NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Research and Engineering Washington, D.C. 20594

March 25, 2003

Aircraft Performance Group

Crash Site Factual Report

I. ACCIDENT

NTSB Number: DCA03MA022

Location: Charlotte, North Carolina

Date: January 8, 2003

Time: 0848 EST

Aircraft: Raytheon (Beechcraft) 1900D, N233YV Operator: Air Midwest Inc. (d.b.a. US Airways Express)

II. GROUP

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III. SUMMARY

On January 8, 2003, at about 0848 Eastern Standard Time, Air Midwest flight 5481 (d.b.a. US Airways Express), a Raytheon (Beechcraft) 1900D, N233YV, crashed shortly after takeoff from Charlotte-Douglas International Airport (CLT), Charlotte, North Carolina. The flight was a scheduled passenger flight to Greenville-Spartanburg, South Carolina. The 2 crewmembers and 19 passengers onboard were fatally injured. The airplane was destroyed due to impact forces and a post crash fire.

The Performance Group chairman (D. Bower at the time) launched on the go-team, arrived on scene in the afternoon on the day of the accident, and commenced on-scene documentation of the accident site. The remaining group members (including K. Renze) joined the investigation the following day. On scene Performance Group activities were concluded on the evening of January 10, 2003.

IV. ON-SCENE INVESTIGATION

Accident Location

Debris from the Raytheon (Beechcraft) 1900D, N233YV aircraft was found scattered at the northwest corner of the US Airways maintenance hangar main door pocket wall, on the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport (CLT) property. The aircraft main wreckage was located on the concrete tarmac approximately 30 feet southwest of the hangar corner, centered at N35° 12' 23.8" and W80° 56' 47.1" [per Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) GPS measurement]. With respect to runway 18R, the accident site was located approximately 7600 feet south of the threshold and approximately 1650 feet east of the centerline.

The impact and fire damaged remains of the aircraft nose, fuselage, left and right wings, two engines, empennage, and landing gear were identified at the main wreckage site. The remains of the empennage were separated from the aft fuselage. The horizontal stabilizer was inverted, resting on its top surface with the taillets attached.

A planform view of the CLT airport property and a profile view of departure runway 18R are included in Attachment I. A three-view drawing of the accident aircraft type is provided in Attachment II.

An FBI laser transit survey team surveyed the crash site under the supervision of the NTSB Structures Group chairman. The aircraft component, impact, and scrape mark location survey data are included in Attachment III.

Aircraft Data Recorders

The Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) and Flight Data Recorder (FDR) were recovered from N233YV on the afternoon of January 8, 2003 and flown back to Washington, DC for analysis. No video footage of the accident flight was available from the CLT security cameras.

Impact and Scrape Marks

Impact and scrape mark damage (see Attachment IV) was present on the concrete tarmac and on the lower corner of the hangar cinder block wall. The initial concrete tarmac impact mark (A) was located approximately 7600 feet south of the runway 18R threshold and approximately 1650 feet east of the runway 18R centerline.

The northern base of the cinder block hangar wall was displaced toward the building interior, punctured in one location, and fractured in several places. The punctured hole in the hangar wall extended from 5'3" above the concrete tarmac to 8'5" above the tarmac. The hole was 1'7" wide at approximately 6'3" above the tarmac. Approximately 20 feet above the cinder block wall puncture, sooting and bubbling of the building exterior metal flashing was observed. Impact mark (C) was located between the fourth and sixth cinder block rows on the north face of the wall corner.

The distance between impact mark (A) on the concrete tarmac and the puncture in the hangar wall was 31'6". A second concrete tarmac impact mark (B) was located 20 feet away from impact mark (A) on a heading of 210 degrees magnetic. Three ground scar marks radiated from impact mark (A), the longest of which was 5'3". Two ground scar marks radiated from impact mark (B), the longest of which was 4'10".

Departure Runway Debris Search

After an initial survey of the accident site on January 8, 2003, the Performance Group chairman organized and led a walking search of the length of departure runway 18R. Approximately 100 police officers, FBI agents, and NTSB staff members swept a 450 foot width perpendicular to, and centered on, the runway 18R centerline. Runway 18R and the adjacent infield were searched from the flight 5481 takeoff roll origin to approximately 5800 feet downrange. At this point, the search path veered to the left and crossed runway 5-23 on a bearing to the accident site. The Day 1 search region is depicted by the blue perimeter in Attachment I.

Several small screws, washers, fuel caps and assorted pieces of debris were found. The debris items found were oxidized, weathered, and worn. No items were identified that could be linked to the accident airplane.

At the time of the accident, ASOS winds were reported 230 at 7 knots. On January 9, 2003 the infield ground to the left of runway 18R and the taxiways in the downwind direction were searched for possible aircraft parts. Approximately 30 police officers, FBI agents, NTSB staff, and Performance Group members participated on foot to search an area approximately 2100 feet by 900 feet centered about the estimated N233YV liftoff point. The Day 2 search region is defined by the red perimeter in Attachment I. No parts were identified that could be linked to the accident airplane.

Radar Data

Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR) data were obtained from the CLT TRACON for N233YV flight 5481 during the taxi, takeoff roll, takeoff, and maneuver to the impact site. The ASR data are collected from a rotating antenna with a period of 4.6 seconds and recorded in time-range-azimuth-altitude format. The accident data are presented in Attachment V. The Charlotte ASR-9 radar antenna is located at N35° 12' 50.75", W80° 56' 52.38", elevation 779 feet.

Weight and Balance

Standard seating arrangement, weight and balance, and moment limit charts for the Raytheon (Beechcraft) 1900D are included in Attachment VI. A copy of the N233YV load manifest filed for flight 5481 is shown in Attachment VII.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I:

- A. Planform view of Charlotte-Douglas International Airport (CLT) provided by the airport authority.
- B. Profile view of departure runway 18R obtained from airport obstruction chart OC 78, dated July 1986.

Attachment II: Three-view drawing of the Raytheon (Beechcraft) 1900D aircraft from the airplane flight manual, dated August 2000.

<u>Attachment III</u>: Accident wreckage diagram and accompanying database compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation survey team under the supervision of the NTSB Structures Group chairman.

Attachment IV: Impact and scrape mark sketches.

Attachment V: N233YV Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR) data obtained from the CLT TRACON.

Attachment VI:

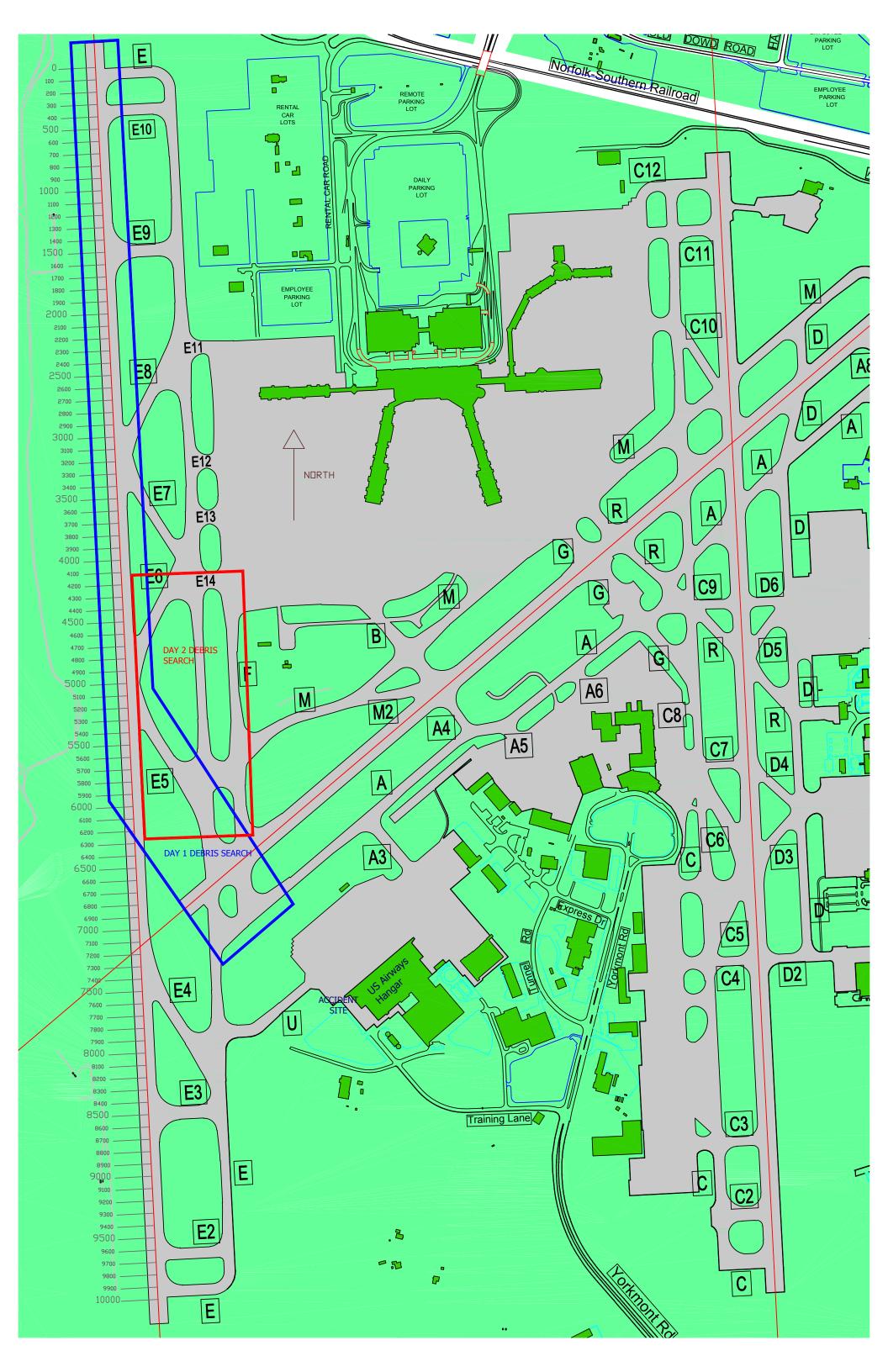
- A. Standard seating data for the Raytheon (Beechcraft) 1900D from the airplane flight manual, dated October 1999.
- B. Weight and balance data for the Raytheon (Beechcraft) 1900D from the airplane flight manual, dated March 2002.

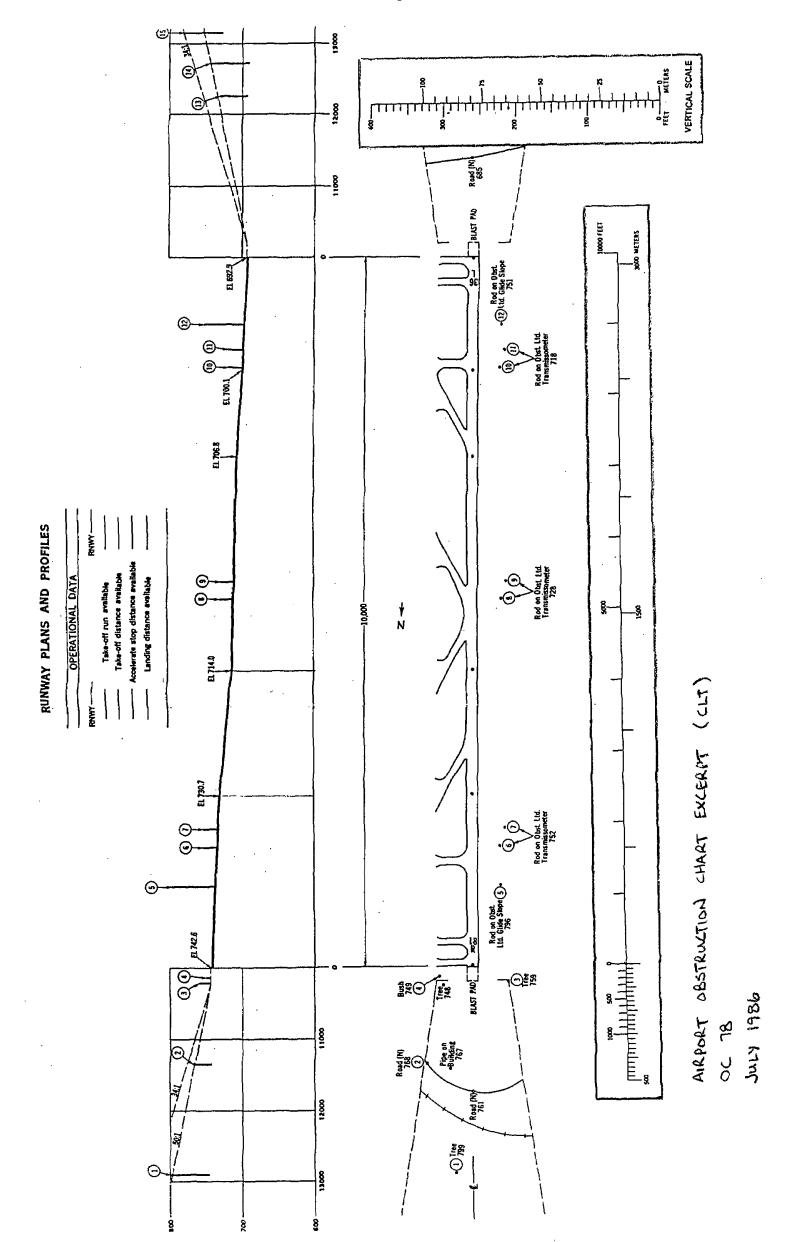
C. Moment limit data for the Raytheon (Beechcraft) 1900D from the airplane flight manual, dated March 2002.

Attachment VII: N233YV flight 5481 load manifest, dated January 8, 2003.

ATTACHMENT I

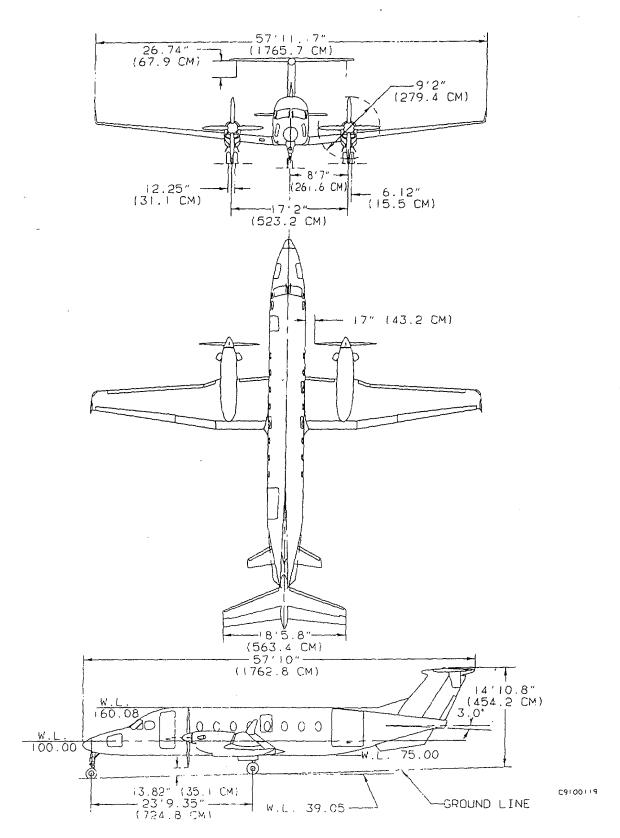
- A. Planform view of Charlotte-Douglas International Airport (CLT) provided by the airport authority.
- B. Profile view of departure runway 18R obtained from airport obstruction chart OC 78, dated July 1986.





ATTACHMENT II

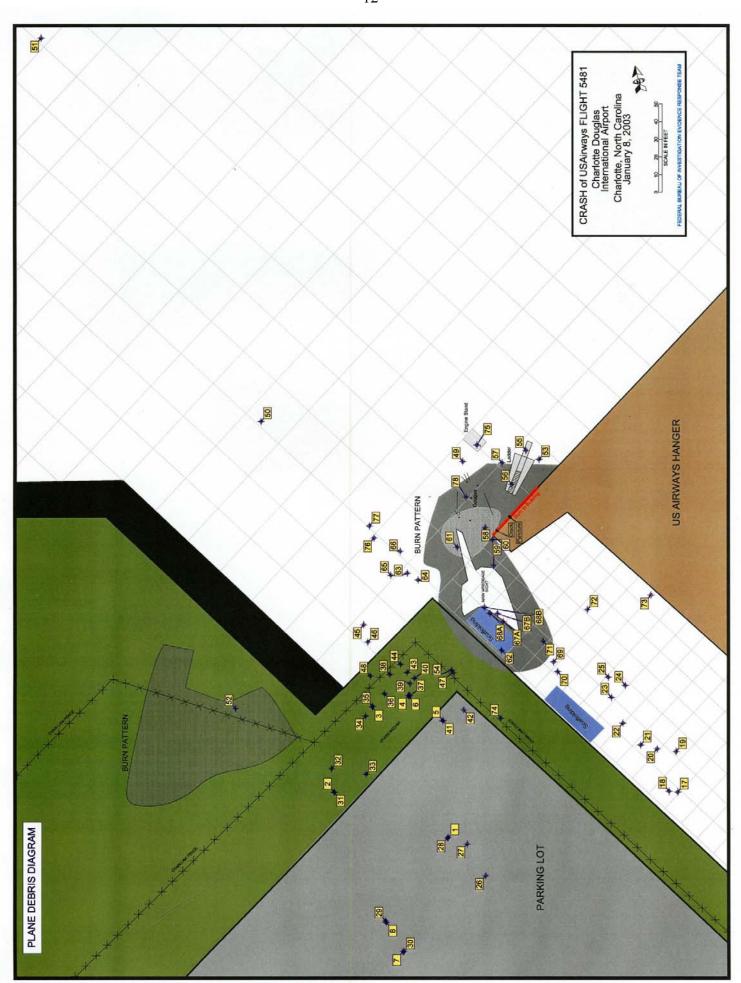
Three-view drawing of the Raytheon (Beechcraft) 1900D aircraft from the airplane flight manual, dated August 2000.



1900D THREE VIEW

ATTACHMENT III

Accident wreckage diagram and accompanying database compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation survey team under the supervision of the NTSB Structures Group chairman.



Structures Group Wreckage Database

DCA03MA022

Charlotte, NC

January 8, 2003

NTSE	3 number Northing (X) Easting (Y) Elevation (Z)	Description	Photo ID
	1	Propeller governor	Dsc00755
	2	Propeller shaft	Dsc00758
	3	Propeller hub assembly	
	4	Propeller flange	
	5	Engine Instrument Panel	Dsc00768
	6	Windshield piece	
	7	Cockpit wing window latch	Dsc00756
	8	Lexan piece - windscreen	
	9	Number not used	
	10	Number not used	
	11	Number not used	
	12	Number not used	
	13	Number not used	
	14	Number not used	
	15	Number not used	
	16	Number not used	
	17	5' long lower wing skin panel	Dsc00743
	18	12' long frame	Dsc00745
	19	4' x 1' nacelle fairing	Dsc00746
	20	6' x 1' small piece of side fuselage skin	Dsc00747
	21	Left wingtip lights and strobe power supply	Dsc00748
	22	Seat support piece	Dsc00749
	23	Nacelle access panel	Dsc00750
	24	Interior composite panel	Dsc00751
	25	Composite frame	Dsc00752
	26	Miscellaneous piece	Dsc00753
	27	Door lug assembly	Dsc00754
	28	Propeller governor	Dsc00755
	29	Cockpit wing window latch	Dsc00756
	30	Plexiglass fragment	Dsc00757
	31	Propeller shaft	Dsc00758
	32	Plexiglass fragment of wing cockpit window	<u>Dsc00759</u>
	33	Ring flange	<u>Dsc00760</u>
	34	Propeller feathering ring	Dsc00761
	35	Propeller hub assembly	<u>Dsc00762</u>
	36	Propeller counterweight	Dsc00763
	37	Propeller counterweight	<u>Dsc00764</u>
	38	Miscellaneous engine piece	Dsc00765
	39	O2 system panel	<u>Dsc00766</u>
	40	Propeller spinner	Dsc00767
	41	Engine instrument panel	<u>Dsc00768</u>
	42	Flange segment	<u>Dsc00769</u>

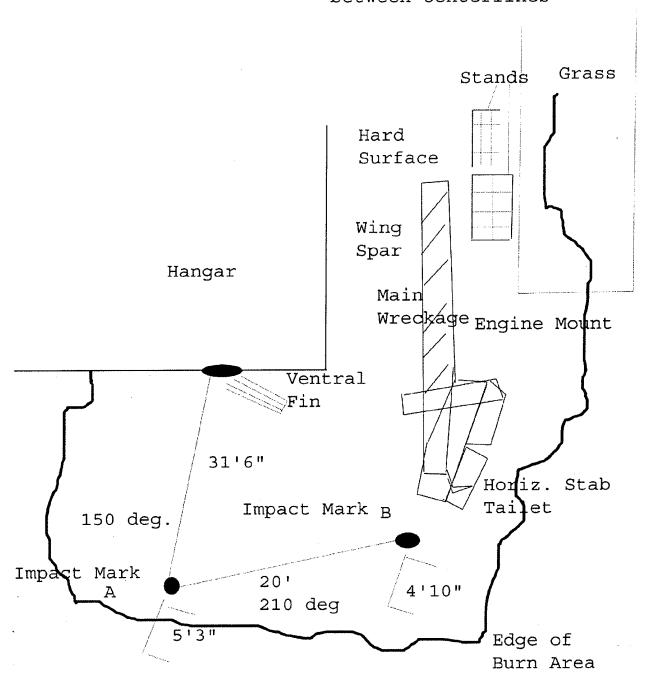
43				Propeller counterweight	Dsc00770
44				Sheet metal segment	Dsc00771
45	5241.454	2118.832	719.645	Propeller hub assembly #1 engine	Dsc 0002
46	5239.165	2109.004	719.689	Propeller collar #1 engine	Dsc 0003
47	5190.992	2091.559	719.985	Propeller counterweight piece	Dsc_0004
48	5237.817	2089.678	719.656	Propeller counterweight piece	Dsc_0004
49	5185.492	2211.391	719.673	Propeller blade #2 engine	Dsc_0005
50	5299.532	2234.018	720.99	Propeller blade	Dsc_0006
51	5423.471	2451.519	717.336	Propeller blade #2 engine	Dsc 0007
52	5313.937	2071.358	711.154	Propeller piston assembly, #2 engine	Dsc 0008
53	5142.495	2212.511	719.847	Partial propeller blade #1 engine	Dsc_0010
54	5191.862	2093.019	719.984	Control yoke	Dsc 0011
55	5149.834	2217.653	719.809	Right winglet	Dsc_0030
56	5157.817	2198.352	719.848	Right elevator counterweight	Dsc_0031
57	5163.334	2210.634	719.886	Aft section of ventral fin	Dsc 0032
58	5172.742	2174.025	719.78	Ventral fin	Dsc 0033
59	5168.068	2152.404	719.735	Propeller blade	Dsc 0034
60	5168.686	2167.165	719.782	Fuselage frame section	Dsc 0035
61	5188.554	2162.727	719.739	Horizontal stabilizer	Dsc_0036
62	5163.752	2104.339	719.119	Partial propeller blade	Dsc_0038
63	5216.811	2147.939	719.634	Right main landing gear wheel assembly	Dsc00805
64	5210.737	2144.105	719.639	Engine cowling pieces	Dsc_0040
65	5226.055	2146.798	719.581	Left forward avionics door	Dsc_0041
66	5220.824	2160.547	719.606	Right forward avionics door	Dsc_0042
67A	5162.705	2120.481	719.41	Left (#1) engine, front	Dsc_0043
67B	5165.959	2125.131	719.508	Left (#1) engine, back	Dsc_0043
68A	5170.189	2125.345	719.696	Right (#2) engine, front	Dsc_0044
68B	5173.299	2128.768	720.844	Right (#2) engine, back	Dsc_0044
69	5134.331	2097.743	719.222	Left winglet	Dsc_0045
70	5132.088	2092.238	719.177	Right aileron	Dsc_0046
71	5140.237	2109.437	719.312	Wing leading edge section	Dsc_0047
72	5115.292	2127.393	719.69	Seat track segment	Dsc_0048
73	5079.444	2135.628	719.713	Cabin window	Dsc_0049
74	5164.039	2065.852	720.048	Fuel shutoff valve	Dsc_0050
75	5177.473	2220.725	719.698	Right wingtip lens	Dsc00809
76	5235.573	2168.088	719.541	Nose radome cover segment	<u>Dsc00818</u>
77	5238.223	2174.879	724.371	Engine cowling	<u>Dsc00815</u>
78				Aircraft skin imbedded in tarmac	<u>Dsc00823</u>

ATTACHMENT IV

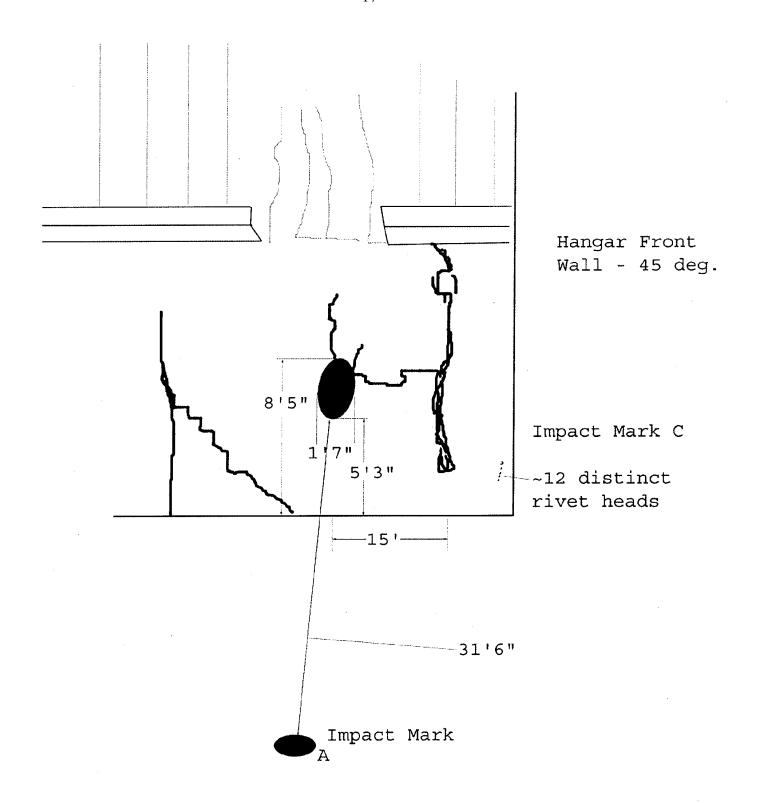
Impact and scrape mark sketches.

Overhead View

Engines B1900D 17'2" between centerlines



Note: All bearings are relative to magnetic North. Drawing not to scale.



Note: All bearings are relative to magnetic North.

Drawing not to scale.

ATTACHMENT V

N233YV Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR) data obtained from the CLT TRACON.

ODS CDR EDITOR LISTING A3.06.

DATA SELECTED

BT RB

FILTERS

TIME: 01/08/03 13:44:00 - 01/08/03 13:52:00. CONTROLLER: ALTITUDE: ACID: SUBSYSTEM:
BEACON: 5224 RANGE: AZIMUTH:
ETG: N INTERFACILITY: NON_CONFLICT: N ASSOCIATED: Y UNASSOCIATED: Y

TRACK:

SMART BUFFER LINES PER PAGE: 56 SCAN SUMMARY OFF HEADERS ON SORT BY TIME

SHOW N/A CA DATA BINARY TIME FILTER SEARCH

PC ARTSIIIA CDR Editor

BEACON TARGET REPORTS	1/ 8/03 PAGE 2		
STIME RANGE ACP DEG	QUA STR BEACON ALT		SYS SCAN
13:45:28.680 31 0.81 3995 351	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	20
13:45:33.254 31 0.81 3988 351	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	21
13:45:37.901 31 0.81 3982 350	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	22
13:45:42.545 31 0.83 3975 349	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	
RADAR REINFORCED TARGET REPORTS	1/ 8/03 PAGE 2		
STIME RANGE ACP DEG	QUA STR BEACON ALT		SYS SCAN
13:45:47.143 31 0.83 3967 349	7 S 5224-3 7-3	RB C	
13:45:51.787 31 0.83 3959 348	7 S 5224-3 7-3	RB C	
BEACON TARGET REPORTS	1/ 8/03 PAGE 2		
STIME RANGE ACP DEG	QUA STR BEACON ALT		SYS SCAN
13:45:56.383 31 0.83 3951 347	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	
13:46:01.019 31 0.83 3947 347	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	
13:46:05.618 31 0.83 3945 347	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	
13:46:10.269 31 0.83 3944 347	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	
13:46:14.856 31 0.81 3944 347	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	
13:46:19.492 31 0.83 3944 347	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	
13:46:24.096 31 0.83 3943 347	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	
13:46:28.737 31 0.83 3943 347	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	
13:46:33.324 31 0.80 3938 346	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	
RADAR REINFORCED TARGET REPORTS	1/ 8/03 PAGE 2		
STIME RANGE ACP DEG	QUA STR BEACON ALT		SYS SCAN
13:46:37.968 31 0.75 3924 345	7 S 5224-3 7-3	RB 0	35
BEACON TARGET REPORTS	1/ 8/03 PAGE 2		
STIME RANGE ACP DEG	QUA STR BEACON ALT		SYS SCAN
13:46:42.449 30 0.66 3898 343	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	36
13:46:47.050 30 0.55 3852 339	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	37
13:46:51.505 29 0.42 3763 331	7 S 5224-3 7-3	BT 0	38
RADAR REINFORCED TARGET REPORTS	1/ 8/03 PAGE 2		
STIME RANGE ACP DEG	QUA STR BEACON ALT		SYS SCAN
13:46:55.976 28 0.30 3589 315	7 S 5224-3 7-3	RB C	39
BEACON TARGET REPORTS	1/ 8/03 PAGE 2		
STIME RANGE ACP DEG	QUA STR BEACON ALT		SYS SCAN
13:47:00.156 25 0.22 3248 285	7 S 5224-3 8-3	BT 0	40
RADAR REINFORCED TARGET REPORTS	1/ 8/03 PAGE 2		
STIME RANGE ACP DEG	QUA STR BEACON ALT		SYS SCAN
13:47:04.337 22 0.23 2871 252	7 S 5224-3 12-3	RB	0 41
BEACON TARGET REPORTS	1/ 8/03 PAGE 2		
STIME RANGE ACP DEG	QUA STR BEACON ALT		SYS SCAN
13:47:08.864 21 0.30 2636 232	7 S 5224-3 16-3		0 42
13:47:13.158 19 0.33 2459 216	7 S 5224-3 19-3	BT (0 43
RADAR REINFORCED TARGET REPORTS	1/ 8/03 PAGE 2		
STIME RANGE ACP DEG	QUA STR BEACON ALT		SYS SCAN
13:47:17.631 18 0.33 2253 198	7 S 5224-3 17-3	RB	0 44
13:47:21.974 16 0.38 2053	180 7 S 5224-3 13-3		RB 0 45

ATTACHMENT VI

- A. Standard seating data for the Raytheon (Beechcraft) 1900D from the airplane flight manual, dated October 1999.
- B. Weight and balance data for the Raytheon (Beechcraft) 1900D from the airplane flight manual, dated March 2002.
- C. Moment limit data for the Raytheon (Beechcraft) 1900D from the airplane flight manual, dated March 2002.

1900D Airliner Section VI - Weight & Balance/Equipment List

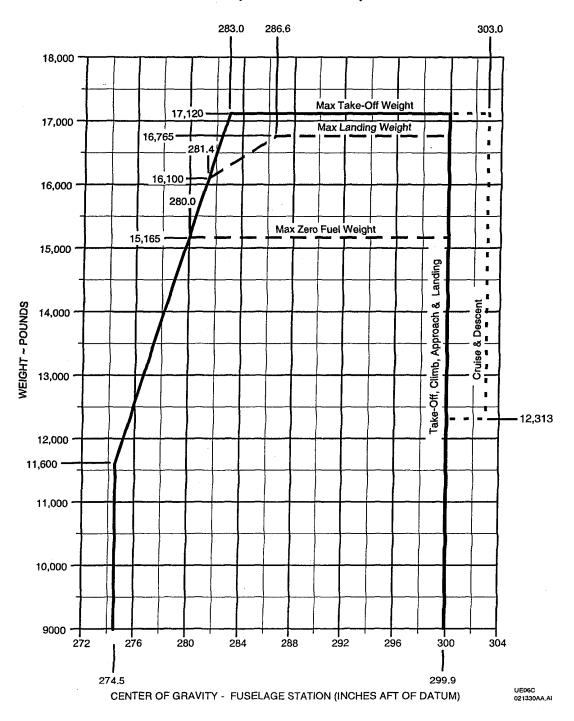
-AFT (PARTITION AFT BÅGGAGE CARGO COMPT (AFT SECTION) α. ωM AFT BAGGAGE CARGO COMPT. (FWD SECTION) 니디 BAGGAGE WEB-F.S. 453.5 ROW 6 6 7.5.3. (UE-118 AND AFTER) LOADING DATA STANDARD SEATING F.S. -175.6 FWD CABIN BAGGAGE COMPT. F.S. 150.6 F.S. F.S. 84.0 F.S. 43.0

RWARD CABIN BAGGAGE COMPARTMENT (INCLUDES UP TO 100 POUNDS WHICH MAY BE SUSPENDED FROM CLOTHES ROD)	CAPACITY -POUNDS 250	CENTROID (FUSELAGE STATION) 163.6
COMPARIMENT - FWD SECTION - AFT SECTION	1000	483.5 533.0

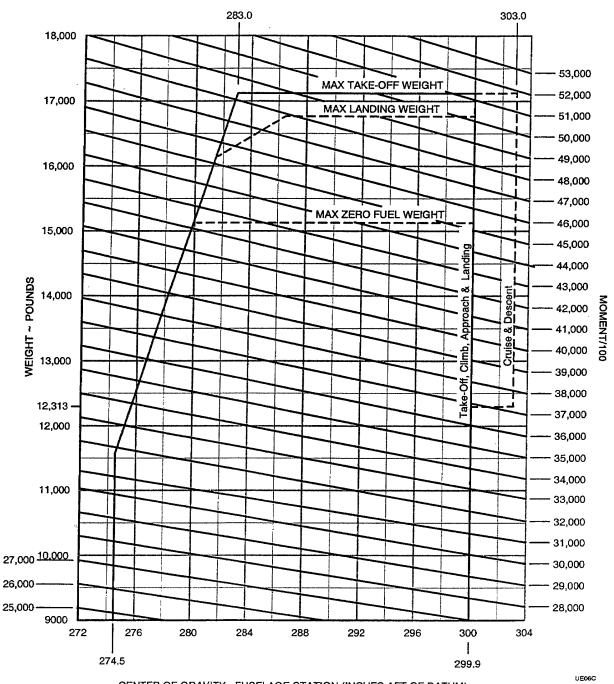
FOR COMPARTMENT LOADINGS WHICH RESULT IN ONLY PARTIAL UTILIZATION OF TOTAL COMPARTMENT VOLUME, LOAD ITEMS MUST BE DISTRIBUTED OR SECURED IN A MANNER TO PRECLUDE SHIFTING UNDER NORMALLY ANTICIPATED OPERATING CONDITIONS.

C94UE06C1819 C

WEIGHT & BALANCE DIAGRAM (ENGLISH UNITS)



MOMENT LIMITS VS WEIGHT (ENGLISH UNITS)



CENTER OF GRAVITY - FUSELAGE STATION (INCHES AFT OF DATUM)

021331AA.A

ATTACHMENT VII

N233YV flight 5481 load manifest, dated January 8, 2003.

