

## Mid-air Lightning Strikes

Submitted by LCDR Bruce DeWald, USN (Ret)

Okay, so you're the pilot of a plane. It's on auto-pilot and you're catching up on People magazine and having a cup of coffee. Suddenly, the loudest sound you will ever hear goes off just behind your left ear. You're blinded by the flash and can't hear and even your co-pilot is concerned! All you can feel is something warm running down your leg accompanied by the thoughts "I should have gone to the bathroom earlier" and "I knew I should have retired!!"



A pilot sent these photos of an Atlantic Southeast Airlines/Delta Connection aircraft, after it suffered a lightning strike.

**Can one honestly say: "Mid-air lightning strikes are of no concern?"**