

# in the Street



haste, the crew inadvertently overlooked the entry. This step was critical because it usually triggers QA to inspect the door before the aircraft is released for flight. Of course, that entry never took place. Had it been done, though, they would have found that the doorframe's emergency-jettison pin had not been threaded through the door's top hinge bolt. Without that pin, the top hinge of the door was in a jettison profile before it left the ground.

In this particular case, the perceived pressure on the crew to "make it right" as quickly as possible may have been quite significant. However, it does not differ dramatically from the significant pressure applied every day to meet operational commitments. Regardless of its source, the constant worry to complete maintenance must be managed effectively to safeguard procedures and to ensure attention to detail.

With regards to late-night athletics, this crew's activities certainly were good-natured and were designed to be innocent. They, however, did result in unnecessary damage to an aircraft, and perpetuated a mishap chain that could have had more serious consequences.

Lt. Wetzell flies with the Coast Guard in Savannah, Ga.

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