

# NEWS RELEASE

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, 167th AIRLIFT WING  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Civilian Pilot Dies When Aircraft Crashes at Thunder Over the Blue Ridge Air Show**

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – A T-28 aircraft crashed at about 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011, during an acrobatic demonstration at the 2011 Thunder Over the Blue Ridge Open House & Air Show hosted at the 167<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing in Martinsburg.

The aircraft was piloted by a single civilian pilot, who died as a result of the crash. The plane was a T-28 aircraft with the Trojan Horse T-28 demonstration team, a civilian aerobatics group that tours the nation performing at air shows.

Pending confirmation of notification of next of kin through official channels, no identifying information will be released.

No one on the ground was injured as a result of the incident, and no other aircraft were damaged. The crash site was distant from any spectators.

The incident is under investigation by federal and local authorities, who are now in control of the scene.

“We were fortunate that the safety measures put in place by the Federal Aviation Administration ensured the safety of those on the ground,” said Maj. Gen. James Hoyer, adjutant general of the West Virginia National Guard. “Right now our thoughts and prayers are with the

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family members of the deceased.”

There will be a controlled detonation at 7 p.m. on base to dispose of the unused pyrotechnics from the performance.