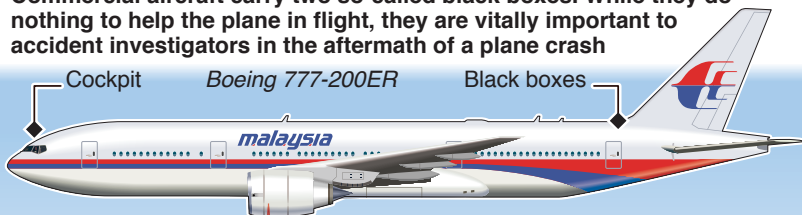


Black boxes vital in reconstructing accidents

Commercial aircraft carry two so-called black boxes. While they do nothing to help the plane in flight, they are vitally important to accident investigators in the aftermath of a plane crash



Solid State Flight Data Recorder

Power supply

Crash Survivable Memory Unit:

Stainless steel or titanium CSMU can withstand impact 3,400 times force of gravity

Cockpit Voice Recorder

Units record for 25 hours

122mm

Interface and Controller Board:

ICB records some 3,000 flight parameters, including airspeed, altitude, how engines are working, status of key systems – autopilot and autothrottle – and position of wing flaps and rudder

Flash memory

Insulation and thermal block:
Protection up to 1,100°C

Underwater Locator Beacon:

Transmits from depth of 6,000m, every second for 30 days