General Dynamics F-16A #82-0937

March 16, 1990

On March 16, 1990, General Dynamics F-16A #82-0937 departed Hill AFB, Utah, at 8:55 a.m. with Capt. Daniel A. West at the controls. Capt. West was with the 2872nd Test Squadron. The mission was a functional check flight over the Utah Test and Training Range to evaluate modifications to various aircraft systems. About 17 minutes into the flight #937 experienced an engine stall, and Capt. West diverted toward Wendover Airport. After two failed attempts at restarting the engine he saw that he wouldn't reach the runway at Wendover, so he pointed the aircraft away from populated areas and ejected. The F-16A impacted the salt flats and Capt. West parachuted to safety. He was picked up a short time later by a rescue helicopter from Hill AFB. USAF did a very thorough cleanup of the crash site, and today few pieces of #937 remain. Special thanks to Craig Fuller and Mike Lyons for help with finding this crash site. Site visited on 7/22/23.



A data plate, possibly from the ejection seat



A closeup of the data plate, showing the word "F-16"



Plexiglass from the canopy



An engine mounting bolt



White paint and three rivets are visible on this small piece



Various small shards of aluminum on the salt flats



A piece of electrical wire



A hand-etched part number



A twelve-point fastener



A hose clamp. Special thanks to David Platt, retired F-16 crew chief, for help with parts identification.



#937 at Hill AFB, prior to the accident (Courtesy of F-16.net)