

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BOARD

T-38C, S/N 64-3277

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS

22 FEBRUARY 2007

On 22 February 2007, T-38C tail number 64-3277 assigned to the 435th Fighter Training Squadron, 12th Flying Training Wing, Randolph Air Force Base, TX, crashed after the flaps extended in flight. The crash occurred at 12:17 CST in an uninhabited patch of brush and trees approximately 47 miles southwest of Lackland AFB, TX. The mishap pilot (MP) ejected with only minor injuries and the mishap aircraft (MA) was destroyed.

The mishap occurred on a 2-ship Offensive Basic Fighter Maneuvers (OBFM) training mission. After completing an OBFM engagement, the flaps on the mishap aircraft (MA) extended at approximately 390 knots calibrated airspeed resulting in an abrupt aircraft pitchdown. The left flap rod 'Y' broke as the flaps extended, causing the left flap to raise to a streamline position while the right flap remained down, resulting in an uncommanded aircraft left roll. This led to an unrecoverable condition. The MP ejected safely with only minor injuries. The MA was destroyed upon impact at a loss valued at \$6.7M. Property damage was limited to ground depression, damaged trees, and fuel and hydraulic contamination.

Clear and convincing evidence establishes the MP inadvertently extended the flaps on the MA above the flap limit speed causing the left flap rod to fail. This led to an unrecoverable condition and a proper decision by the MP to eject.

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.