

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803448**

Aero Commander 500-S

16 April 1988

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forward speed, high vertical speed, in a steep nose down, right wing low attitude. The pilot was very experienced, and it is considered to be most unlikely that he would allow such a situation to develop, or that he would attempt any unusual manoeuvre at low altitude near the mountain. There is no evidence to suggest that aircraft may have failed structurally, or that the pilot would not have been able to cope with any situation, other than that which had the potential to cause a sudden loss of consciousness. Pathology disclosed evidence of a heart condition in the pilot which could have caused sudden death or incapacity. The pilot's last medical examination, conducted in February 1988, had included an ECG. Had the pilot suffered incapacitation, the crewman, seated in the cabin behind the pilot would have had insufficient time, due to the low operating altitude, to correct the situation.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. Control of the aircraft was lost whilst it was in close proximity to the mountain. The cause of the loss of control could not be determined.