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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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DIVERTED F-16 RETURNS TO MISAWA

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan – On December 5, 2021 at 3:45 p.m., an F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft assigned to the 35th Fighter Wing returned to Misawa AB after necessary repairs and safety inspections were complete which deemed the aircraft safe to fly. Aomori airport officials were cooperative in allowing proper maintenance to occur which led to the aircraft to be approved for flight. Government officials were notified Sunday morning of the forecasted return.

The F-16 experienced an in-flight emergency and landed at the Aomori airport November 30, 2021. A team from the 35th Maintenance Group performed extensive inspections and repairs to ensure safe flight operations.

“The team has worked tirelessly to reach the goal of returning the aircraft safely to Misawa AB,” said Col. Timothy B. Murphy, the 35th FW vice commander. “This incident has proven why we have the utmost confidence and trust in our Japanese partners who constantly support our mission to fulfill our Mutual Security Treaty obligations, defending Japan, and deterring our adversaries. We would like to thank our community leaders and local officials for understanding and relaying our concerns for the Japanese citizens affected throughout this process.”

The incident is still under investigation. Details will be released as they become available.