



A00-041-7183

# SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

## ACCIDENT EXECUTIVE REPORT

<b>Date of Accident</b>	16 April 2000	<b>Time of Accident</b>	0715 Z		
<b>Aircraft Registration</b>	<b>ZS-LFD</b>	<b>Type of Aircraft</b>	<b>Beech A36</b>		
<b>Pilot-in-command Licence Type</b>	Private		<b>Licence Valid</b>	Yes	
<b>Pilot-in-command Flying Experience</b>	Total Flying Hours	347.90	Total Hours on Type	234.78	
<b>Type of Operation</b>	Private				
<b>Last point of departure</b>	Grand Central Airport				
<b>Next point of intended landing</b>	Virginia airport				
<b>Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)</b>					
Grootvlei near Vaaldam (Mpumalanga)					
<b>Meteorological Information</b>	The weather was fine and temperature +18 C				
<b>Number of people on board</b>	1	<b>No. of people injured</b>	Nil	<b>No. of people killed</b>	1
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>On Sunday morning at approximately 0233 Z, the aircraft departed from Grand Central Airport on a private flight to Virginia Airport. No flight plan was submitted by the pilot. According to JNB ATC, the aircraft was flying at FL135 when the pilot elected to divert back to Grand Central in the FADN FIR due to the weather. The aircraft crossed the Johannesburg FIR inbound at 0451Z, maintaining FL140. Johannesburg ATC requested the pilot to remain clear of Johannesburg TMA which the pilot acknowledged.</p> <p>At 0526Z, the aircraft was about 45nm from JSV when Johannesburg ATC requested the pilot several times on frequencies 126.7 MHz and 119.5 MHz to remain clear of JHB TMA but received no response from the pilot. An Airline pilot also made a transmission to the pilot; "LFD, Johannesburg is calling you", but also received no response.</p> <p>At 0534Z, the aircraft was 26nm from JSV on Radial 208° when Johannesburg ATC established contact with the pilot. The tower requested the pilot to turn left and to descent clear of the TMA. Although the pilot did not acknowledge the request, he executed a left-hand turn and started descending slowly as observed on radar. Johannesburg tower then attempted several times to re-establish contact with the pilot but again received no response from the pilot. The aircraft disappeared from the radar screen 43nm South of JSV at approximately 0545Z.</p> <p>The aircraft was observed by two witnesses flying very low above the maize field in a southerly direction before it disappeared out of sight above the maize field. The aircraft landed in the field with both wings and the horizontal stabilizer leading edges damaged on impact with the maize stalks. The fuselage and cockpit area were only slightly damaged. However, two CAA investigators arrived at the accident site and found the pilot dead with a gunshot wound to his head.</p>				
<b>Probable Cause of Accident:</b>					
1) Deliberate landing in an unsuitable terrain. (According to the Post Mortem report, the pilot died as a result of a gunshot wound to the skull and brain).					