
Turbulence injury, Airbus A300B4-605R, January 7, 1997

Micro-summary: This Airbus A300B4-605R encountered turbulence, injuring several flight attendants and passengers.


Event Date: 1997-01-07 at 0834 EST


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


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

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		NTSB ID: NYC97LA040		Aircraft Registration Number: N50051	
		Occurrence Date: 01/07/1997		Most Critical Injury: Serious	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place ATLANTIC OCEAN		State AO	Zip Code	Local Time 0834	Time Zone EST
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip		Distance From Landing Facility:		Direction From Airport:	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Airbus Industrie		Model/Series A-300B4-605R		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 January 7, 1997, at 0834, an Airbus Industries A300B4-605R, N50051, operated by American Airlines as Flight 2009, encountered turbulence while operating over the Atlantic Ocean. One flight attendant received serious injuries, 3 flight attendants received minor injuries, and 2 passengers received minor injuries. The remaining 252 passengers, and 5 crewmembers were not injured. The airplane received minor damage. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and the flight which was operated under 14 CFR Part 121, had departed Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at 0800, and was destined for San Juan, Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Flight 2009 was cruising at FL330 (33,000 feet), about 30 miles south of Champs intersection, when it encountered the turbulence. The seatbelt sign was illuminated</p> <p>The injured flight attendants were working in the forward and aft galleys, in preparation for cabin service. Both passengers were seated in the rear of the airplane and had their seatbelts unfastened at the time of the turbulence.</p> <p>A cart in the aft galley was thrown into the air and contacted the overhead ceiling.</p> <p>The captain was notified of the injuries and elected to divert to John F. Kennedy Airport, Jamaica, New York, where an uneventful landing was made. The airplane then taxied to the gate where the passengers were deplaned through the jetway.</p> <p>One passenger and the two flight attendants who were working in the aft galley were taken to local hospitals where they were treated and released. One flight attendant was found to have a fractured ankle.</p> <p>There were no SIGMETS in effect for turbulence.</p> <p>A readout of the flight data recorder revealed that the flight had encountered two pulses which were separated by 8 seconds. Each pulse had a maximum value of +1.6 Gs, and minimum value of +0.25 Gs, as measured on the vertical axis of the airplane.</p>					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: NYC97LA040				
	Occurrence Date: 01/07/1997				
	Occurrence Type: Accident				
Landing Facility/Approach Information					
Airport Name	Airport ID:	Airport Elevation Ft. MSL	Runway Used 0	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type:					
Runway Surface Condition:					
Type Instrument Approach: NONE					
VFR Approach/Landing: None					
Aircraft Information					
Aircraft Manufacturer Airbus Industrie		Model/Series A-300B4-605R		Serial Number 459	
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Transport					
Landing Gear Type: Retractable - Tricycle					
Homebuilt Aircraft? No	Number of Seats: 281	Certified Max Gross Wt.	375800 LBS	Number of Engines: 2	
Engine Type: Turbo Fan	Engine Manufacturer: GE	Model/Series: CF6-80C2A5	Rated Power: 61500 LBS		
- Aircraft Inspection Information					
Type of Last Inspection Continuous Airworthiness	Date of Last Inspection	Time Since Last Inspection Hours	Airframe Total Time Hours		
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information					
ELT Installed? No	ELT Operated?	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site?			
Owner/Operator Information					
Registered Aircraft Owner AMERICAN AIRLINES		Street Address P.O. BOX 619616			
		City DALLAS	State TX	Zip Code 75261	
Operator of Aircraft Same as Reg'd Aircraft Owner		Street Address Same as Reg'd Aircraft Owner			
		City	State	Zip Code	
Operator Does Business As:			Operator Designator Code: AAL-		
- 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; International; Passenger/Cargo					

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: NYC97LA040
	Occurrence Date: 01/07/1997
	Occurrence Type: Accident

First Pilot Information

Name On File	City On File	State On File	Date of Birth On File	Age 39
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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; Flight Engineer

Airplane Rating(s): Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land

Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: None

Instrument Rating(s): Airplane

Instructor Rating(s): Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane

Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? Yes	Current Biennial Flight Review?
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Medical Cert.: Class 1	Medical Cert. Status: Unknown	Date of Last Medical Exam: 11/1996
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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	10900	80								
Pilot In Command(PIC)	2500									
Instructor										
Last 90 Days		71								
Last 30 Days										
Last 24 Hours										

Seatbelt Used? Yes	Shoulder Harness Used?	Toxicology Performed? No	Second Pilot?
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Flight Plan/Itinerary

Type of Flight Plan Filed: IFR

Departure Point PHILADELPHIA	State PA	Airport Identifier PHL	Departure Time 0800	Time Zone EST
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Destination SAN JUAN	State PR	Airport Identifier SJU	
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Type of Clearance: IFR

Type of Airspace: Class E

Weather Information

Source of Briefing: Company

Method of Briefing:

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: NYC97LA040
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	Occurrence Type: Accident

Weather Information					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
	0000		0 Ft. MSL	0 NM	0 Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Clear			0 Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Day	
Lowest Ceiling: None		0 Ft. AGL	Visibility: 20	SM	Altimeter: "Hg
Temperature: °C	Dew Point: °C	Wind Direction:		Density Altitude: Ft.	
Wind Speed:	Gusts:	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions			
Visibility (RVR): 0 Ft.	Visibility (RVV) 0	SM	Intensity of Precipitation: Unknown		
Restrictions to Visibility: None					
Type of Precipitation: None					

Accident Information		
Aircraft Damage: Minor	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	3	3	7
Other Crew					
Passengers			2	254	256
- TOTAL ABOARD -		1	5	259	265
Other Ground	0	0	0		0
- GRAND TOTAL -	0	1	5	259	265

National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION



NTSB ID: NYC97LA040

Occurrence Date: 01/07/1997

Occurrence Type: Accident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

ROBERT L. HANCOCK

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

LOUIS ALVAREZ
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GARDEN CITY, NY

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AMERICAN AIRLINES
FORT WORTH, TX