



## AIR COMBAT COMMAND News Release

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### **MQ-9A ABBREVIATED ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT RELEASED**

**JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va.** –Air Combat Command announced the release of its Abbreviated Accident Investigation Board report today regarding the Dec. 16, 2024 crash of an MQ-9A Reaper into the Mediterranean Sea.

The mishap resulted in a complete loss of the aircraft, valued at \$13.1 million, however no fatalities, injuries, or reported damage to civilian property occurred.

The aircraft belonged to the 432nd Wing at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada. At the time of the mishap, the aircraft was operated remotely by a Mission Control Element pilot and sensor operator assigned to the 20th Attack Squadron out of Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri.

The investigation board president determined the cause of the mishap was a failure within the Splined Coupling Assembly, which led to a sudden and permanent mechanical decoupling of the propeller from the engine resulting in an unrecoverable loss of thrust. The board president was unable to discern the definitive root cause of the Splined Coupling Assembly failure by a preponderance of evidence because the aircraft wreckage was unrecoverable.

Additionally, there was insufficient evidence to conclude there were any substantially contributing factors.

The AAIB report can be viewed at [https://www.afjag.af.mil/Portals/77/AIB-Reports/2024/16DEC24%20ACC%20MQ9A%20CREECH%20AFB%20AIB%20REPORT.pdf?ver=8FOzqsF\\_VpHwfrnv6xGjYQ%3d%3d&timestamp=1753889513790](https://www.afjag.af.mil/Portals/77/AIB-Reports/2024/16DEC24%20ACC%20MQ9A%20CREECH%20AFB%20AIB%20REPORT.pdf?ver=8FOzqsF_VpHwfrnv6xGjYQ%3d%3d&timestamp=1753889513790).