

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION C-17A, T/N 07-7189 FOB SHANK, AFGHANISTAN 23 JANUARY 2012

On 23 January 2012, at approximately 0749 Zulu (1219 Local), a C-17A Globemaster III aircraft, tail number 07-7189, assigned to the 437th Airlift Wing, Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, landed on runway 34R at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Shank, Afghanistan. The mishap aircraft (MA) was unable to stop, departed the prepared runway surface, struck an embankment, and came to rest approximately 700 feet from the end of the runway. The MA sustained damage to the landing gear, cargo floor, undercarriage, antennas, and main structural components. There were no passengers, fatalities, significant injuries, or damage to civilian or other military property. The estimated cost to repair the MA is \$69.4 million.

The 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, operated the MA from Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The mishap crew consisted of the Mishap Pilot (MP), Mishap Copilot (MCP), Mishap First Pilot, Mishap Loadmaster 1, and Mishap Loadmaster 2. Additionally, a Mishap Flying Crew Chief was assigned as mission essential personnel.

The accident investigation board (AIB) president found, by clear and convincing evidence, that the cause of the mishap was the MP and MCP failed to identify that the landing distance required to safely stop the aircraft exceeded the runway length. Additionally, the AIB president found by the preponderance of evidence, that failure to assess runway conditions for fixed wing operations at FOB Shank substantially contributed to the mishap.

Under 10 U.S.C. § 2254(d) the opinion of the accident investigator as to the cause of, or the factors contributing to, the accident set forth in the accident investigation report, if any, may not be considered as evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding arising from the accident, nor may such information be considered an admission of liability of the United States or by any person referred to in those conclusions or statements.