

News from the Oklahoma Army National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oklahoma Air National Guard pilots uninjured in mid-air incident over Kansas

TULSA – The National Guard pilot, who was forced to eject from his F-16 “Fighting Falcon” on Monday over southern Kansas after his jet collided with another F-16, was treated for slight injuries at the McConnell Air Force Base Clinic in Wichita, Kansas, last night and released. The other pilot involved in the incident was not injured and flew his jet back to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where it landed safely.

“Our Airmen are our most valuable asset because they protect the United States from our adversaries, said Col. David Burgy, commander of the 138th Fighter Wing. “Fortunately both pilots are going to be alright and have been reunited with their families.”

The pilots, assigned to the 138th Fighter Wing, were conducting an Air Combat Maneuvering training mission in designated airspace when they inadvertently came together about 2:20 p.m. The 138th is an operational F-16 unit that routinely trains in designated airspace over sparsely populated areas. The unit is responsible for projecting American air power.

“The main thing is no one was hurt on the ground and our pilots weren’t seriously injured or killed,” said Col. Max Moss, an Oklahoma National Guard spokesman. “The Air Force will conduct a thorough investigation of the incident and we have the upmost faith in the investigatory process.”

The 138th Maintenance Group, also based in Tulsa, is currently assessing the damage to the aircraft that landed there.

“After the investigation is completed, additional information will be made available to the public,” said Moss. “The names of the pilots will not be released at this time”.