
In-flight maneuvering injury, Airbus A320-232, June 15, 2001

Micro-summary: The sudden descent of this Airbus A320-232 injured a flight attendant.


Event Date: 2001-06-15 at 1945 PDT

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

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

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|--|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
|  | | NTSB ID: LAX01LA240 | | Aircraft Registration Number: N661AW | |
| | | Occurrence Date: 06/15/2001 | | Most Critical Injury: Serious | |
| | | Occurrence Type: Accident | | Investigated By: NTSB | |
| Location/Time | | | | | |
| Nearest City/Place San Diego | | State CA | Zip Code 92112 | Local Time 1945 | 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 June 15, 2001, about 1945 Pacific daylight time, a flight attendant sustained serious injuries on an Airbus Industrie A320-232 transport category airplane, N661AW, operating as America West flight number 186, while descending for an approach into San Diego, California. America West Airlines was operating the airplane under the provisions of 14 CFR Part 121. The airline transport pilot captain, airline transport pilot first officer, the remaining 2 flight attendants, and 137 passengers were not injured. The airplane was not damaged. The regularly scheduled domestic passenger flight departed Phoenix, Arizona, about 1900 mountain standard time as a nonstop flight to San Diego. Instrument meteorological conditions prevailed and an IFR flight plan had been filed.</p> <p>According to the flight safety office at America West, the flight was inbound to San Diego and descending through 13,000 feet near Pillo intersection when a flight attendant in the aft cabin fell and struck her head. According to the injured flight attendant, the flight crew initiated a sudden descent, which caused her to lose her balance and fall. The captain reported to the airline that air traffic control had held them at 13,000 feet for traffic reasons until just before they reached Pillo intersection, then cleared the flight to descend on the standard arrival route. Pillo intersection is about 39 miles from the airport.</p> <p>Captain Statement</p> <p>According to the captain's written statement, they were descending into San Diego via the Baret 4 arrival when they encountered moderate turbulence. The flight crew was later informed that the 2nd flight attendant "had fallen due to apparent dizziness." The flight crew then called ahead to have paramedics meet the airplane at the gate.</p> <p>First Officer Statement</p> <p>According to the first officer's written statement, during level off at 11,000 feet msl, the flight encountered light turbulence that "caused a momentary overspeed condition with appropriate aural/ECAM warnings. This disconnected the autopilot and would not allow it to reengage." The first officer advised the captain that the autopilot was disconnected and he started a manual level off. Once the airplane slowed, the flight crew reengaged the autopilot and landed without any further incidence.</p> <p>Following the turbulence encounter, the flight crew learned that the 2nd flight attendant fell and was injured during the turbulence event while she was standing near the overwing position.</p> <p>Flight Attendant Statement</p> <p>According to the flight attendant's written statement, she was in the cabin collecting trash prior to landing. When she was in the overwing area of the cabin she felt a "bump," but didn't think</p> | | | | | |
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National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION

SAFETY BOARD

NTSB ID: LAX01LA240


Occurrence Date: 06/15/2001


Occurrence Type: Accident

Narrative (Continued)

much of it. The airplane then "descended rapidly" and the flight attendant fell, hitting her head and back on something. She subsequently lost consciousness. When she awoke, she was assisted to a 1st class seat for the remainder of the flight.

The following day, the first officer called the flight attendant to apologize, telling her they had to make an unannounced descent to make the landing air traffic control cleared them for. He added that they did not encounter turbulence.

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|  National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION | | NTSB ID: LAX01LA240 | | | |
| | | Occurrence Date: 06/15/2001 | | | |
| | | Occurrence Type: Accident | | | |
| Landing Facility/Approach Information | | | | | |
| Airport Name | Airport ID: | Airport Elevation Ft. MSL | Runway Used NA | 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 1284 | |
| Airworthiness Certificate(s): Transport | | | | | |
| Landing Gear Type: Retractable - Tricycle | | | | | |
| Homebuilt Aircraft? No | Number of Seats: 156 | Certified Max Gross Wt. | 170635 LBS | Number of Engines: 2 | |
| Engine Type: Turbo Fan | Engine Manufacturer: International Aero Engines | Model/Series: V2527/A5 | Rated Power: 27000 LBS | | |
| - Aircraft Inspection Information | | | | | |
| Type of Last Inspection AAIP | 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 America West Airlines, Inc. | | Street Address 4000 E. Sky Harbor Blvd. | | | |
| | | City Phoenix | State AZ | Zip Code 85034 | |
| 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: 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 | | | | | |
| FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION | | | | | |

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|  <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p> | NTSB ID: LAX01LA240 |
| | Occurrence Date: 06/15/2001 |
| | Occurrence Type: Accident |

First Pilot Information

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Name On File | City On File | State On File | Date of Birth On File | Age 58 |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------|

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sex: M | Seat Occupied: Left | Principal Profession: Civilian Pilot | Certificate Number: On File |
|--------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Certificate(s): Airline Transport

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? |
|---|---------------------------------|

| | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Medical Cert.: Class 1 | Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim. | Date of Last Medical Exam: 08/2001 |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|

| - 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 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Last 90 Days | | | | | | | | | | |
| Last 30 Days | | | | | | | | | | |
| Last 24 Hours | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Seatbelt Used? Yes | Shoulder Harness Used? Yes | Toxicology Performed? No | Second Pilot? Yes |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|

Flight Plan/Itinerary

Type of Flight Plan Filed: IFR

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Departure Point Phoenix | State AZ | Airport Identifier PHX | Departure Time 1900 | Time Zone MST |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------|

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|---|-------|---------------------------|--|
| Destination Same as Accident/Incident Location | State | Airport Identifier SAN | |
|---|-------|---------------------------|--|


Type of Clearance: IFR

Type of Airspace: Class B

Weather Information

Source of Briefing: Unknown

Method of Briefing: Unknown

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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: Day |
| Lowest Ceiling: Unknown | | | Ft. AGL | Visibility: 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): 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 | | | | 137 | 137 |
| - TOTAL ABOARD - | | 1 | | 141 | 142 |
| Other Ground | | | | | |
| - GRAND TOTAL - | | 1 | | 141 | 142 |

National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION



NTSB ID: LAX01LA240

Occurrence Date: 06/15/2001

Occurrence Type: Accident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

George E. Petterson

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

Tyrone Park
Aviation Safety Inspector
Federal Aviation Administration
San Diego, CA 92123