to her right ankle.</p> <p>Weather reported at Dulles Airport, at 1621, included winds from 130 degrees at 4 knots, 10 miles visibility, thunderstorms and light rain, a few clouds at 900 feet, scattered cumulonimbus clouds at 2,300 feet, a broken cloud layer at 4,000 feet, and another broken cloud layer at 14,000 feet. The temperature was reported as 75 degrees Fahrenheit, the dew point was 64 degrees Fahrenheit, and the barometric pressure was 29.81 inches Hg.</p>					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					
					Page 1

 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: NYC03LA104			
		Occurrence Date: 05/07/2003			
		Occurrence Type: Accident			
Landing Facility/Approach Information					
Airport Name	Airport ID:	Airport Elevation Ft. MSL	Runway Used NA	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type: Unknown					
Runway Surface Condition: Unknown					
Type Instrument Approach: Unknown					
VFR Approach/Landing: Unknown					
Aircraft Information					
Aircraft Manufacturer Boeing		Model/Series B767-300		Serial Number 25287	
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Transport					
Landing Gear Type: Retractable - Tricycle					
Homebuilt Aircraft? No	Number of Seats: 204	Certified Max Gross Wt.	407000 LBS	Number of Engines: 2	
Engine Type: Turbo Fan	Engine Manufacturer: Pratt & Whitney	Model/Series: PW 4060	Rated Power: 60000 LBS		
- Aircraft Inspection Information					
Type of Last Inspection Continuous Airworthiness	Date of Last Inspection 03/2003	Time Since Last Inspection 746 Hours	Airframe Total Time 47864 Hours		
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information					
ELT Installed? No	ELT Operated? No	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? No			
Owner/Operator Information					
Registered Aircraft Owner Wilmington Trust CO.		Street Address			
		City Wilmington	State DE	Zip Code	
Operator of Aircraft UNITED AIRLINES		Street Address			
		City Chicago	State IL	Zip Code	
Operator Does Business As: United Airlines			Operator Designator Code: UIYS		
- 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/Cargo					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: NYC03LA104
	Occurrence Date: 05/07/2003
	Occurrence Type: Accident

First Pilot Information

Name On File	City On File	State On File	Date of Birth On File	Age 47
-----------------	-----------------	------------------	--------------------------	-----------

Sex: M	Seat Occupied: Left	Principal Profession: Civilian Pilot	Certificate Number: On File
--------	---------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------------

Certificate(s): Airline Transport

Airplane Rating(s): Multi-engine Land; Single-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? 07/2002
---	---

Medical Cert.: Class 1	Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Date of Last Medical Exam: 02/2003
------------------------	--	------------------------------------

- 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	4993	3862		4993						
Pilot In Command(PIC)		3862								
Instructor										
Last 90 Days		173								
Last 30 Days		75								
Last 24 Hours		4								

Seatbelt Used? Yes	Shoulder Harness Used? Yes	Toxicology Performed? No	Second Pilot? Yes
--------------------	----------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------

Flight Plan/Itinerary

Type of Flight Plan Filed: IFR

Departure Point San Francisco	State CA	Airport Identifier SFO	Departure Time 0849	Time Zone PDT
----------------------------------	-------------	---------------------------	------------------------	------------------

Destination Dulles	State VA	Airport Identifier IAD	
-----------------------	-------------	---------------------------	--


Type of Clearance: IFR

Type of Airspace: Class E

Weather Information

Source of Briefing: Company

Method of Briefing: Telephone

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: NYC03LA104
	Occurrence Date: 05/07/2003
	Occurrence Type: Accident

Weather Information					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
IAD	1621	EST	313 Ft. MSL	90 NM	270 Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Few			900 Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Day	
Lowest Ceiling: Broken		4000 Ft. AGL		Visibility: 10 SM	Altimeter: 29.81 "Hg
Temperature: 24 °C	Dew Point: 18 °C	Wind Direction: 130		Density Altitude: Ft.	
Wind Speed: 4	Gusts:	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions			
Visibility (RVR): Ft.	Visibility (RVV) SM	Intensity of Precipitation: Light			
Restrictions to Visibility: None					
Type of Precipitation: Rain					

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		1		5	6
Other Crew					
Passengers				140	140
- TOTAL ABOARD -		1		147	148
Other Ground					
- GRAND TOTAL -		1		147	148

National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT
AVIATION



NTSB ID: NYC03LA104

Occurrence Date: 05/07/2003

Occurrence Type: Accident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

Jill M. Andrews

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation: