

## Piper PA-31-350 Navajo Chieftan, G-IFIT

<b>AAIB Bulletin No: 5/2004</b>	<b>Ref: EW/G2004/02/01</b>	<b>Category: 1.2</b>
<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Piper PA-31-350 Navajo Chieftan, G-IFIT	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	2 TIO-540-J2BD piston engines	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1980	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	6 February 2004 at 1255 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	No 1 Stand, Cardiff Airport, South Glamorgan	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Training	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 2	Passengers - None
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Fin damaged	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Commercial Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	39 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	1,230 hours (of which 396 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 26 hours	
	Last 28 days - 18 hours	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft was being taxied to parking at Cardiff Airport. As the aircraft approached the ramp area a marshaller, who was standing between two parked Shorts 360 aircraft, indicated to the commander that he should pass to the marshaller's left, complete a 180° turn, and park between and parallel to the Shorts 360s pointing in the same direction.

As the commander taxied between the two parked aircraft he lost sight of the marshaller. He asked the right cockpit seat occupant to watch the right wing tip to ensure it was clear of obstacles and started a left 180° turn. Shortly after commencing the turn both crew members felt a 'thud' and the commander brought the aircraft to a halt just as the marshaller reappeared indicating that the aircraft should stop. The commander shut down the engines and both crew members vacated the aircraft uninjured. The fin of the PA-31 had struck the wing of one of the Shorts 360s causing damage to the top of the rudder and fin of the PA-31 and to the underside of the Shorts 360's right wing.

In his report the commander considered that the accident had been caused by not stopping soon enough once he had lost sight of the marshaller.