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MISAWA F-16 EXTERNAL STORES JETTISON

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan – An F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned to the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base, Japan, experienced an in-flight emergency at approximately 6 p.m., Nov. 30, 2021.

In response to the emergency, the pilot jettisoned two external fuel tanks. One of the fuel tanks appears to have landed in an open public area in the town of Fukaura, Aomori Prefecture. The aircraft landed safely and has been secured away from the runway at the Aomori airport. There were no injuries to the pilot or people on the ground.

“Safety, always considered a priority, especially for our Airmen and our Japanese neighbors, is key to mission success,” said Col. Timothy B. Murphy, the 35th FW vice commander. “Our pilot acted quickly and in accordance with standard procedures to minimize the risk of injury and potential damage. As we conduct a thorough investigation to determine the root cause of this incident, we are grateful to our Japanese partners and local community leaders for their understanding in this matter.”

Col. Murphy will visit Japanese officials in the affected areas today. The incident is currently under investigation. More details will be released as they become available.