



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Dallas, TX	Accident Number:	CEN23MA034
Date & Time:	November 12, 2022, 13:22 Local	Registration:	N7227C (A1); N6763 (A2)
Aircraft:	Boeing B17 (A1); Bell P63 (A2)	Injuries:	5 Fatal (A1); 1 Fatal (A2)
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Air race/show (A1); Part 91: General aviation - Air race/show (A2)		

On November 12, 2022, about 1322 central standard time, a Boeing B-17G airplane, N7227C and a Bell P-63F airplane, N6763, collided in midair at the Dallas Executive Airport (RBD), Dallas, Texas. A post impact fire ensued. The pilot, co-pilot, and three crewmembers onboard the B-17G and the pilot of the P-63F were all fatally injured. There were no ground injuries reported. Both airplanes were operated under the provisions of Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 in the Wings Over Dallas Airshow.

The P-63F was number 3 of a three-ship formation of historic fighter airplanes and the B-17G was lead of a five-ship formation of historic bomber airplanes.

According to the recorded audio for the airshow radio transmissions and Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) data, the air boss directed both formations to maneuver southwest of the runway before returning to the flying display area, which was the designated performance area. He directed the fighter formation to transition to a trail formation, fly in front of the bomber formation, and proceed near the 500 ft show line. The bombers were directed to fly down the 1,000 ft show line. The 500 ft show line and 1,000 ft show line were 500 ft and 1,000 ft respectively from the airshow viewing line behind which the audience viewed the airshow.

There were no altitude deconflictions briefed before the flight or while the airplanes were in the air. When the fighter formation approached the flying display area, the P-63F was in a left bank and it collided with the left side of the B-17G, just aft of the wing section.

Both airplanes broke up in flight and impacted terrain in a grassy area on airport property south of the approach end of runway 31. A fire ignited in the wing center section of the B-17G as it descended to the ground. The B-17G exploded upon ground impact.

The debris field was generally aligned on a magnetic heading of 320°. Documentation of the accident site found all major flight control components for both airplanes located in the debris field.



Figure 1. Debris Field

Both airplanes were equipped with ADS-B. An Avidyne IFD540 unit from the B-17G and a Garmin GPSMAP 496 unit from the P-63F were recovered and submitted to the National Transportation Safety Board Vehicle Recorders Laboratory. The IFD-540 contained position information relevant to the accident; however, the GPSMAP 496 did not record any information for the accident flight.

The wreckage of both airplanes was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information (A1)

Aircraft Make:	Boeing	Registration:	N7227C
Model/Series:	B17 G	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	Commemorative Air Force	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Designator Code:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information (A2)

Aircraft Make:	Bell	Registration:	N6763
Model/Series:	P63 F	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	Commemorative Air Force	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KRBD,657 ft msl	Observation Time:	12:53 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	9°C /-4°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	14 knots / 18 knots, 350°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.3 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	
Departure Point:		Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information (A1)

Crew Injuries:	5 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	Both in-flight and on-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-ground
Total Injuries:	5 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	32.673779,-96.862801 (est)

Wreckage and Impact Information (A2)

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	32.673779,-96.862801 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Aguilera, Jason
Additional Participating Persons:	Matt Rigsby; FAA AVP-100; Dallas, TX Jim Lasche; Commemorative Air Force; Dallas, TX
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.