



Brief of Accident (Continued)

DCA04MA030  
File No. 20463

03/23/2004

Gulf of Mexico

Aircraft Reg No. N579EH

Time (Local): 00:01

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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER
3. (C) ALTITUDE - INATTENTIVE - FLIGHTCREW
4. (C) DESCENT - FLIGHTCREW

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

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The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.  
the flight crew's failure to identify and arrest the helicopter's descent for undetermined reasons, which resulted in controlled flight into terrain.