



MEDIA RELEASE

Aircraft accident between Yalumet and Saidor Gap, Morobe Province, 23 December 2017

At 2.19 pm today, Saturday 23 December 2017, the Accident Investigation Commission was informed by PNG Air Services Limited (PNGASL) that a Britain Norman Islander aircraft, registered P2-ISM, and operated by North Coast Aviation, was overdue on a flight from Derim Aerodrome, to Nadzab Airport, Morobe Province.

The satellite signal received by the operator from the tracking device on board the aircraft indicated that the aircraft was stationary between Yalumet and the Saidor Gap. PNGASL controllers did not hear a distress broadcast, and other aircraft on the radio frequency also did not report hearing a distress broadcast.

Search aircraft subsequently located the aircraft. Information received by the AIC indicates that the aircraft impacted steep and heavily timbered terrain, at an elevation of 9,500 ft above sea level, on a ridge on the Yalumet side of the Saidor Gap area, between Yalumet and the Gap. The nearest airstrip is about 6 NM from the accident site.

The pilot survived the accident and contacted the operator by radio. The extent of his injuries is not known.

The AIC has commenced an investigation AIC 17-1004. Investigators will travel to the site on Sunday 24 December. It is hoped that vegetation and terrain close to the accident site will be suitable to enable a helipad to be established.

A preliminary report will be issued within 30 days.

Approved:

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Chief Commissioner

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