



PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Headquarters Air Education and Training Command

Office of Public Affairs

aetc.pao@us.af.mil

100 H Street East, Suite 4

JBSA-Randolph, TX 78148

(210) 652-4400

Accident investigation find pilot's decision not to engage emergency brake system caused aircraft mishap

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – Today, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command officials released the aircraft accident investigation board report for the F-15D mishap incident at Kingsley Field Air National Guard Base, in Klamath Falls Oregon, May 15, 2023.

Following a routine training mission, the pilot of an F-15D experienced a utility hydraulic malfunction. The pilot terminated the mission, declared an inflight emergency and returned to base. Upon landing, the aircraft experienced a total utility system hydraulic failure, resulting in total loss of normal braking.

The board president found, by preponderance of the evidence, that the mishap was caused by the pilot electing not to engage the aircraft's emergency brake/steer system. The board president also identified two factors which substantially contributed to the mishap. The local tower controller misinterpreted the pilot's radio transmission and lowered the departure-end arrestment cable removing the last available runway arrestment option. Additionally, maintenance personnel failed to perform required maintenance procedures and documentation leading up to the accident.

The aircraft skidded off the runway and crashed into an irrigation canal. The pilot, who is assigned to the 173rd Fighter Wing egressed safely from the aircraft. The aircraft, valued at \$35,536,444 was destroyed.