F-16C, S/N 96-5028 LUKE AFB, ARIZONA 19 MAY 2004

On 19 May 2004 at 2136 Pacific Daylight Time the pilot of an F-16 aircraft was killed when the aircraft he was flying impacted the ground near Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The Republic of Singapore Air Force pilot and mishap aircraft, a 56th Fighter Wing, 425th Fighter Squadron F-16C (serial number 96-5028), were stationed at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. The aircraft was destroyed and recovered. The aircraft crashed onto the Tohono O'Odham Nation away from any man-made structures with incidental damage to the immediate surrounding terrain and vegetation. No other injuries or death resulted.

The mishap aircraft was on a night opposed surface attack tactics mission with a flight of three F-16 aircraft. The mishap occurred on the second engagement between the three aircraft when the mishap aircraft executed a maneuver from approximately 14,000 feet mean sea level that resulted in the mishap aircraft impacting the ground in a nearly vertical dive. There was no attempt by the mishap pilot to eject.

The AIB President found in his opinion that the cause of the mishap was either G-induced loss of consciousness or spatial disorientation. No contributing factors were found with the condition of the aircraft, supervision, flight leadership, training, or health of the mishap pilot.

Under 10 U.S.C. 2254(d) any opinion of the accident investigators as to the cause of, or the factors contributing to, the accident set forth in the accident investigation report may not be considered as evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding arising from the accident, nor may such information be considered an admission of liability of the United States or by any person referred to in those conclusions or statements.