AI2022-1

AIRCRAFT SERIOUS INCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

JAPAN COAST GUARD J A 3 9 3 A

January 20, 2022



The objective of the investigation conducted by the Japan Transport Safety Board in accordance with the Act for Establishment of the Japan Transport Safety Board (and with Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation) is to prevent future accidents and incidents. It is not the purpose of the investigation to apportion blame or liability.

TAKEDA Nobuo Chairperson Japan Transport Safety Board

Note:

This report is a translation of the Japanese original investigation report. The text in Japanese shall prevail in the interpretation of the report.

《Reference》

The terms used to describe the results of the analysis in "3. ANALYSIS" of this report are as follows.

- i) In case of being able to determine, the term "certain" or "certainly" is used.
- ii) In case of being unable to determine but being almost certain, the term "highly probable" or "most likely" is used.
- iii) In case of higher possibility, the term "probable" or "more likely" is used.
- iv) In a case that there is a possibility, the term "likely" or "possible" is used.

AIRCRAFT SERIOUS INCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

LOWER PART OF AFT FUSELAGE CONTACT ON RUNWAY DURING GO-AROUND JAPAN COAST GUARD TEXTRON AVIATION 172S, JA393A KITAKYUSHU AIRPORT, FUKUOKA PREFECTURE AT 11:30 JST, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

January 7, 2022 Adopted by the Japan Transport Safety Board Chairperson TAKEDA Nobuo Member MIYASHITA Toru Member KAKISHIMA Yoshiko Member MARUI Yuichi Member NAKANISHI Miwa Member TSUDA Hiroka

1. PROCESS AND PROGRESS OF THE INVESTIGATION

1.1 Summary of the	On Wednesday, February 3, 2021, a Textron Aviation 172S, registered			
Serious Incident	JA393A and belonging to Japan Coast Guard (Kitakyushu Aviation Training			
	Center of the Japan Coast Guard School Miyagi Branch) , executed go-around			
	due to an instable attitude in landing during solo flight training, and the			
	lower part of the aft fuselage contacted on the runway surface at Kitakyushu			
	Airport.			
	A trainee who was alone on board the incident aircraft was not injured.			
1.2 Outline of the	The occurrence covered by this report falls under the category of "Case			
Serious Incident	where any part other than landing gear of an aircraft contacted on the			
Investigation	ground in landing" as stipulated in Clause 3, Article 166-4 of the Ordinance			
	for Reinforcement of the Civil Aeronautics Act of Japan and is classified as			
	a serious incident.			
	On February 3, 2021, the Japan Transport Safety Board (JTSB)			
	designated an investigator-in-charge and an investigator to investigate the			
	serious incident.			
	The serious incident was notified to the United States of America as			
	the State of Design and Manufacture of the aircraft involved in the serious			
	incident. The State did not appoint its accredited representative and			
	adviser.			
	Comments were invited from parties relevant to the cause of this			
	serious incident and the Relevant State.			

2. FACTUAL INFORMATION

2.1 History of the	According to the statements of a flight trainee (hereinafter referred to as			
Flight	"the Trainee"), a flight instructor who was supervising the solo flight			
1	(hereinafter referred to as "the Instructor") and an aircraft traffic controller of			
	Airport Traffic Control Tower at Kitakyushu Airport office (hereinafter referred			
	to as "the Kitakyushu Tower"), the history of the flight is summarized as follows:			
	The Instructor conducted preflight briefing for approximately 30			
	minutes from 08:30 JST (JST: UTC+9 hours, unless otherwise noted, all			
	times are indicated in JST in this report on a 24-hour clock) on February 3,			
	2021 for cross country navigation training (hereinafter referred to as "the			
	Cross Country Solo Flight") to confirm weather conditions, physical			
	conditions and check points necessary for the flight of the day, and judged			
	that the solo flight was practicable as all of the safety criteria pertaining to			
	solo flights defined in the education regulations of Kitakyushu Aviation			
	Training Center (hereinafter referred to as "the Center") of the Japan Coast			
	Guard School Miyagi Branch were met.			
	Besides, the aircraft basic course educated in the Center consists of			
	a private pilot stage and a subsequent commercial pilot stage. Solo flights			
	in the private pilot stage are conducted in the order of traffic pattern			
	flight and takeoff and landing (three times), air maneuvering (three			
	times), and cross country navigation (twice) making a total of eight times.			
	The serious incident was a first cross country navigation, or a seventh			
	flight as a solo flight.			
	The Cross Country Solo Flight plan of the aircraft had expected			
	departure time of 09:40 and expected arrival time of 11:40.			
	The aircraft took off from runway 36 at Kitakyushu Airport at 09:51			
	with the Trainee sitting in the left pilot seat.			
	After having conducted the Cross Country Solo Flight in Setonaikai			
	sea after takeoff, the aircraft headed for Kitakyushu Airport.			
	Based on the solo flight supervising procedures of the Center, the			
	Instructor was on board the instructor aircraft, took off prior to the			
	aircraft and was flying approximately 8 nm behind the aircraft so as to			
	land following the aircraft after supervising the aircraft in the air.			
	The aircraft requested landing instruction to the Kitakyushu Tower at			
	11:24 and was notified by the Kitakyushu Tower of runway 36 in use, wind			
	direction 270°, and crosswind at wind velocity of 12 kt. While the Trainee understood that the limitation for crosswind			
	component of the runway in solo flight was 10 kt, he continued approaching			
	judging that safe landing was practicable from the experience of landing in			
	similar level of crosswind with an instructor on board.			
	Besides, the limitation for crosswind component of the runway with an			
	instructor on board training was 15 kt against 10 kt for solo flight.			
	The Instructor heard the wind information the Kitakyushu Tower			
	notified to the aircraft and judged that landing at Kitakyushu Airport, where			
	the Trainee had experienced the same level of crosswind landing during an			
	and manue nau experienceu die same iever of crosswind fanding during an			

instructor-onboard training was more appropriate than diverting to another airport, which was not a destination aerodrome and the Trainee had never experienced to land at.

The aircraft received landing clearance, wind direction 280degrees, and wind velocity 9 kt from the Tower at 11:27.

In view of a slightly strong crosswind and the solo flight by the Trainee, the Tower notified the wind information twice as described below after landing clearance:

at 11:28:41 "Wind check 270 at 12"

at 11:29:24 "Wind check 280 at 13"

While the Trainee recognized crosswind from the wind information notified by the Tower, he or she judged that safe landing was practicable and continued approaching since the aircraft kept a stable attitude. The Trainee also understood that westerly winds caused the air stream to be disturbed by influence of buildings such as a terminal building, etc. located in the west side of the runway when approaching runway 36, and therefore approached attentively.

Although attitude of the aircraft began to be slightly instable by rough air around the time it entered over an airport island^{*1}, the aircraft passed runway threshold with flap extended to full down and at approach speed (65 kt) and approach angle in accordance with the landing procedures (hereinafter referred to as "the Landing Procedures") as stipulated in the aircraft training procedures of the Center.

It is often the case that rough air calms down after passing runway threshold. However, it did not calm down and the Aircraft continued its approach under slightly instable condition.

Although the aircraft took the landing attitude with power set at idle position at 30 ft above ground level (AGL), attitude of the aircraft remained instable. The Trainee, who was focusing on maneuvering thinking that safe landing was still practicable, confusedly performed nose-up maneuvering by pulling control column since the aircraft was shaken by the winds at approximately 10 ft AGL and sunk. The Trainee performed further nose-up maneuvering because the aircraft did not stop sinking. The Trainee, however, thought that excessively pulling the control column was dangerous and set the throttle to maximum after deciding to execute go-around. The aircraft turned to climb immediately after the Trainee had felt an abnormal noise like "gong" and impact, which sounded like main landing gears and tail section simultaneously grounded.

The Trainee continued go-around and landed after receiving another landing clearance from the Kitakyushu Tower. Wind direction and wind velocity notified at this time were 290 degrees and 13 kt, and landing was stable without rough air.

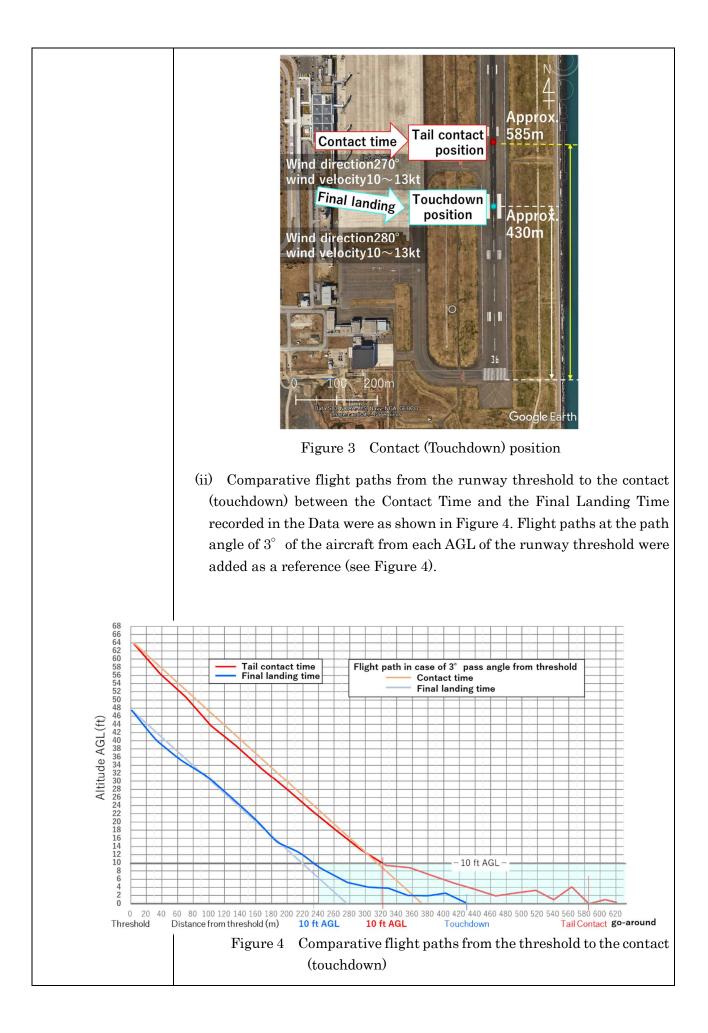
^{*1 &}quot;airport island" means an artificial island where an airport is built.

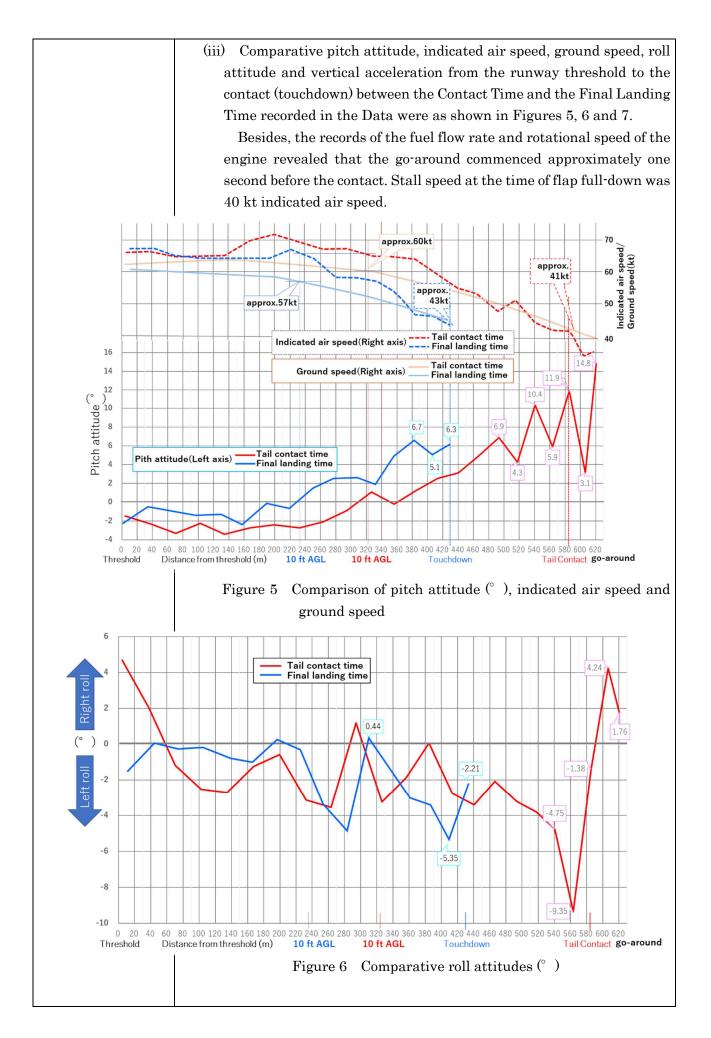
	The Instructor aircraft was scheduled to land following the aircraft, which was suspended due to go-around the aircraft executed and landed after the aircraft had finished landing. The aircraft taxied to apron after landing and shut down the engine. The Trainee reported to an instructor, who was on standby for post- flight inspection, that the lower part of the aft fuselage possibly contacted on the runway surface. In post-flight inspection by the instructor, it was confirmed that the lower part of the aft fuselage had abrasion marks and a tie-down ring ^{*2} was ruptured at the root.			
	Besides, the tie-down ring was found on the touchdown area of the runway, and abrasion marks, which were seemingly caused by the contact			
	with the aircraft, were confirmed on the nearby runway surface.			
	The serious incident occurred on the runway at Kitakyushu Airport (33'50"23 N, 131'02"11 E) at 11:30.			
2.2 Injuries to	None			
Persons				
2.3 Damage to the	(1) Extent of damage: slightly damaged			
Aircraft	(2) Damage conditions of the aircraft (see Figure 1)			
	Lower part of the aft fuselage: abrasive marks of approximately 13 cm			
	long and approximately 4 cm wide			
	Tie down ring: Ruptured			
	Figure 1 Damage conditions of the aircraft			
	 (3) Runway conditions Two abrasive marks (approximately : 30 cm and 10 cm long) with approximately 40 cm interval were confirmed on the runway approximately 580 m from runway 36 threshold and approximately 2 m to the right from the centerline (see Figure 2). Besides, the tie down ring of the aircraft was found near the said position. 			

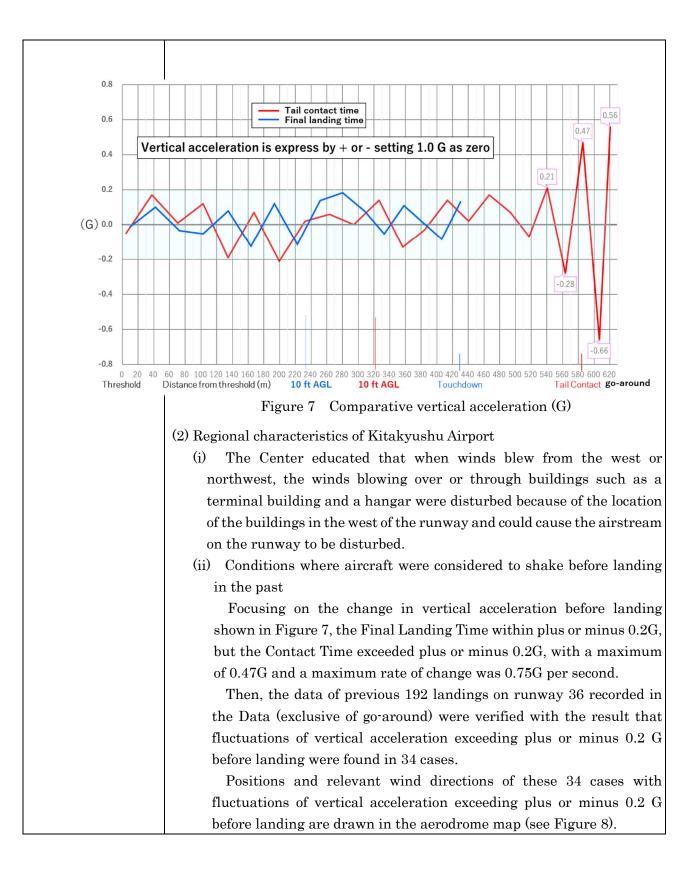
^{*2} "tie-down ring" means a ring on the airframe side and is used to tie down the airframe to the spot with a rope or the like when the aircraft parks at the spot at the time of severe winds.

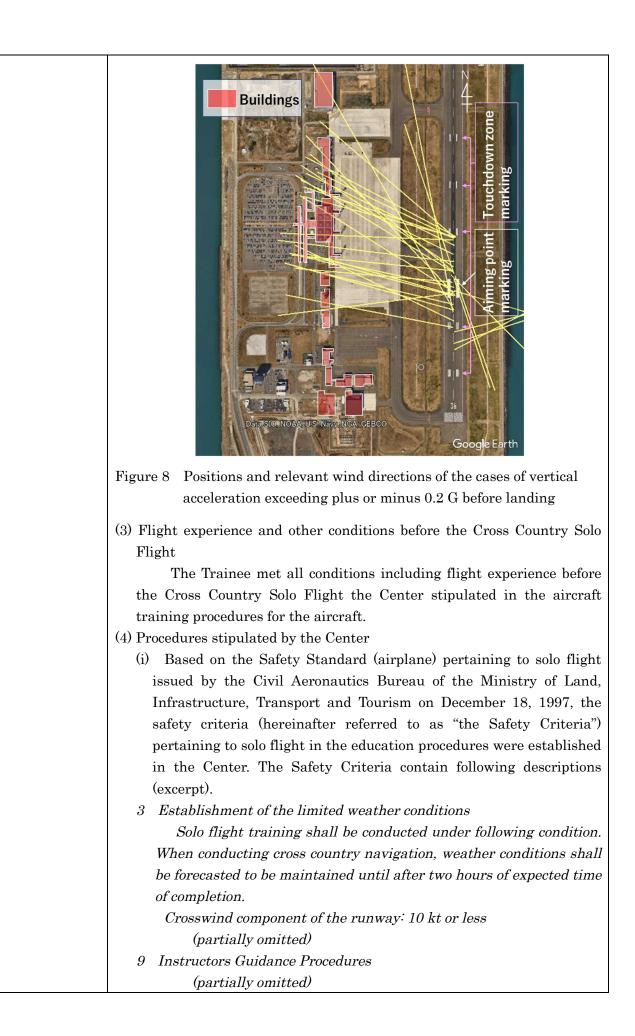
	Centerline Landing Approx. 1 Approx. 2 Approx. 2 Tomm 2 Figure 2 Runway surface	direction		
2.4 Personnel	(1) JA393A (the aircraft)			
Information	Trainee: Age 25			
	Student pilot permit DAISO 204 issued on March 18			
	Total flight time	50 hours 10 minutes		
	Total flight time on the type of aircraft	50 hours 10 minutes		
	Flight time in the last 30 days	8 hours 15 minutes		
	(2) Instructor aircraft			
	Instructor: Age 54			
	Commercial pilot certificate (airplane) January 23, 20			
	Flight instructor certificate	December 4, 1997		
	Total flight time	11,290 hours 33 minutes		
	Total flight time on the type of the aircraft	198 hours 12 minutes		
	Flight time in the last 30 days	14 hours 20 minutes		
2.5 Aircraft	Aircraft type	Textron Aviation 172S		
Information	Serial number	172S11733		
	Date of manufacture	November 3, 2016		
	Certificate of airworthiness	DAI-2020-369		
	Validity	October 25, 2021		
	Total flight time	453 hours 31 minutes		
	When the serious incident occurred, weight	and position of the center of		
	gravity of the aircraft were within allowable ra	nges.		

2.6 Meteorological Information	 (1) Weather forecast for the time relevant to the serious incident at Kitakyushu Airport was as described below, and a maximum value for crosswind component of the runways until 2 hours after expected time of completing the flight was 8 kt. (i) Terminal aerodrome forecast (TAF) 08:09 24008KT 9999 FEW030 SCT040 BECMG 9:00/11:00 31013KT (reference: crosswind component of the runway 8 kt) 						
	/.	BECMG 18:00/20:		D6KT		1	0
	(1	i) Aerodrome time-series (excerpt)	forecast	released	at 08 o'clo	ock on Fel	oruary 3
		Time (hour)	till 10	till 11	till 12	till 13	till 14
		Wind	250/10	310/13	310/13	310/13	310/13
		direction/velocity (degrees/kt)					
		Crosswind component of the runway (kt)	9	8	8	8	8
	K	Observations of Aviation Titakyushu Airport at the			_		
		Time of observation (time: minute)10:0011:0012:00			2:00		
		Wind direction (degree	es)	250	290	e e	300
		Wind velocity/maximum instantaneous wind velocity 10 (kt)			13	13 14/24	
					10 or m	10 or more	
2.7 Additional Information	 (1) Record of flight data in the integrated flight deck The aircraft was installed with the integrated flight deck (GARMIN G1000) that can display and record various flight data. Flight data logging function of the system recorded flight data (hereinafter referred to as "the Data") since April 2017. Besides, the Data were recorded every second. (i) Contact position of the approach when the lower part of the aft fuselage contacted on the ground (hereinafter referred to as "the Contact Time") recorded in the Data was approximately 585 m from runway 36 threshold, and touchdown position at the final landing time (hereinafter referred to as "the Final Landing Time") was approximately 430 m from runway 36 threshold (see Figure 3). 						









(2) Instancton in all owner married as the instance in flight with instance in
(3) Instructor in charge provides trainees in flight with instructions
as needed.
(i) instructions such as suspension of flight, etc. associated with
change in weather conditions
(partially omitted)
10 Knowledge, skill and experience required for trainees
(2) Approval of skill
(i) safe takeoff and landing can be performed
(ii) safe go-around can be performed
(partially omitted)
(3) Experience verification
(i) NO-FLAP and FULL-FLAP landings
(ii) Landing in crosswind
(omitted)
(ii) Solo flight supervising procedures of the Center contain following
descriptions (excerpt).
Navigation training solo instructor supervising procedures and
flight operation aid procedures (addressed to instructors)
(partially omitted)
2 Points
(1) Instructor aircraft
<i>Instructor aircraft does not always fly ahead but flies randomly</i>
(partially omitted).
(4) Interval between solo aircraft and instructor aircraft
Instructor aircraft departs 10 minutes prior to solo aircraft
as a standard and performs approach landing after solo aircraft
for supervising.
Instructor aircraft provides instructions as needed.
(omitted)

3. ANALYSIS

3.1 Involvement of	Yes		
Weather			
3.2 Involvement of	Yes		
Pilots			
3.3 Involvement of	None		
Aircraft			
3.4 Analysis of	(1) Crosswind component of the runway in solo flight		
Findings	The JTSB concludes that the judgement of conducting training		
	flight was certainly appropriate since the weather forecast the		
	Instructor and the Trainee confirmed prior to the flight was such that		
	crosswind component of the runway (10 kt or less) stipulated in the		
	Safety Criteria was maintained until two hours after the aircraft had		
	been scheduled to be completed.		

runway du exceeding t was observ flight, win requested 1 270° at 1 aircraft ob 270° at 12 and 280° a (2) Analysis of (i) Analys	
Figure 4 Comparati flight route from runw threshold t the contact (touchdown	highly probable that this is response of the aircraft to the nose-up control inputs since the Trainee stated that he or she confusedly performed nose-up maneuvering by pulling control column because the aircraft was shaken

	Distance from 10 ft AGL to tail contact: approx. 260 m distance from 10 ft AGL to touchdown: approx. 200 m -10 ft AGL - 0 220 240 260 280 300 320 340 360 380 400 420 440 460 480 500 520 540 560 580 600 620 10 ft AGL 10 ft AGL Touchdown Tail Contact go-
Figure 5 Pitch attitude, indicated air speed, and ground speed	 Pitch attitude Pitch attitude at the Contact Time suddenly turned to nose down from the previous nose up at the position of approximately 490 m from threshold, which was then followed by diverging the fluctuation of nose up and nose down repeatedly.

	T		
	it is possible that wind direction at the Contact		
	Time was more westerly than the Final Landing		
	Time.		
	Besides, indicated air speed at the Contact		
	Time was 41 kt, less than indicated air speed (43		
	kt) at the Final Landing time, both of which,		
	however, maintained stall speed or higher.		
	At the Contact Time, left roll became large		
	forming left roll angle of 9° immediately before		
	contact. Then, rapid roll to the right occurred and		
	contacted. Roll rate at that time was as high as		
	8° /second, which is probable to have been		
Figure 6	difficult to be corrected by instantly steering.		
Roll attitude	The right roll is likely to have generated by		
non autoude	relative increase of the ratio of crosswind		
	component from the left against air speed as a		
	result of the decreased air speed.		
	At the Final Landing Time, approach was		
	conducted with left wing-low method in response		
	to left crosswind.		
	At the Contact Time, vertical acceleration		
Figure 7	tends to diverge in conjunction with the pitch		
Vertical	attitude and fluctuated from plus to minus.		
acceleration	At the Final Landing Time, vertical		
	acceleration was stable staying within 0.18 G.		
(ii) From Figu	are 8, in the case of shaking by vertical acceleration		
exceeding pl	us or minus 0.2 G before landing in the touchdown zone		
of runway 3	36, northwesterly winds blowing from the west were		
dominant.			
In the cas	e of the winds from between west to northwest, it is		
possible that	t the touchdown zone that was on the leeward of the		
buildings wa	as influenced by the hangar wave since the airport		
building and	hangar were located in the said direction. Besides, the		
positions wh	nere aircraft shook varied even in the same wind		
direction. It	is probable that this was due to the extent, which was		
influenced by	y the hangar wave, widely ranged from north to south		
since the bu	ildings were also located widely ranging from north to		
south at the	south at the airport.		
In addition	n, the aircraft had different contact locations, touchdown		
locations, an	d wind directions at the Contact Time and the Final		
Landing Tim	Landing Time, and it is possible that the aircraft at the Contact Time		
was influence	was influenced by the hangar wave more severely than the Final		
Landing Tim	le.		

(3) Contact conditions of the lower part of the aft fuselage

The aircraft executed go-around because of the instable attitude at a low altitude. The JTSB concludes that it is probable that the tiedown ring contacted on the runway surface and ruptured before turning to climb and the outer skin of the lower part of the aft fuselage subsequently contacted the runway surface that caused two abrasive marks to generate on the runway surface since the aircraft was performing nose-up steering to halt descent and because of the nose-up effect by maximized output during go-around.

(4) Compliance with the Safety Criteria

The JTSB concludes that the aircraft is probable not to have met the limitation for the crosswind component of the runway defined in the Safety Criteria in approaching at the time of the serious incident and in approaching for the subsequent final landing.

It is probable that this was based on the Trainee's judgements that the safe landing was practicable this time as he or she had an expericence of safety landing in previous training with an instructor on board in similar level of crosswind, and the Instructor's judgment that there would be no problem in landing the aircraft based on the Trainee's previous experiences. However, it is probable that these decision lacked awareness of the importance of complying with the standard and criteria established to ensure safety.

The aircraft should have executed go-around when it recognized that the crosswind component of the runway did not meet the Safety Criteria and should have received instructions from the Instructor aircraft. Besides, the Instructor aircraft should have instructed the aircraft to suspend approach and hold in the air when it recognized that the crosswind component of the runway did not meet the Safety Criteria of the aircraft and should have made decision with the Center whether to re-approach to the airport or to divert to another airport taking estimated weather conditions and the skill and experiences, etc. of the Trainee into consideration.

In addition, it is probable that it is necessary for the Center to have the trainees experience such as by landing at alternative airports with an instructor before the Cross Country Solo Flight, so that they can make the right decision on landing at an airport other than their destination (divert) when necessary.

(5) Grasping the regional characteristics

The Center recorded and accumulated training flight data. The JTSB concludes that it is possible that criteria for judging whether to continue or discontinue training can be established based on the regional characteristics of the airport, which are easy to be affected by the hangar wave, by analyzing correlation between the occurrence of aircraft shaking and the wind direction and wind velocity since such data include landing data.

4. PROBABLE CAUSES

The JTSB concludes that the highly probable cause of this serious incident was that the aircraft executed go-around due to the instable attitude at a low altitude when performing landing approach, but the lower part of the aft fuselage contacted on the runway surface before turning to climb.

It is probable that the instable attitude of the aircraft at the low altitude was contributed by the turbulence the aircraft encountered immediately before touchdown and the significant nose up maneuvering performed under such an influence.

5. SAFETY ACTIONS

Kitakyushu Aviation Training Center of the Japan Coast Guard School Miyagi Branch has taken following measures as safety actions:

- (1) Revision of the Solo flight supervising procedures
 - (i) Reviewing the procedures whether to conduct solo flight or not

In the case that forecasted wind direction is between 270° and 280° , crosswind component of the runway is computed by assuming that wind velocity with 20 % increment is a virtual wind velocity. Besides, a monitoring aircraft conducts weather conditions survey (including air current conditions in approach landing) beforehand as needed to decide to conduct training or not.

(ii) Modification of the Supervising procedures

Instructors supervise overall training at the Center, let a monitoring aircraft with other instructor on board to fly prior to a solo flight aircraft, report weather conditions and aircraft conditions to the Center, and provide necessary advice to the solo flight aircraft. When the monitoring aircraft judged that training is to be suspended due to aggravated weather conditions, etc., it reports the situations to the Center and instructs the solo flight aircraft to return to the airport.

(iii) Clarifying response at the time of aggravated weather conditions, etc.

When crosswind component of the runway is expected to exceed the Safety Criteria, a solo flight aircraft in approach landing executes go-around and a monitoring aircraft first performs approach landing to determine landing of the solo flight aircraft.

When crosswind component of the runway does not exceed the Safety Criteria and approach landing is determined to be practicable, the monitoring aircraft provides necessary advice (confirmation of go-around procedures and air stream conditions, etc.) with the solo flight aircraft.

When approach landing is judged to be impracticable, the monitoring aircraft instructs the solo flight aircraft to hold in the air or divert to an alternate aerodrome for landing.

- (2) Wind direction and wind velocity in takeoff and landing are recorded in the training instruction sheet to grasp educational situations of crosswind takeoff and landing of trainees.
- (3) Education on landing to all trainees
 - (i) Education on the ground
 - Reeducated situations where go-around is to be executed and attention to be paid in executing go-around.
 - Reeducated procedures for go-around using a simulator.

(ii) Training on board aircraft

- Additional training (continuous takeoff and landing training) was planned and conducted to evaluate skill for takeoff and landing and go-around.
- Takeoff and landing or go-around training was additionally conducted in navigation training after trainees, who had had a blank period, had resumed training although a syllabus of navigation training does not include a takeoff and landing course.

(4) Others

Reviewing suitable airports as alternatives for the Cross Country Solo Flights, and coordinating familiarization flight training using the same airports with an instructor on board before the Cross Country Solo Flights.