



PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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June 23, 2025

T-6A Accident Investigation Board Report Released

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas - Today, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command officials released the aircraft accident investigation board report for the T-6A Texan II mishap at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, that occurred May 13, 2024.

The mishap occurred while the aircraft was taxied to park following a training mission. The instructor pilot inadvertently actuated the ejection seat handle, ejecting from the aircraft. The instructor pilot was not connected to the parachute and suffered non-survivable injuries upon impact. The student pilot did not eject and suffered no injuries.

The board president found, by preponderance of the evidence, that the mishap was caused by the instructor pilot failing to fully install the ejection seat safety pin during the after landing checklist. Additionally, during taxi, the instructor pilot partially disconnected from the rear cockpit ejection seat system, including the parachute. During that process of disconnecting from various connection points to the ejection seat, the instructor pilot's harness chest strap V-ring unknowingly got caught on and inadvertently actuated the ejection seat control handle, initiating the ejection sequence.

The instructor pilot and student pilot were both assigned to the 80th Operations Support Squadron and flew with the 89th Flying Training Squadron which are both subordinate units to the 80th Flying Training Wing at Sheppard AFB.