

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
GROUND ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BOARD REPORT  
ON-DUTY FATALITY  
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, LACKLAND AFB, TEXAS  
19 OCTOBER 2011**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On 19 October 2011, at approximately 0540 local time, an Air Force male basic trainee at Joint Base San Antonio, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, was found to be unsteady and disoriented after completing his Air Force physical training progress check and later died. There were no other injuries resulting from this incident.

The Trainee of Concern was found to be unsteady and disoriented after completing the 1 1/2 mile run portion of the Air Force physical training progress check. Two basic trainees recognized his distress and notified a military training instructor and on-scene medical technician. With assistance, the Trainee of Concern was escorted towards the dispensary, but became weak and was helped to the ground. At approximately 0608 local time the Trainee of Concern became unresponsive, pulseless, and stopped breathing. CPR was begun and additional medical assistance was called for. The responding ambulance arrived on scene at 0612 local time and administered Advanced Cardiac Life Support. At 0632 local time, the Trainee of Concern was transported to Southwest General Hospital. The Trainee of Concern arrived at Southwest General Hospital at 0642 local time and care was transferred to the emergency department staff. The Trainee of Concern continued to have cardiac dysrhythmias (abnormal rhythm). At 0724 local time, he went into pulseless electrical activity (heart was beating but not pumping blood). At 0744 local time, the Trainee of Concern was pronounced dead by Southwest General Hospital emergency room staff.

The autopsy report indicated the Trainee of Concern was Sick Cell Trait positive and died from a cardiac dysrhythmia (abnormal rhythm) as a result of a vaso-occlusive crisis (clogging of red blood cells in the veins and arteries) due to significant sickle (abnormal) red blood cells induced by physical exertion.