



PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Headquarters Air Education and Training Command
Office of Public Affairs
100 H Street East, Suite 4
JBSA-Randolph, TX 78148

Phone – (210) 652-4400
www.aetc.af.mil

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – Today, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command officials released the Accident Investigation Board report from the T-38C aircraft incident at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi, Nov. 7, 2022.

During an instructor continuation training sortie with no students and about four minutes after takeoff and 15 miles south of Columbus AFB, the aircraft was struck by a bird, that hit and shattered the front cockpit canopy. Pieces of the shattered canopy entered both engines which caused the left engine to immediately seize and a compressor stall in the right engine. This resulted in insufficient thrust required to maintain level flight.

The mission pilot ejected safely with non-life threatening injuries and was recovered by local county emergency services. The aircraft, valued at \$8,500,000 was completely destroyed.

The aircraft was assigned to the 49th Fighter Training Squadron, which is under the 14th Flying Training Wing at Columbus AFB.

Air Education and Training Command officials take every measure to ensure the safety of aircrews, while delivering superior flight training for the Air Force. AETC is committed to using the lessons learned from this investigation to prevent similar mishaps from happening again.