

United States Air Force Ground Accident Investigation Board Report

On-Duty Fatality Moody Air Force Base, Georgia 21 January 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 21 January 2010, a 23-year-old active duty Senior Airman, Participant 1 (P1), of the 824th Security Forces Squadron (SFS), Moody Air Force Base (AFB), Georgia, collapsed and died while running as part of a practice Army Physical Fitness Test. There were no other injuries resulting from this mishap.

P1 was being timed on the two-mile run and collapsed after approximately 1.6 miles. Very shortly after he collapsed, a bystander who was driving by saw P1 lying in a prone position on the running track and stopped to assist. P1 was moaning and unable to get up, so the bystander immediately notified personnel in the air traffic control tower on base, who in turn notified emergency response personnel. Other personnel arrived on scene in less than 2 minutes. They observed that P1 was unresponsive and were unable to feel a pulse. They turned P1 over onto his back and confirmed he was not breathing and did not have a palpable pulse. They immediately began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). CPR was continued until the ambulance arrived 10 minutes later at approximately 0800L. The emergency medical responders took over CPR and attached a cardiac monitor to P1, which showed his heart rhythm was asystole. They followed the advanced cardiac life support protocol for asystole. P1 was placed onto the ambulance, which departed immediately for a hospital approximately 10 miles from the base. During transit CPR was continued, P1 was intubated without incident, and an intravenous line was established. P1 was given epinephrine and atropine. Despite the interventions, there was no change in P1's condition. The ambulance arrived at the hospital at 0827L. The emergency department specialists continued resuscitation efforts without result. A doctor from the admitting hospital declared P1 dead at 0852L.

The autopsy report determined P1 died from sudden cardiac death (SCD) likely caused by hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (an enlarged heart muscle) and a hypoplastic (underdeveloped) right coronary artery. Although hypertrophic cardiomyopathy can occur at any age, it is the most common finding associated with sudden cardiac death in young individuals. The second most common autopsy finding of young individuals who have died of SCD is an abnormal cardiac blood vessel. P1 had both conditions.