

Accident

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-23-250, N13987
No & Type of Engines:	2 Lycoming TIO-540-C4B5 piston engines
Year of Manufacture:	1971 (Serial no: 27-4605)
Date & Time (UTC):	23 June 2022 at 1435 hrs
Location:	Auguste George Airport, British Virgin Islands
Type of Flight:	Commercial Air Transport (Passenger)
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Right main landing gear collapsed, propeller and flap damage
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	47 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	8,000 hours (of which 3,000 were on type) Last 90 days - 80 hours Last 28 days - 30 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and further AAIB enquiries

The pilot reported that the landing was normal, but the right main landing gear collapsed rearwards as the aircraft slowed during the rollout. The pilot was uninjured.

Investigation by the aircraft operator's maintenance agency identified that the right main landing gear drag bolt had broken. Similar failures have occurred on other PA-23 type aircraft, and the manufacturer issued Service Bulletin 1299 in January 2017 to periodically check (and replace) the bolts. The FAA issued Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin (SAIB) CE-17-08 in February 2017 recommending that operators comply with the manufacturer's bulletin. They did not consider the failure to be an unsafe condition, so an Airworthiness Directive was not issued.

The aircraft operator told the AAIB that they periodically checked the bolts in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, but no anomalies had been found. After the accident, they said that they will replace the drag bolts on all their PA-23 aircraft.