Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198903828

Hiller UH12-E

29 December 1989

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198903828 Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Bribie Island QLD

Date: 29 December 1989 **Time:** 900

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	2	2
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	2

Aircraft Details: Hiller UH12-E
Registration: VH-FBH
Serial Number: 5081
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Caloundra QLD

Departure Time: 0830

Destination: Caloundra QLD

Approved for Release: 10th May 1990

Circumstances:

During a practice low level circuit, the engine failed, accompanied by a loud bang. During the subsequent forced landing, the helicopter rolled on to its right side. Later examination of the engine revealed that the number three connecting rod had failed at the crankshaft and pierced the crankcase. The connecting rod showed signs of metal fatigue. However, no manufacturing defects were identified near the fracture surface nor was any assembly-related fault established. This accident was not the subject of an on-scene investigation.

Significant Factors:

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

- 1. Engine failure as a result of a broken connecting rod.
- 2. The connecting rod failed from metal fatigue for reasons which were not determined.