

United States Air Force Ground Accident Investigation Board Report

On-Duty Fatality Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas 18 August 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 18 August 2010, at approximately 0615 local time (L), a 21-year-old active duty, Senior Airman (P1), collapsed while running as part of a scheduled physical fitness training (PT) session and was pronounced dead two days later on 20 August 2010 (Tab W). P1 was assigned to the 99th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Nellis AFB, NV but was on Temporary Duty (TDY) at the 364th Training Squadron, Sheppard AFB, TX for a Refueling Equipment Maintenance class.

At approximately 0545L, P1 and his classmates arrived at the Sheppard AFB running track for their weekly unit physical fitness training (PT). Several other organizations, including the 82nd Medical Squadron, were also running on the track that day. The 1-mile track is a narrow oval approximately ½ mile long on each side. After Reveille sounded at 0600L, P1 and his class started their 2-mile run. After stopping briefly, as if to tie a shoe, P1 got back up and started running again. Then around the 1.6 mile mark at approximately 0615L, a classmate witnessed P1 stop running, hunch over with his hands on his knees, followed quickly by taking a knee and rolling to the ground. Several runners close to P1 on the track were the first to reach him as he lay face down in the grass just off the inside of the track. P1's breathing was forced and erratic; he had a pulse but was unresponsive to voice commands. At approximately 0622L, a nurse practitioner joined the group and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was called. At the same time, the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) located at the track was brought to the scene by another bystander.

After a few moments P1's pulse and breathing stopped. The Nurse and other medical professionals started CPR while the AED was hooked up and powered on. CPR was continued for several cycles, including two AED shocks, at that point the ambulance arrived. CPR was then continued with a facemask and fresh person on compressions, and fire truck support was called in. While P1 was prepped for movement to the ambulance, the AED recommended CPR and no shock. P1 was then loaded into the ambulance with the EMTs and W1. Approximately one minute later, the AED recommended a third shock which was delivered. EMTs then removed the AED and hooked up the ambulance defibrillator and an intravenous line. At 0642L, the Ambulance left for the hospital while EMTs continued resuscitation efforts, including two shocks from the defibrillator. The ambulance arrived at the hospital at 0653L and P1 was transferred to the Emergency Room (ER).

The Doctors and Nurses were able to stabilize P1 a few hours later and he was admitted to the hospital. After multiple tests confirmed no brain activity, his Next-of-Kin (NoK) authorized suspension of life support measures. P1 was taken off of drugs and ventilator, and he was pronounced dead at 1600L on 20 August 2010. The autopsy report determined P1 died from sudden cardiac death (SCD) resulting from an arrhythmia caused by an enlarged heart muscle.