

NEWS RELEASE

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Student Pilot Successfully Ejects from T-6

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. – A Columbus Air Force Base T-6 Texan II primary trainer crashed at approximately 5:50 p.m. July 9 in a sparsely populated area of Webster County, Mississippi, approximately forty miles west of Columbus AFB. At the time of the accident, the T-6 aircraft was conducting flight training operations and had one student pilot on board.

The pilot, an international officer in the Aviation Leadership Program, ejected safely from the T-6 trainer. Following medical evaluation at a local hospital, the student pilot has returned to Columbus AFB.

The name and nationality of the student pilot is being withheld pending coordination with the officer's embassy.

The USAF Aviation Leadership Program is a scholarship for undergraduate flying training. The scholarship also includes English language training for countries not exempt from English testing. English language training is provided at the Defense Language Institute, with follow on aviation training at Columbus AFB.

Columbus AFB will continue T-1A and T-38C pilot training operations today with T-6A operations expected to resume this weekend.

An investigation board has been convened to investigate the accident.

Additional details will be provided as soon as they become available.

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