
Turbulence injury, Airbus A320-232, August 20, 2001

Micro-summary: This Airbus A320-232 experienced in-flight turbulence, which injured a flight attendant.


Event Date: 2001-08-20 at 0104 PDT


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


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

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		NTSB ID: MIA01LA224		Aircraft Registration Number: N605AW	
		Occurrence Date: 08/20/2001		Most Critical Injury: Serious	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place Needles		State CA	Zip Code 92363	Local Time 0104	Time Zone PDT
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip		Distance From Landing Facility:		Direction From Airport:	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Airbus Industrie		Model/Series A320-232		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 August 20, 2001, about 0104 Pacific daylight time, an Airbus A320-232, N605AW, operated by America West Airlines as flight 579, while on a Title 14 CFR Part 121 scheduled domestic flight, encountered moderate turbulence associated with convective activity while climbing through flight level 250 near Needles, California, and continued on to Tampa, Florida. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed. An IFR flight plan was filed. The airplane was not damaged. The flightcrew of two, two flight attendants, and 135 passengers reported no injuries. One flight attendant reported serious injuries. The flight had departed Las Vegas, Nevada, at 0045, was destined for Tampa, Florida, and landed there at 0501 (0801 eastern daylight time).</p> <p>The flight was assigned a routing over Needles and Buckeye, Arizona, to avoid thunderstorm activity. The seatbelt sign was illuminated. The flight encountered moderate turbulence for approximately 5 seconds. One flight attendant, who was standing in the aft galley, struck her head and was knocked unconscious for approximately 5 minutes. The flightcrew communicated with the dispatcher, a medical advisory firm, and an onboard physician and the determination was made to continue to the destination. The flight attendant was unable to perform further duties. Upon arrival, the injured flight attendant was transported to the hospital for observation, where she remained for 48 hours.</p> <p>At the time of the accident convective SIGMET (Significant Meteorological Advisory) 12W was valid until 0655, for Arizona (AZ), Utah (UT), and Nevada (NV), and covered the area from 50 miles west of Bryce Canyon, UT, to 20 miles south of Peach Springs, AZ, to 30 miles east of Las Vegas, NV, to 50 miles south of Wilson Creek, NV, and back to 50 miles west of Bryce Canyon, UT. The SIGMET stated: ". . . AREA TS MOV LTL. TOPS ABV FL450." Area of thunderstorms moving very little. Top above 45,000 feet mean sea level.</p>					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					

 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: MIA01LA224			
		Occurrence Date: 08/20/2001			
		Occurrence Type: Accident			
Landing Facility/Approach Information					
Airport Name	Airport ID:	Airport Elevation Ft. MSL	Runway Used	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type: Unknown					
Runway Surface Condition: Unknown					
Type Instrument Approach: Unknown					
VFR Approach/Landing: Unknown					
Aircraft Information					
Aircraft Manufacturer Airbus Industrie		Model/Series A320-232		Serial Number 543	
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Transport					
Landing Gear Type: Retractable - Tricycle					
Homebuilt Aircraft? No	Number of Seats: 200	Certified Max Gross Wt.	210000 LBS	Number of Engines: 2	
Engine Type: Turbo Fan	Engine Manufacturer: Int'l Aero En	Model/Series: V2500	Rated Power: 25000 LBS		
- 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? No	ELT Operated? No	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? No			
Owner/Operator Information					
Registered Aircraft Owner International Lease Finance Corp.		Street Address 1999 Ave. of the Stars Fl 39			
		City Los Angeles	State CA	Zip Code 90067	
Operator of Aircraft America West Inc.		Street Address			
		City Phoenix	State AZ	Zip Code 85005	
Operator Does Business As: America West Airlines			Operator Designator Code: AWXA		
- 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 Only					

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: MIA01LA224
	Occurrence Date: 08/20/2001
	Occurrence Type: Accident

First Pilot Information

Name On File	City On File	State On File	Date of Birth On File	Age 46
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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 Instructor; Commercial

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? 04/2001
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Medical Cert.: Class 1	Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Date of Last Medical Exam: 07/2001
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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	13000	200								
Pilot In Command(PIC)		200								
Instructor										
Last 90 Days		200								
Last 30 Days		65								
Last 24 Hours										

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

Type of Flight Plan Filed: IFR

Departure Point LAS VEGAS	State NV	Airport Identifier LAS	Departure Time 0045	Time Zone PDT
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Destination Tampa	State FL	Airport Identifier TPA	
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Type of Clearance: IFR

Type of Airspace: Class A

Weather Information

Source of Briefing: Company

Method of Briefing: In Person

 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION	NTSB ID: MIA01LA224
	Occurrence Date: 08/20/2001
	Occurrence Type: Accident

Weather Information					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
EED	0156	PDT	620 Ft. MSL	NM	Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Clear			Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Night	
Lowest Ceiling: None		Ft. AGL	Visibility: 10	SM	Altimeter: 29.75 "Hg
Temperature: 34 °C	Dew Point: 13 °C	Wind Direction: 240		Density Altitude: Ft.	
Wind Speed: 9	Gusts:	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions			
Visibility (RVR): Ft.	Visibility (RVV)	SM	Intensity of Precipitation:		
Restrictions to Visibility: None					
Type of Precipitation: None					

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		2	3
Other Crew					
Passengers				135	135
- TOTAL ABOARD -		1		139	140
Other Ground					
- GRAND TOTAL -		1		139	140

National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION



NTSB ID: MIA01LA224

Occurrence Date: 08/20/2001

Occurrence Type: Accident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

Alan J. Yurman

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

Barry S McCoy
Air Safety Inspector
FAA
Tampa FSDO
Tampa, FL 33609