

Nellis fatals

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The crash Friday of two search and rescue helicopters on the Nellis Air Force Range north of Las Vegas ranks as the worst military air disaster in Nellis history. Here are other fatal air accidents that have occurred on and near the 5,200-square-mile range:

July 18, 1944 -- Six people died when a twin-engine AT-11 military plane crashed into a mountainside on a routine training mission between what was then the Las Vegas Army Air Base and Indian Springs Air Base. The plane's engine failed.

April 21, 1958 -- A United Airlines DC-7 and a Nellis F-100F fighter jet collided midair near Mount Potosi, killing 49 people -- most of them civilians -- in the worst airline disaster in Las Vegas history.

August 1967 -- A Nellis pilot was killed when his F-100 Sabre jet crashed on what was then the Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range 10 miles north of Indian Springs.

Nov. 12, 1967 -- Two Nellis pilots were killed when their Air Force U-6A single-engine prop plane smashed into the side of a mountain about 15 miles northwest of Indian Springs.

January 1969 -- A veteran of 250 missions in Southeast Asia was killed in a midair collision between two Air Force F-100D Super Sabre jets above the Nellis range.

October 1969 -- Two pilots were killed when their F-4 Phantom jet crashed on the northwest corner of the Nellis range.

Dec. 17, 1969 -- A Nellis pilot testing an experimental bomb fuse was killed when a 750-pound bomb exploded an instant after it was released, sending his F-105D Thunderchief spiraling down in flames. The crash occurred at Indian Springs.

Jan. 24, 1970 -- An Ohio Air National Guardsman died when his F-84 jet fighter crashed during a gunner practice mission on the Nellis range.

September 1971 -- Two airmen were killed and two others were injured when two F-4 Phantom jets collided about halfway between Caliente and Elgin.

August 1972 -- Two Nellis airmen were killed when their F-4 fighter jet crashed into the Nellis range. The airmen were on a nighttime attack training mission.

January 1973 -- An F-4 Phantom jet crashed on the Nellis range, killing two crewmen who were engaged in a simulated dogfight above Mormon Peak.

July 1973 -- An Air Force A-7 aircraft loaded with live ammunition crashed and exploded on a training mission northeast of Beatty, killing the pilot.

January 1975 -- Two Nellis airmen were killed when their F-4 Phantom jet crashed on the Nellis range near Caliente. The jet was part of an electronic warfare training mission.

Aug. 5, 1975 -- A Nellis pilot was killed when his A-7 fighter aircraft crashed on the Nellis range about 40 miles southeast of Tonopah.

Feb. 15, 1976 -- Two crewmen were killed when an Air Force F-4 Phantom II jet crashed on the Nellis range 40 miles northeast of Beatty.

October 1976 -- An Air Force pilot was killed when his A-7D aircraft crashed on the Nellis range. He was participating in the Red Flag exercises.

Oct. 22, 1976 -- An Air Force pilot was killed when his A-7D aircraft crashed into the Nellis range.

Dec. 6, 1976 -- Two crew members from a squadron based at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia were killed when their F-4E Phantom jet crashed about 60 miles southeast of Tonopah. The crew was participating in the Red Flag exercises.

July 28, 1977 -- A Texas Air National Guard pilot died when his F-100 Super Sabre jet fighter crashed on the Nellis range during Red Flag exercises.

Sept. 2, 1977 -- Two Nellis airmen were killed when their F-4E jet fighter crashed on the Nellis range near Indian Springs.

Sept. 6, 1977 -- A Marine Corps pilot flying a training mission on the Nellis range was killed when his AV8 Harrier jet crashed near Indian Springs.

Nov. 16, 1977 -- A Nellis airman died when his CF-104 fighter jet crashed on the Nellis range about 40 miles southeast of Tonopah.

Dec. 6, 1977 -- The pilot and medical officer of an F-15 fighter were killed when their aircraft crashed near Nellis.

January, February 1978 -- Five people died and six others were injured over a two-week period in a bizarre series of events. Two Nellis airmen were killed when their O-2 Skymaster observation plane vanished southwest of Indian Springs shortly after takeoff. A second O-2 crashed during a search for the first aircraft. The son of a Nellis lieutenant colonel died after the crash of the private plane he and his father were using to look for the O-2 craft. The lieutenant colonel, who was off-duty at the time, discovered the wreckage of the first O-2 as he was hiking out of his own mountainous crash site to find help. An Air Force UH1-N helicopter sent to help recover the first downed O-2 crashed several days later, injuring five crewmen.

Feb. 17, 1978 -- Two crew members were killed when their F-4E Phantom jet fighter-bomber crashed on the Nellis range, about 60 miles northwest of Indian Springs. The crash occurred during the Red Flag exercises. Nellis officials said at the time 11 pilots and 14 aircraft had been lost during Red Flag.

April 12, 1979 -- Two fighter pilots stationed at Nellis disappear during a training exercise over the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. After an extensive search over a 32,000-square-mile area, the pilots were declared dead in May 1979.

September 1979 -- Two crewmen were killed when their Strategic Air Command FB-111 fighter-bomber crashed in the Wilson Creek Range north of Pioche. The plane went down shortly after Nellis controllers lost radar contact with it.

Feb. 7, 1980 -- A British Royal Air Force pilot and his navigator were killed when their Buccaneer Mark 2-B jet crashed on the Nellis range about 20 miles north of Beatty. The airmen were participating in Red Flag exercises.

June 1980 -- An Air Force pilot died and his co-pilot was injured when their F-4 Phantom jet crashed while making an emergency landing at Nellis Air Force Base.

January 1981 -- Three airmen were killed when an F-15 Eagle and an F-5E Tiger II collided during a mock aerial combat exercise on the Nellis range 20 miles north of Moapa.

January 1981 -- An Air Force pilot was killed when his A-7D Corsair II jet fighter crashed on the Nellis range about 45 miles north of Beatty. The aircraft was on its way to Nellis Air Force Base for Red Flag exercises.

April 16, 1981 -- Two Air Force crewmen were killed when a photo-reconnaissance aircraft crashed on the Nellis range. The craft was involved in an exercise to identify targets for strikes.

July 1981 -- A Nellis pilot was killed when his A-10 Thunderbolt jet fighter went out of control and crashed near Nellis Air Force Base.

July 1981 -- Two airmen were killed 50 miles southeast of Tonopah when their F-4G Wild Weasel jet crashed during Red Flag maneuvers.

Sept. 21, 1981 -- Two airmen were killed when their twin-engine Cessna 414 aircraft crash-landed during a joint electronic warfare exercise near Tonopah. The military leased the plane for the exercises, using it to support ground radar equipment.

Sept. 21, 1981 -- Seven men were killed but 61 others survived when a C-130 cargo plane crash-landed about one mile north of what was then Indian Springs Air Force Base. The plane was participating in a joint Army-Air Force night training mission.

Jan. 18, 1982 -- Four Thunderbird pilots died when their T-38 Talon jets crashed at Indian Springs Auxiliary Airfield. Mechanical failure was cited as the cause. Shortly after, the precision flying team began flying F-16 fighter jets. It was the worst accident in the Thunderbirds' history. In all, 18 pilots and one crew member have died in Thunderbird crashes.

March 1982 -- An Air Force F-4E fighter jet crashed in a remote corner of the Nellis range, killing the two crew members. The aircraft was participating in an air-to-ground gunnery mission during Red Flag exercises.

Oct. 21, 1982 -- A Nellis captain was killed when his jet fighter crashed on the northern edge of the Nellis range.

Jan. 12, 1983 -- A Nellis pilot died when his F-16 jet crashed on the Nellis range during a routine training mission.

April 1983 -- An Air Force pilot died when his A-10 attack fighter crashed on the Nellis range.

April 1983 -- Seven crewmen from Robins Air Force Base in Georgia were killed when their B-52 bomber slammed into the mountains near St. George, Utah. The men were on their way to military exercises on the Nellis range.

August 1983 -- An Air Force pilot was killed during Red Flag exercises on the Nellis range when his A-10 fighter jet crashed. The pilot was participating in an air-to-ground gunnery training mission.

February 1984 -- A British fighter pilot was killed when his jet crashed during a mock battle exercise on the Nellis

range. A day later, an American fighter pilot was killed when his A-7 jet crashed on the Nellis range. He was also participating in the Red Flag maneuvers.

April 26, 1984 -- A three-star Air Force general died when his secret test aircraft crashed on the Nevada Test Site in the Skull Mountain area near Lathrop Wells. The general was believed to have been testing stealth technology.

Aug. 24, 1984 -- A Nellis pilot was killed when his F-5E aircraft crashed during a routine training mission on the Nellis range.

September 1984 -- A Nellis airman was killed when his F-16 jet crashed on the northern end of the Nellis range.

December 1984 -- An Air Force pilot was killed when his A-7 jet fighter crashed during a routine training flight on the Nellis range.

Nov. 15, 1985 -- An Air Force captain was killed and two airmen were injured when two F-16 fighter jets collided during low-level maneuvers on the Nellis range.

May 21, 1986 -- One airman was killed and 21 others were injured when an MH-53H transport helicopter crashed during a secret commando training mission on the Nellis range.

July 24, 1987 -- Two pilots were killed when their F-16 fighter jets crashed on the Nellis range about 15 miles northeast of Indian Springs. Pilot confusion was later determined to have caused the crash.

Oct. 14, 1987 -- A Nellis pilot died in the crash of an F-117A stealth fighter jet on the Tonopah test range. At the time, the stealth was still a top-secret test aircraft and military officials refused to confirm details about the crash.

March 25, 1988 -- The pilot of an A-10 Thunderbolt II was killed when the fighter jet crashed near Black Mountain on the Nellis range. The crash occurred during a weapons training flight.

Feb. 14, 1989 -- A Colorado Army National Guardsman was killed when a Cobra AH-1S attack helicopter crashed near Indian Springs.

April 5, 1989 -- Two Air Force fliers were killed when their F-111 crashed about 60 miles southeast of Tonopah. The crash occurred during Red Flag military exercises.

July 24, 1991 -- A nonmilitary helicopter searching the Nevada Test Site for intruders during a nighttime mission struck a power line and crashed, killing all five crew members. It was the worst accident in the test site's history.

Aug. 10, 1992 -- Two Nellis airmen were killed when their F-15E fighter jet crashed about 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas in remote Lincoln County. The jet was engaged in a simulated combat exercise with another aircraft when it spun into the ground. An investigation was inconclusive.

Dec. 6, 1992 -- An Air National Guard pilot was killed when his A-10 jet slammed into a hill near Blue Diamond. Poor weather conditions were blamed in the crash, which scattered live ammunition on a hillside near state Route 160.

Aug. 10, 1993 -- A Nellis pilot was killed when his F-16 fighter jet crashed during a joint training mission on the Nellis range about 125 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

April 22, 1993 -- A Navy pilot and bombardier were killed when their A-6E Intruder jet collided with another plane and crashed on the Nellis range.

May 14, 1993 -- Two pilots were killed when an Air Force F-4 jet crashed in the desert near state Route 160 in Pahrump. The pilots were on a routine training mission for a Texas military contractor.

Nov. 8, 1993 -- A Nellis pilot was killed when his F-16 jet crashed 35 miles west of Alamo on the Nellis range. The pilot was on a routine training mission.
