



NEWS RELEASE

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Pilot in F-16 mishap released from hospital, investigation ongoing

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – The pilot who safely ejected from an F-16 Fighting Falcon earlier today is in good condition and has been released from a local hospital.

The fighter jet assigned to the 49th Wing crashed at approximately 11:50 a.m. in the White Sands National Park around five miles west of the base.

Holloman personnel are working closely with local authorities, specifically the White Sands National Park staff, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the public and first responders, and to protect the integrity of the crash site.

The White Sands National Park remains open to visitors however, the area past mile marker 3 is closed. All patrons are advised to avoid the area for their safety and to preserve the integrity of the investigation. For updated park closure information visit <https://www.nps.gov/whsa/planyourvisit/conditions.htm>

“I want to take the time to personally thank our partners in the local community—the White Sands National Park, New Mexico State Police, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Otero County Sheriff’s Office Do and the U.S. Army Air Flight Detachment, for their support today,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Justin Spears, 49th Wing commander. “They were vital in the response efforts. On days like today, we are incredibly proud to be part of this amazing community.”

An investigation conducted by a board of qualified officers is underway to determine the cause of the incident.

All questions and queries should be directed to 49th Wing Public Affairs at 49wg.paoffice@us.af.mil or 575-572-7381.

The 49th Wing mission at Holloman AFB is to conduct F-16 Fighting Falcon and MQ-9 aircrew training. The F-16 is a compact, multi-role fighter aircraft and were flown in numerous conflicts including Operation Desert Storm, Operation Allied Force, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraqi Freedom.