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|---|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION | | NTSB ID: NYC08RA197 | | Aircraft Registration Number: SAN-100 | |
| | | Occurrence Date: 05/29/2008 | | Most Critical Injury: Fatal | |
| | | Occurrence Type: Accident | | Investigated By: Foreign | |
| Location/Time | | | | | |
| Nearest City/Place Panama City | | State | Zip Code | Local Time 1410 | Time Zone CDT |
| Airport Proximity: | | Distance From Landing Facility: | | | |
| Aircraft Information Summary | | | | | |
| Aircraft Manufacturer Bell | | | Model/Series UH-1N | | Type of Aircraft Helicopter |
| Revenue 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 29, 2008, at 1410 central daylight time, a Bell UH-1H, operated by the Panamanian Servicio Aereo Nacional (SAN) as SAN-100, was destroyed when it impacted buildings in Panama City, Panama. The Panamanian pilot in command, the Panamanian flight mechanic, three Panamanian passengers and six Chilean passengers were fatally injured, and the Panamanian copilot was seriously injured. There were no injuries on the ground. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the visual flight rules flight that departed Enrique A. Jimenez Airport (MONX), Colon, Panama, at 1326, destined for a waterfront hotel landing pad in Panama City, Panama. The VIP transport flight was conducted under Panamanian flight regulations.</p> <p>According to Panamanian authorities, the passengers included senior officials from both Panama and Chile, including the Director General of the Chilean National Police (Los Carabineros), who were attending an international conference.</p> <p>A radar review revealed that while approaching the hotel helipad from seaward (from the south, over the Bay of Panama), the helicopter made one 360-degree turn, then another 270-degree turn, and headed eastward toward a different part of the shoreline. Crossing the shoreline, it appeared to be headed over buildings, toward Marco A. Gelabert (Albrook) Airport (MPMG), Panama City, Panama, before disappearing from the radar. The helicopter's altitudes were not recorded.</p> <p>According to the copilot, while approaching the hotel helipad, the helicopter experienced a power loss from the left engine, making it impossible to land at the pad. The crew concentrated on maintaining flight, and headed toward Marco A. Gelabert Airport. En route, the helicopter impacted the top of a building.</p> <p>An examination of the accident scene revealed that the majority of the tailboom was on the roof of a four-story building, the majority of the cabin, including the engines, was on the roof of a second, lower building, and that the majority of the cockpit had continued off the second building, down into a street.</p> <p>A subsequent examination of the wreckage and engines in a hanger revealed that the airframe and flight controls had no preimpact anomalies that would have precluded normal operations, and that the left engine "was not operating normally at the time of the accident." The engines were subsequently transported to the manufacturer for further examination under Panamanian oversight.</p> <p>The accident investigation is under the jurisdiction of the government of Panama. Further information may be obtained from:</p> <p>Autoridad Aeronautica Civil (AAC) Aeropuerto Marcos A. Gelarbert Via Diogenes de la Rosa, Edificio 805</p> | | | | | |
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Narrative (Continued)

Apartado 7501 o 7615
Panama 5,
Republica de Panama

Tel: (507) 501-9300
<http://www.aeronautica.gob.pa>

This report is for informational purposes only, and contains only information released by, or obtained from the government of Panama.

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| | | 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: | | | | | | |
| Approach/Arrival Flown: | | | | | | |
| VFR Approach/Landing: | | | | | | |
| Aircraft Information | | | | | | |
| Aircraft Manufacturer Bell | | Model/Series UH-1N | | Serial Number | | |
| Airworthiness Certificate(s): | | | | | | |
| Landing Gear Type: | | | | | | |
| Amateur Built Acft? No | Number of Seats: | Certified Max Gross Wt. LBS | | Number of Engines: | | |
| Engine Type: | Engine Manufacturer: | Model/Series: | Rated Power: | | | |
| - Aircraft Inspection Information | | | | | | |
| Type of Last Inspection | Date of Last Inspection | Time Since Last Inspection Hours | | Airframe Total Time Hours | | |
| - Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information | | | | | | |
| ELT Installed?/Type | ELT Operated? | ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? | | | | |
| Owner/Operator Information | | | | | | |
| Registered Aircraft Owner | | Street Address | | | | |
| | | City | State | Zip Code | | |
| Operator of Aircraft Servicio Aereo Nacional | | Street Address | | | | |
| | | City Panama City | State | Zip Code | | |
| Operator Does Business As: | | | Operator Designator Code: | | | |
| - Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held: None | | | | | | |
| Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s): | | | | | | |
| Operating Certificate: | | | Operator Certificate: | | | |
| Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Non-U.S., Non-Commercial | | | | | | |
| Type of Flight Operation Conducted: | | | | | | |
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First Pilot Information

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

| | | | |
|------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Sex: | Seat Occupied: | Occupational Pilot? | Certificate Number: |
|------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|

Certificate(s):

Airplane Rating(s):

Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA:

Instrument Rating(s):

Instructor Rating(s):

Current Biennial Flight Review?

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Medical Cert.: | Medical Cert. Status: | Date of Last Medical Exam: |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|

| - 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 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pilot In Command(PIC) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Instructor | | | | | | | | | | |
| Instruction Received | | | | | | | | | | |
| Last 90 Days | | | | | | | | | | |
| Last 30 Days | | | | | | | | | | |
| Last 24 Hours | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Seatbelt Used? | Shoulder Harness Used? | Toxicology Performed? | Second Pilot? |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|

Flight Plan/Itinerary

Type of Flight Plan Filed: Company VFR

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Departure Point | State | Airport Identifier | Departure Time | Time Zone |
| Colon | | ONX | | |
| Destination | State | Airport Identifier | | |
| Same as Accident/Incident Location | | | | |

Type of Clearance:

Type of Airspace:

Weather Information

Source of Wx Information:

| | |
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Weather Information

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| WOF ID | Observation Time | Time Zone | WOF Elevation Ft. MSL | WOF Distance From Accident Site NM | Direction From Accident Site Deg. Mag. |
| Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: | | | | Ft. AGL | Condition of Light: |
| Lowest Ceiling: | | | Ft. AGL | Visibility: | SM |
| Temperature: °C | | Dew Point: °C | | Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions | |
| Wind Direction: | | Wind Speed: | | Wind Gusts: | |
| Visibility (RVR): Ft. | | Visibility (RVV): SM | | | |
| Precip and/or Obscuration: | | | | | |

Accident Information

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Aircraft Damage: Destroyed | Aircraft Fire: | Aircraft Explosion |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|

| - 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 | | | | | |
| Other Crew | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Passengers | 9 | | | | 9 |
| - TOTAL ABOARD - | 11 | 1 | | | 12 |
| Other Ground | | | | | |
| - GRAND TOTAL - | 11 | 1 | | | 12 |

National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION



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Occurrence Type: Accident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

Paul R. Cox

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

Robert Drake

AAI-100