U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration

Task Force Report: V-Tail Bonanza Investigation

January 1986

In the summer of 1984 the FAA Administrator, in response to a request from the American Bonanza Society, initiated an investigation to determine whether the V-Tail Bonanza airplane has a greater occurrence rate of in-flight structural failures than other airplanes of similar size and performance.

This report provides the results of an extensive study of the Beech Aircraft V-Tail Bonanza by the Transportation Systems Center (TSC), as requested by the Federal Aviation Administration. The intent of this study was to determine conclusively whether there were or were not characteristics in the design of the V-Tail Bonanza that contributed to in-flight structural failures. The study provided no immediate concerns provided the airplane is operated within the approved flight envelope.

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