



AIR COMBAT COMMAND

News Release

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Ground accident investigation board report released for motor vehicle crash at Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. – Air Combat Command released a ground accident investigation board report today regarding the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle accident that claimed the life of a tactical air control party specialist at the Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range, Kansas on June 8, 2021.

The Airman, Staff Sgt. Wesley Kubie, 30, was a Kansas Air National Guardsman assigned to the 284th Air Support Operations Squadron, 184th Wing, McConnell AFB, Wichita, Kansas. Two other tactical control party specialists in the vehicle were injured.

The three Airmen were scheduled to conduct close air support training missions in support of a B-52 from Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota and two F-16s from the South Dakota National Guard. The incident took place in the early afternoon as they were traveling on a gravel road between observation points on the range.

The vehicle skidded while entering a curve in the road, spinning until it was perpendicular to the road. The right front tire then got caught in the dirt, causing the vehicle to roll over one and a half times before coming to rest on its roof. All three Airmen were ejected from the vehicle. Kubie sustained fatal injuries and died shortly after being airlifted to McPherson Hospital. The driver and front passenger were treated for injuries at Salina Regional Health Center.

The primary purpose of the GAIB report is to provide a publicly releasable summary of the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident. GAIBs do not issue an opinion as to the cause of the accident.

For more information, contact Air Combat Command Public Affairs at (757) 764-5007 or email accpa.operations@us.af.mil.

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