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NTSB Identification: MIA03WA052

On December 27, 2002, about 1800, local time, a Cessna 208B, Belize registration, V3-HGH, registered to and operated by Tropic Air, as a foreign scheduled commuter flight, impacted the Atlantic Ocean, during an approach to land at San Pedro Airport, Belize. Instrument meteorological conditions prevailed in the area at the time, and an instrument flight rules flight plan was filed. No injuries were reported to have been received by the Belize pilot and 13 passengers, and the airplane incurred substantial damage. The flight originated in Belize City, the same day, about 1630.

According to information provided by the Belize Department of Civil Aviation, rain showers were in the area at the time, and the visibility was poor. The accident airplane was executing an approach to land at San Pedro Ambergris Caye, in Belize, and was about 2.5 miles away from the runway threshold, at an altitude of about 400 feet. The official further stated that the pilot started reducing power to maintain a speed of 120 knots for flap deployment, when suddenly there was an indication of a 1,000 feet per minute descent rate on the VSI. The pilot increased power to initiate a climb, however the airplane continued to descend and impacted the water incurring damage.

This investigation is under the jurisdiction of the Government of Belize. Any further information can be obtained from:

Director of Civil Aviation
Department of Civil Aviation
P.O. Box 367
Belize City, Belize

Telephone: 501-225-2052
Facsimile: 501-225-2533

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