



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AETC releases report on Airman's death at SERE specialist course

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, Texas – Headquarters Air Education and Training Command today released the report of its Ground Accident Investigation Board investigating the July 7, 2016 death of an Airman attending SERE Specialist Training Orientation Course (SST-OC) at JBSA-Camp Bullis.

Based on his condition at initial discovery and on post-mortem examination, the report determined Airman First Class Kenneth Sturgill's death to be accidental, caused by heat stroke (hyperthermia).

Airman Sturgill was found unresponsive at the end of a six-hour solo living exercise. Previously, multiple safety checks during the day by Air Force instructors had found him not to be in distress. Attempts by both military and civilian medical personnel to revive him proved unsuccessful.

Airman Sturgill, from Livermore, California, completed Air Force Basic Military Training June 3, 2016 and started the SST-OC June 20.

The SERE Selection School solo living exercise simulates conditions students might encounter if isolated, as well as demonstrates the physical and mental rigors of being a SERE specialist. The course is the first step for all SERE specialists and has been conducted at JBSA-Lackland since 1992. Prior to this, the course had no fatalities.

To access the full report, please visit our AETC media room at <http://www.aetc.af.mil/Media-Room/Press-Products/>.

For more information contact the AETC Public Affairs Office at (210) 652-4400.