

Cause of NCNG Fatal Crash Revealed

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The cause of the fatal crash of a C130 plane in South Dakota last summer has been released by Federal investigators. Air Mobility Command released the results of the Accident Investigation Board involving the death of four Airmen—including one from Boone—and causing serious injuries to two others. The crash occurred July 1 while their Charlotte-based Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System-equipped C-130 Hercules was flying in support of a fire-fighting operation in South Dakota. The investigation determined the plane's cockpit crew's inadequate assessment of operational conditions resulted in the aircraft flying into a microburst and impacting the ground. The investigation also determined factors that substantially contributed to the mishap included the failure of the Lead Plane and Air Attack aircrews to communicate critical operational information; as well as conflicting operational guidance concerning thunderstorm avoidance. Major Ryan David of Boone was killed in that crash. The aircraft was assigned to and flown by members of the 145th Airlift Wing, Air National Guard, out of Charlotte, N.C. and was flying out of Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., at the time of the incident.