

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Vehicle Recorder Division
Washington, D.C. 20594

January 13, 2016

Personal Electronic Device

Specialist's Factual Report
By Jane Foster

1. EVENT SUMMARY

Location: Saranac Lake, New York
Date: August 7, 2015
Aircraft: Piper PA-46-500TP
Registration: N819TB
Operator: Private
NTSB Number: ERA15FA297

On August 7, 2015, about 1750 eastern daylight time, a Piper PA-46-500TP, N819TB, registered to Majestic Air LLC and operated by a private individual, was destroyed during collision with terrain, shortly after takeoff from Adirondack Regional Airport (SLK), Saranac Lake, New York. The private pilot and three passengers were fatally injured. The personal flight was conducted under the provisions of *14 Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and an instrument flight rules flight plan was filed for the planned flight to Greater Rochester International Airport (ROC), Rochester, New York.

2. GROUP

A group was not convened.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Division received the following personal electronic device (PED):

Device Manufacturer/Model:	Apple iPad (4 th Generation)
Serial Number:	DMPKW77QF187

3.1. Device Description

The Apple iPad is a tablet computer with a high-resolution color touch-screen interface. All iPad devices support WiFi and Bluetooth connectivity, and use memory for storage. Some devices also support data connectivity via cell-phone networks. The iPad implements its functionality by running programs called "Apps" capable of supporting

web-browsing, email, audio/video playback, contact and calendar management, and numerous other specialized functions. User-installed Apps can be used to support functionality for electronic flight bags, flight planning and filing, aviation weather depiction, and electronic flight charts. Application data is stored in non-volatile memory and may include image, video, and position information. Specialized application data may be stored in a proprietary file structure using numerous proprietary file formats. The amount and type of data stored varies based on the software version and configuration of the specific device.

3.2. Data Recovery

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Laboratory, the iPad had excessive thermal damage. Figures 1 and 2 show the front and back of the iPad as received.



Figure 1. Front of iPad as received.



Figure 2. Back of iPad as received.

4. DEVICE INVESTIGATION

4.1. Apple iPad

The main board was able to be put into a surrogate device for download. However, the device was passcode protected, preventing further data download.