Beat: News

B-52 Stratofortress Crashed At Edwards Air Force Base (KEDW)

Killed All Eight Occupants

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USPA NEWS - We honor eight remarkable Americans. This crash is deemed to be unsurvivable, a testament to their enduring legacy, Col. James Hayes shared

The crew represented a dynamic blend of uniformed military personnel, government civilians, and government contractors. The B-52 was on a mission to support the Air Force's innovative radar modernization program, part of a broader effort to enhance and extend the operational life of this iconic airframe, which remains a cornerstone of America's long-range conventional and nuclear strike capability. Following the incident, the base's airfield was temporarily closed, with all incoming aircraft safely redirected. Edwards announced a brief pause in flight operations on Tuesday to ensure continued safety and excellence.

Aerial news footage and an ALERTCalifornia fire surveillance camera captured a massive column of thick black smoke rising from a large charred area on the sandy desert runway. Footage from the scene at ground level showed virtually nothing recognizable remaining of the aircraft. Emergency response personnel responded rapidly and remained on the scene throughout the afternoon. By Monday evening, the operation had transitioned from emergency response to recovery.

Colonel Hayes stated that the investigation into the cause of the crash is ongoing, with a likely duration of several months. The B-52 Stratofortress has been an integral part of the US Air Force since its introduction in 1955, with a continuous operational history of over seven decades. Given that the aircraft is no longer in production, any future replacement of the destroyed airframe would necessitate sourcing components from decommissioned B-52s stored at the aircraft boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona, a process previously employed following a non-fatal B-52H crash in Guam in 2016. The Air Force has allocated $48.6 billion for a new engine upgrade program designed to ensure the continued airworthiness of the remaining fleet into the 2050s

Gov. Newsom offered condolences and said;
"It was a routine test mission.
A radar modernization program.
The kind of flight that happens hundreds of times a year.
This time, it didn't come home. All eight people on board were killed. Military personnel, Government civilians, and two Boeing employees.
People who showed up to work Monday morning and never came back.
Smoke billowed over the Mojave Desert. The airfield went dark. Families are being notified."

For decades, the B-52 Stratofortress has embodied the unwavering strength of American air power. The courageous men and women who fly and support these missions are driven by a steadfast commitment to service, undaunted by the challenges they face.
They knew the risks and did it anyway!

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