



# PRESS RELEASE

*UNITED STATES AIR FORCE*

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## **Accident investigators find foreign object debris as cause for aircraft mishap**

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas** – Today, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command officials released the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board report from the F-35A maintenance incident at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, March 15, 2023.

During a maintenance ground run conducted by a maintenance team assigned to the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit under the 56th Fighter Wing, an F-35A engine was damaged by foreign object debris. An incomplete tool kit inventory and failure to comply with joint-service technical data guidance prior to engine start, resulted in a handheld flashlight being ingested into the engine and damaging the aircraft. The damage to the aircraft occurred while on the ramp.

No individuals were harmed during the mishap. The foreign object damaged the \$14 million engine beyond local repair.

Air Education and Training Command officials take every measure to ensure the safety of aircrews. AETC officials are committed to using the lessons learned from this investigation to prevent similar mishaps from happening again.