

## N3254B AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UPDATE

June 19, 2024

Investigations continue into the aircraft accident involving Univair Aircraft Corporation (Formerly Engineering & Research Corporation) ERCO 415-C aircraft, Registration No. N3254B at Hampstead, St. Mary on May 5, 2023. The Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA), which has responsibility for the investigation has indicated that they are awaiting a report of the engine teardown examination to complete the Airworthiness Group Report, this will form the basis for preparation of the Draft Final report. This Draft Final Report is expected to be completed within one month of the receipt of the engine teardown report.

Once the Draft Final Report is complete, it will be sent out as a confidential document to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) of the U.S.A, which in this case represents the State of Registry, Design and Manufacture. The NTSB will then be invited to distribute the report to its technical advisors and send in any comments within 60 days to the Investigator In Charge, for his consideration. Thereafter, the Final Report will be prepared for submission to the Minister.

Preliminary factual reports submitted by the investigating team have revealed the following:

- The Univair 415-C aircraft, registration N3254B, operated in the private category took off from Tinson Pen Aerodrome in Kingston at 9:00am local time on May 5, 2023, with two souls onboard for the Ian Fleming International Airport in Boscobel, St. Mary.
- Visual Meteorological Conditions prevailed in the area. The aircraft was flying on a Visual Flight Rules Flight Plan.
- Radar contact of the aircraft was lost at 9:13am local time, approximately 15.5 nautical miles north of Tinson Pen Aerodrome and 1.3 nautical miles west of Castleton Botanical Gardens
- Enroute to Ian Fleming International Airport, the engine shut off but was restarted, it ran for a short time and then shut off again, after a few attempts the pilot was unable to restart the engine.
- The aircraft subsequently impacted terrain in an area called Hampstead, St. Mary. The approximate coordinates were 18018'48.90" N 76054'5.89" W at an altitude of 373ft MSL.
- The pilot was fatally injured, and the passenger was seriously injured.
- The aircraft was substantially damaged from impact with trees and the ground.

- The aircraft was manufactured by Engineering & Research Corporation (now Univair Aircraft Corporation) on April 4, 1946, it was a model (ERCO) 415-C, with Serial No. 1018.
- The aircraft was fitted with a shoulder harness in accordance with FAA Policy Statement Number ACE 00-23.561-01.
- The aircraft came to rest in a near vertical position, all four corners of the aircraft were observed at the crash site, the engine and propeller were attached to the airplane.
- The Meteorological report indicated that the wind at IFIA was from the east, 100 degrees true, variable between 30 degrees and 170 degrees, at five knots. The visibility was recorded to be greater than 10 Kilometers while clouds were broken at 2600 feet.
- There was no reported unserviceability of any aeronautical mobile or aeronautical fixed service communications system on the day of the accident.
- An autopsy was performed on the pilot on May 22, 2023.
- The wreckage of the aircraft was removed from the crash site to IFIA.
- The engine was removed and sent for teardown examination at the engine manufacturer's facility in Mobile, Alabama, USA.

The JCAA continues its investigation of this event and will provide additional updates as progress is made.