

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199702583**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
Chieftain**

28 April 1997

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 199702583 **Occurrence Type:** Incident
Location: 10km S Jandakot, Aerodrome
State: WA **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Monday 28 April 1997
Time: 1000 hours **Time Zone** WST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-31-350
Aircraft Registration: VH-KGE **Serial Number:** 31-7752114
Type of Operation: Miscellaneous Search and Rescue
Damage to Aircraft: Nil
Departure Point: Jandakot Wa
Departure Time:
Destination: Jandakot WA

Approved for Release: Thursday, August 14, 1997

The date and timing of the occurrence are approximate only.

The aircraft was being used, on behalf of Airservices Australia, to conduct air tests on the static-line used with the PADS supply dropping system. A flat-strap static line, with a cone attached, was trailed behind the aircraft and its movement observed on a video camera. The tests indicated that the line could oscillate severely under certain conditions. On one of the test flights the line oscillated until it collided with the rear fuselage. The aircraft was not damaged and its flying characteristics were not effected. The line was pulled in and a normal landing completed.

As a result of the tests, the flat-strap line was replaced with a round line and the cone modified. Subsequent tests indicated that this configuration was stable and the oscillations were not repeated.

