

NA-104 Occurrence Investigation

Executive Summary

On November 4th, 2018, the National Airborne Service Corps (NASC), Ministry of Interior, an AS-365 helicopter, registration No. NA-104, took off from Kaohsiung International Airport at 1715 to carry out a sea emergency medical hoist up rescue mission, with 5 crewmembers on board. At about 1726, while hoisting the patient, the patient fell off the stretcher into the sea from the air and a hoisting was carried out again, the patient was pronounced dead after returned to the Kaohsiung International Airport for medical treatment.

According to the Republic of China (ROC) Transportation Occurrence Investigation Act and the content of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, the Taiwan Transportation Safety Board (TTSB), an independent transportation occurrence investigation agency, is responsible for conducting the investigation. The investigation team also included members from National Airborne Service Corps and Coast Guard Administration of Ocean Affairs Council.

The draft “Final Report” of the occurrence investigation was completed in June 2019. In accordance with the procedure, it was reviewed at TTSB's 80th Board Meeting of Aviation Safety Council (ASC, the predecessor of TTSB) on 25th Jun, 2019 and sent to relevant organizations and authorities for comments. After comments were collected and integrated, the Final Report was reviewed and approved by TTSB's 4th Board Meeting on 4th October 2019. This report concluded with 1 finding and no transportation safety recommendation.

Findings Related to Probable Causes

1. The patient greatly flailed his arms, and was unable to stop his action

during hoisting through request. The patient started slid outward from the safety belt of the stretcher, then fell out from the tilted stretcher and dropped into the sea.