



# PRESS RELEASE

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

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**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas** – Today, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command released its Accident Investigation Board report from the T-6A Texan II aircraft incident that occurred May 1, 2019, about 21 miles northeast of Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

The Accident Investigation Board president found by a preponderance of the evidence that the cause of the mishap was pilot error resulting from pilot fixation that led to an aerodynamic stall and then failure to follow the prescribed memorized critical-action recovery checklist.

The mishap crew included an instructor pilot from the 97th Flying Training Squadron in the rear seat, who was supervising an Italian air force pilot, from the 89th Flying Training Squadron, during training maneuvers.

While setting up a transition sortie as part of the Pilot Instructor Training Course, the instructor pilot flew the aircraft in an unrecognized nose-high altitude with insufficient airspeed and high-power setting resulting in a power-on, inverted departure from controlled flight. The instructor pilot failed to apply appropriate emergency checklist procedures, causing degradation and ultimate loss of aircraft control necessitating both pilots to eject from the aircraft.

Both pilots ejected and sustained minor injuries. There was no loss of civilian property. The aircraft was destroyed upon impact. The cost of the aircraft is about \$5.7 million.

While commonly practiced during continuation training and in the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Instructor Training syllabus, out-of-control flight is only performed in airspace clear of clouds. Once in the clouds, the crew lost the ability to recognize altitude, turn direction, and rate of turn. This coupled with inverted flight contributed to the crew's failure to remedy the out-of-control flight condition.

The 89th FTS is comprised of 60 personnel from 13 signatory NATO nation, and members there train more than 100 student pilots and 24 instructor pilots annually in support of Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program.

Air Education and Training Command takes every measure to ensure the safety of its 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.