



# NEWS RELEASE

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

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## **MISAWA F-16 JETTISONED FUEL TANKS RECOVERED**

**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. Both fuel tanks have been located. The first fuel tank was found in the town of Fukaura, Dec. 1, 2021. The second fuel tank was found in a wooded area in the town of Fukaura, and will be returned to Misawa AB by the recovery team.

The F-16 associated with this incident, landed at the Aomori airport where a maintenance team from the 35th Maintenance Group is performing inspections and repairs. The aircraft will return to Misawa AB after necessary repairs and safety inspections are complete. There were no injuries to the pilot or people on the ground.

“We have maintenance, safety and environmental experts working around the clock to bring these fuel tanks and our aircraft back to Misawa safely,” said Col. Timothy B. Murphy, the 35th FW vice commander. “We appreciate the continuous cooperation and understanding from our neighbors in Japan as we work through this incident.”

The cause of the incident is still under investigation. More details will be released as they become available.