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Cdn. Snowbird pilot dies in jet crash at Montana airbase; Team was rehearsing for performances in weekend air show

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DATE: 2007.05.19
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KEYWORDS: TTNEWS; TT NEWS
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Times & Transcript (Moncton)
WORD COUNT: 360

Snowbirds pilot Capt. Shawn McCaughey was killed yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, the Canadian military announced.

McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

Col. Richard Foster, the commander of 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said McCaughey was a veteran and part of a group of some of the finest pilots in the world.

"He was a very professional pilot," Foster said at a news conference in Moose Jaw – the home base of the aerobatic squadron.

"The team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season."

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in crashes since 1972.

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practising a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames," Scarber said. Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene, she said.

Witnesses said they saw no signs of a parachute and presumed the pilot was in the plane when it crashed.

Gregg Dart was sitting in his car outside the air base when he said he saw three of the Snowbirds approaching, flying low.

"My son said, 'Dad, look at their wings,'" he said. "And as I looked, the wing wiggled up and it went straight down."

"It was less than a second before it hit the ground," Dart said.

Cdn. Snowbird pilot dies in jet crash at Montana airbase; Team was rehearsing for performances in weekend air show

"There was a thud, then the shock wave of it hitting. After that, there was a big black cloud and the smell of jet fuel."

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors.

The team was scheduled to perform today and Sunday in Great Falls at Malmstrom's open house and sport auto-rama.

An event organizer said the open house would continue as scheduled, but it was uncertain if the Snowbirds will perform.

The team flies the planes almost daily, year-round – logging 3,700 hours annually. The Snowbirds are scheduled to perform in Dalhousie, the hometown of Snowbird pilot Capt. David Boudreau, June 13 and in Moncton June 16 and 17.

Word of the pilot's death rippled through Moose Jaw quickly.

People were in tears. One woman hugged a member of the military at the entrance to the base.

McCaughey was is in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the No. 2 jet in the Inner Right Wing position. He joined the Canadian Forces in 2000 after earning a Bachelor's degree in Physical Geography from Concordia University in Montreal.

He also held a civilian commercial pilot's licence.

Snowbird pilot dies in crash; Tragedy during rehearsal for U.S. show is Canadian team's sixth fatal crash since 1972

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PUBLICATION: The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)
DATE: 2007.05.19
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PAGE: A3
DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, MONT.
SOURCE: Record news services
NOTE: This version of the story ran in the Early Edition.
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 230

A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana while rehearsing for performances this weekend.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration confirmed the death in a release.

The crash occurred at 3:45 p.m. when a group of planes were practising manoeuvres above the base. One plane left the formation and "for some reason shortly thereafter pitched down and crashed," FAA spokesperson Allen Kenitzer said.

Lieut. Jeff Noel, a spokesperson for 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said all the Snowbirds participating in the practice run in Montana were veterans, though he couldn't say exactly how many aircraft may have been in the air at the time of the incident.

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in crashes since 1972.

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practising a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames," Scarber said. Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene.

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors. The team flies the planes almost daily, year-round — logging 3,700 hours annually.

The team was scheduled to perform today and tomorrow in Great Falls at Malmstrom's open house.

Word of the pilot's death rippled through Moose Jaw quickly. People were in tears. One woman hugged a member of the military at the entrance to the base.

Snowbird pilot dies in crash; Tragedy during rehearsal for U.S. show is Canadian team's sixth fatal crash since

Snowbird pilot dies in crash; Jet carrying squadron member from Quebec pitches into ground at Montana air base

IDNUMBER 200705190155
PUBLICATION: The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Front
PAGE: A3
DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, MONT.
SOURCE: Canadian Press
NOTE: This version of the story ran in the Final Edition.
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 226

Snowbirds pilot Capt. Shawn McCaughey was killed yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

"He was a very professional pilot," Col. Richard Foster, the commander of 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said in Moose Jaw, home base of the aerobatic squadron.

"The team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season."

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in air crashes since 1972.

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors. While McCaughey was a former flight instructor with 1,400 hours of military flying time, he was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor jet.

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed four or five planes practising a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames."

Gregg Dart was sitting in his car outside the air base when he said he saw three of the Snowbirds approaching, flying low.

"My son said, 'Dad, look at their wings,'" he said. "And as I looked, the wing wiggled up and it went straight down."

The team was scheduled to perform today and tomorrow in Great Falls at Malmstrom's open house and sport auto-rama.

Snowbird pilot dies in crash; Jet carrying squadron member from Quebec pitches into ground at Montana air

Snowbird pilot dies in crash

IDNUMBER 200705190089
PUBLICATION: The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
DATE: 2007.05.19
SECTION: News
PAGE: A11
KEYWORDS: DGNEWS; DG NEWS
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)
WORD COUNT: 228

A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed Friday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana while rehearsing for performances this weekend.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration confirmed the death in a release.

The crash occurred at 3:45 p.m., when a group of planes were practising maneuvers above the base. One plane left the formation and "for some reason shortly thereafter pitched down and crashed," FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer said.

Lieut. Jeff Noel, a spokesman for 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said all those participating in the practice run in Montana were veterans, though he couldn't say exactly how many aircraft may have been in the air at the time of the incident.

"That information is being compiled right now," Noel said.

"They did recently accept three new pilots into the program but those pilots won't be flying with the program until next year."

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practicing a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames," Scarber said. Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene, she said.

Witnesses said they saw no signs of a parachute and presumed the pilot was in the plane when it crashed.

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude maneuvers in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors.

The team was scheduled to perform Saturday and Sunday in Great Falls at Malmstrom's open house and sport auto-rama.

An event organizer said the open house would continue as scheduled, but it was uncertain if the Snowbirds will perform.

UN PILOTE DE SNOWBIRD S'ÉCRASE

SOURCETAG 0705190051

PUBLICATION: Le Journal de Montréal

DATE: 2007.05.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Nouvelles

PAGE: 12

WORD COUNT: 72

Le pilote d'un Snowbird des Forces canadiennes a été tué hier dans l'écrasement de son appareil à la base des forces aériennes américaine à Malmstrom au Montana. L'identité du pilote tué n'a pas été dévoilée. L'accident est survenu alors que des avions faisaient des manoeuvres aériennes au-dessus de la base en prévision d'un spectacle ce week-end. !@MOTSCLES=ACCIDENT AÉRIEN

Snowbird pilot dies in crash; Canadian Forces jet goes down during air show rehearsal in Montana

PUBLICATION: Kingston Whig-Standard (ON)

DATE: 2007.05.19

SECTION: National/World

PAGE: B1

DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.

WORD COUNT: 304

A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana while rehearsing for performances this weekend.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration confirmed the death in a release.

The crash occurred at 3:45 p.m. when a group of planes were practising manoeuvres above the base. One plane left the formation and "for some reason shortly thereafter pitched down and crashed," FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer said.

Lieut. Jeff Noel, a spokesman for 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said all the Snowbirds participating in the practice run in Montana were veterans, though he couldn't say exactly how many aircraft may have been in the air at the time of the incident.

"That information is being compiled right now," Noel said.

"They did recently accept three new pilots into the program but those pilots won't be flying with the program until next year."

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in crashes since 1972.

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practising a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames," Scarber said. Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene, she said.

Witnesses said they saw no signs of a parachute and presumed the pilot was in the plane when it crashed.

Greg Dart was sitting in his car outside the air base when he said he saw three of the Snowbirds approaching, flying low.

"My son said, 'Dad, look at their wings,' " he said. "And as I looked, the wing wiggled up and it went straight down. It was less than a second before it hit the ground," Dart said.

"There was a thud, then the shock wave of it hitting. After that, there was a big black cloud and the smell of jet fuel."

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors.

The team was scheduled to perform today and tomorrow in Great Falls at Malmstrom's open house and sport auto-rama.

An event organizer said the open house would continue as scheduled, but it was uncertain if the Snowbirds will perform.

The team flies the planes almost daily, year-round – logging 3,700 hours annually.

Crash kills Snowbird pilot; 'We heard a thud' as jet went down during rehearsal in Montana

IDNUMBER 200705190158
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Comment
PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Department of National Defence; Rion Sanders/Associated Press / Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 30, died yesterday when his Canadian Forces Snowbird aircraft crashed during a practice manoeuvre yesterday. At right, the Snowbirds rehearse for scheduled weekend performances over Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont.. McCaughey's jet crashed later in the rehearsal after breaking away from the formation, the Federal Aviation Administration said. ; Photo: Capt. Shawn McCaughey. ; Photo: Robin Loznak/AP / U.S. Air Force personnel and others look over wreckage. ;

DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.
BYLINE: With a file from Jeff Bell
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 615

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — The Canadian Forces' elite Snowbirds squadron suffered another tragic loss yesterday as a pilot was killed when his jet crashed during practice manoeuvres in Montana.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., near Montreal, was flying in formation alongside several other Snowbirds when his jet veered off course and plummeted to the ground in Great Falls about 3:45 p.m. local time. "It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," area resident Gillian Scarber told the Great Falls Tribune.

The aerial demonstration team had been practising for a pair of air shows this weekend at the local Malmstrom Air Force Base.

A Canadian Forces flight safety team has been sent to Montana to conduct an investigation.

McCaughey is the sixth Snowbird pilot killed since 1972. The pilot, who was engaged to be married, was in his second year with the Snowbirds, according to a biography on the group's website. He was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor aircraft before joining the fleet, but he had more than 1,400 hours of military flying time, the biography said.

The commander of the 15 Wing Moose Jaw military base struggled for composure as he described McCaughey as very professional and competent. "He was very jovial, very caring," Col. Richard Foster told reporters at a news conference in Moose Jaw, Sask., the fleet's base.

"He did his job very well, a very credible pilot, a good friend."

Foster said there would be a temporary halt in Snowbird performances but that the team would fly again this season.

"Canadian Forces Snowbirds are the finest members of the Canadian Forces — they represent the Canadian Forces' interests well, and I have no doubt that they will continue to do so in the future."

Gregg Dart, a football coach, was parked next to the highway, watching the Snowbirds with his young son and daughter, when he saw the plane go down.

Dart said that moments before the crash, three planes were flying in formation. He estimated they were about 60 to 90 metres off the ground. "I just feel horrible that something tragic like this happened," he said. "It happened so fast.

"As the two separated, the third plane kind of nosed up, turned slightly on its wing and went straight down," Dart said. "We looked for a parachute; we didn't see a parachute."

He said the crash sent dirt and black smoke into the air. "There was a concussion wave that hit us. You could feel it. ... It's like somebody just hit you with an air gun.

"I just heard a thud and then [saw] a mixture of dirt and black smoke. And then a heavy, pungent smell of fuel."

The Snowbirds, officially named the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, fly CT-114 Tutors and perform at 60 air shows in North America.

Esquimalt High School graduate Maj. Robert Mitchell, 37, was named commander of the Snowbirds in January. He has strong family ties to Victoria, where his mother and two of his siblings live.

His job is to fly in the No. 1 position at the front of the Snowbirds formation. The aerobatic team is not scheduled for any Vancouver Island performances this year. It was in Victoria last August for a show over Willows Beach.

— — —

Danger in the Air

A history of Snowbird crashes

- Aug. 24, 2005: Capt. Andy Mackay of Orleans, Ont., bailed out when his jet experienced engine problems just before the start of an air show in Thunder Bay, Ont.
- Dec. 10, 2004: Capt. Miles Selby died in a fiery collision with Capt. Chuck Mallet during a training session near Moose Jaw, Sask. Mallet survived.
- June 21, 2001: Two planes collided while preparing for an air show near Port Burwell, Ont. No injuries.
- Dec. 10, 1998: Capt. Michael VandenBos, 29, died after ejecting when his jet collided with another aircraft.
- March 21, 1994: Two pilots ejected near Moose Jaw, Sask., sustaining minor injuries.
- 1992: Two pilots ejected safely after a collision near Bagotville, Que.
- Aug. 14, 1992: Plane crashed near CFB Moose Jaw due to failed engine bearing. No injuries.
- Feb. 26, 1991: Jet crashed near CFB Moose Jaw during routine training flight. Both pilots escaped serious

injury.

- Sept. 3, 1989: Capt. Shane Antaya, 24, was killed when his plane crashed into Lake Ontario during an air show in Toronto.
- May 3, 1978: Capt. Gordon de Jong, 32, was killed during an air show in Grande Prairie, Alta.
- 1972: Capt. Lloyd Waterer, 24, was killed during an air show in Trenton, Ont.

Snowbird pilot reported killed in Montana

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald

DATE: 2007.05.19

SECTION: World

PAGE: A8

WORD COUNT: 234

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) – A Canadian Forces Snowbird jet plane has crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana while rehearsing for performances this weekend.

Lieut. Jeff Noel, a spokesman for 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said the jet crashed around 4 p.m. Friday.

Noel would not give any information on the condition of the pilot but the Great Falls Tribune reports on its website that the pilot was killed and that a coroner's vehicle had been called to the scene.

Noel said all those participating in the practice run in Montana were veterans, though he couldn't say exactly how many aircraft may have been in the air at the time of the incident.

"That information is being compiled right now," Noel said.

"They did recently accept three new pilots into the program but those pilots won't be flying with the program until next year."

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practicing a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames," Scarber said. Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene, she said.

Witnesses said they saw no signs of a parachute and presumed the pilot was in the plane when it crashed.

No further information was available.

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude maneuvers in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors and are part of the Canadian Air Force.

The team was scheduled to perform today and Sunday in Great Falls at Malmstrom's open house and sport auto-rama.

An event organizer said the open house would continue as scheduled, but it was uncertain if the Snowbirds will perform.

Snowbird pilot dies in crash; Jets were practising for air show in Montana

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle-Herald

DATE: 2007.05.19

SECTION: Front

PAGE: A1

SOURCE: Our Wire Services

WORD COUNT: 335

GREAT FALLS, Mont. – Snowbirds pilot Capt. Shawn McCaughey was killed Friday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, the Canadian military announced.

McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

Col. Richard Foster, the commander of 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said McCaughey was a veteran and part of a group of some of the finest pilots in the world.

"He was a very professional pilot," Foster said at a news conference in Moose Jaw – the home base of the aerobatic squadron.

"The team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season."

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbird pilots who have died in crashes since 1972.

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Gregg Dart was sitting in his car outside the air base when he said he saw three of the Snowbirds approaching, flying low.

"My son said, 'Dad, look at their wings,'" he said. "And as I looked, the wing wiggled up and it went straight down."

"It was less than a second before it hit the ground," Dart said.

"There was a thud, then the shock wave of it hitting. After that, there was a big black cloud and the smell of jet fuel."

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors.

The team was scheduled to perform Saturday and Sunday in Great Falls at Malmstrom's open house and sport auto-rama.

An event organizer said the open house would continue as scheduled, but it was uncertain if the Snowbirds will perform.

The team flies the planes almost daily, year-round – logging 3,700 hours annually.

Word of McCaughey's death rippled through Moose Jaw quickly. People were in tears. One woman hugged a member of the military at the entrance to the base.

McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew the No. 2 jet in the inner right wing position. He was the first Snowbird pilot without previous experience on the Tutor.

Snowbirds' crashes

IDNUMBER 200705190007
PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Final C
SECTION: News
PAGE: A2
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Friday's crash killed Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Quebec. ; Map: Vancouver Sun / The crash site: A Snowbird plane crashed near Malmstrom Air Force Base. ;
KEYWORDS: AIR SHOWS
SOURCE: CanWest News Services
WORD COUNT: 162

Here is a list of recent crashes and accidents involving the Snowbirds:

May 18, 2007 — The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration confirms that a Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

Aug. 24, 2005 — Capt. Andy Mackay of Orleans, Ont. walked away after ejecting from his plane. A report by the Department of National Defence said the cause was "catastrophic engine failure."

Dec. 10, 2004 — Capt. Miles Selby died in a fiery collision with Capt. Chuck Mallet during a training session near Moose Jaw, Sask. Mallet survived.

June 21, 2001 — Two planes collided while preparing for an air show near Port Burwell, Ont. No injuries.

September 2000 — Two jets sustained minor damage when the wing of one aircraft grazed the tail of another. The pilots were not injured.

Dec. 10, 1998 — Capt. Michael VandenBos, 29, died after ejecting when his jet collided with another aircraft.

1997 — Two Snowbirds touched wingtips over Glen Falls, N.Y., but no one was injured.

1994 — Two pilots ejected near Moose Jaw, Sask., sustaining minor injuries.

1992 — Two pilots ejected safely after a collision near Bagotville, Que.

1992 — Plane crashed near CFB Moose Jaw due to failed engine bearing. No injuries.

1991 — Jet crashed near CFB Moose Jaw during routine training flight. Both pilots escaped serious injury.

Snowbird Pilot dies in crash; Plane falls to earth, goes up in flames during training session near Montana base

IDNUMBER 200705190004

PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun

DATE: 2007.05.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Map: Vancouver Sun / THE CRASH SITE: A snowbird plane crashed near Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. ;

KEYWORDS: AIR SHOWS; AIRCRAFT

DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 617

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed Friday afternoon when his plane crashed while doing practice manoeuvres near Great Falls, Mont.

Witnesses report seeing the team flying in formation before one jet left the group and fell to earth around 4 p.m.

"It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," Gillian Scarber of Geyser, Mont., told the Great Falls Tribune.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration confirmed the pilot died during the crash.

"The pilot, the sole occupant, did not eject and he was fatally injured," said Allen Kenitzer, a regional FAA spokesman.

The planes had been rehearsing for two shows this weekend at Malmstrom Air Force Base.

Greg Dart, a local football coach, was parked next to the highway, watching the Snowbirds with his young son and daughter, when he saw the plane go down.

Dart said moments before the crash, three planes were flying in formation. He estimated they were about 60 to 90 metres off the ground.

"I just feel horrible that something tragic like this happened," he said. "It happened so fast.

"As the two separated, the third plane kind of nosed up, turned slightly on its wing and went straight down. We looked for a parachute; we didn't see a parachute," Dart said.

"There was just a dull thud. There was a concussion wave that hit us. You could feel it. . . . It's like somebody just hit you with an air gun.

"I just heard a thud and then [saw] a mixture of dirt and black smoke. And then a heavy, pungent smell of fuel.

"I don't know if it was clipped . . . it definitely reacted funny when the two lead planes separated."

A coroner reportedly was called to the scene.

A spokesman for Canadian Forces Base Moose Jaw, where the Snowbirds are based, had said early Friday evening that he could not confirm the pilot was killed.

"I can confirm for you that one Snowbird CT-114 Tutor jet has crashed near Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Mont., this afternoon during a routine training mission," said Lieut. Jeff Noel.

The Snowbirds, officially named the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, fly CT-114 Tutors and perform at 60 different airshows throughout North America.

This is the first Snowbird crash since a pilot safely ejected from his jet just before it crashed into the woods west of Thunder Bay, Ont., on Aug. 24, 2005.

Two of the aerial demonstration jets collided in December 2004 south of Moose Jaw, Sask., during a training mission, instantly killing Capt. Miles Selby, 31, of Tsawwassen, B.C. It was the fifth fatal crash in the team's 37-year history.

The fate of the Snowbirds squad has been hotly debated in recent years, with some critics calling for the decommissioning of their 43-year-old CT-114 Tutor jets.

The Snowbirds have flown their distinctive red-and-white planes before more than 100 million spectators since the team was formed in 1971. It is the only air force squadron still flying the Tutors, which have been phased out of service by the rest of the Canadian Forces.

An air force study in 2003 recommended that the Tutor be replaced as soon as possible and warned of significant safety risks if the air force continued to fly the jets. In June 2004, the military decided instead to extend the lifespan of the jets until 2020.

SNOWBIRDS

Here is a list of recent crashes and accidents involving the Snowbirds:

May 18, 2007 — The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration confirms that a Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

Aug. 24, 2005 — Capt. Andy Mackay of Orleans, Ont. walked away after ejecting from his plane. A report by the Department of National Defence said the cause was "catastrophic engine failure."

Dec. 10, 2004 — Capt. Miles Selby died in a fiery collision with Capt. Chuck Mallet during a training session near Moose Jaw, Sask. Mallet survived.

June 21, 2001 — Two planes collided while preparing for an air show near Port Burwell, Ont. No injuries.

September 2000 — Two jets sustained minor damage when the wing of one aircraft grazed the tail of another on the way to an air show. The pilots were not injured.

Snowbird Pilot dies in crash; Plane falls to earth, goes up in flames during training session near Montana base

Dec. 10, 1998 — Capt. Michael VandenBos, 29, died after ejecting when his jet collided with another aircraft.

1997 — Two Snowbirds touched wingtips over Glen Falls, N.Y., but no one was injured.

1994 — Two pilots ejected near Moose Jaw, Sask., sustaining minor injuries.

1992 — Two pilots ejected safely after a collision near Bagotville, Que.

1992 — Plane crashed near CFB Moose Jaw due to failed engine bearing. No injuries.

1991 — Jet crashed near CFB Moose Jaw during routine training flight. Both pilots escaped serious injury.

CanWest News Services

Snowbird pilot dies in crash; Witnesses say plane left formation and plunged to ground during practice near Montana airbase

IDNUMBER 200705190001
PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Final C
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT
KEYWORDS: AIR SHOWS; CANADIANS
DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 424

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot from Quebec was killed Friday afternoon when his jet crashed while doing practice manoeuvres near Great Falls, Mont.

The air force identified him as Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., south of Montreal.

McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds, according to his biography on the group's website.

He was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor aircraft before joining the team. He had more than 1,400 hours of military flying time, the biography said.

Witnesses said the aerial team was flying in formation before one jet left the group and fell to the earth about 4 p.m. Central Time.

"It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," Gillian Scarber of Geyser, Mont., told the Great Falls Tribune.

"They were practising manoeuvres, and this plane, this Snowbird 2, left its formation and shortly after that pitched down and crashed," said Allen Kenitzer, a regional spokesman for the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

"The pilot, the sole occupant, did not eject and he was fatally injured."

The planes had been rehearsing for two shows this weekend at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

Gregg Dart, a local football coach, was parked next to the highway, watching the Snowbirds with his young son and daughter, when he saw the plane go down.

Dart said moments before the crash, three planes were flying in formation. He estimated they were about 60 to 90 metres off the ground.

"As the two separated, the third plane kind of nosed up, turned slightly on its wing and went straight down. We looked for a parachute; we didn't see a parachute," Dart said.

"There was just a dull thud. There was a concussion wave that hit us. You could feel it . . . It's like somebody just hit you with an air gun.

"I just heard a thud and then (saw) a mixture of dirt and black smoke. And then a heavy, pungent smell of fuel.

"I don't know if it was clipped . . . it definitely reacted funny when the two lead planes separated."

The Snowbirds, officially named the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, fly CT-114 Tutors and perform at 60 airshows throughout North America.

This is the first Snowbird crash since Aug. 24, 2005, when a pilot safely ejected from his jet just before it crashed into the woods west of Thunder Bay, Ont.

Two of the aerial demonstration jets collided in December 2004 south of Moose Jaw, Sask., during a training mission, instantly killing Captain Miles Selby, 31, of Tsawwassen, B.C.

The Snowbirds have flown their distinctive red-and-white planes before more than 100 million spectators since the team was formed in 1971. It is the only air force squadron still flying the Tutors, which have otherwise been phased out of service.

An air force study in 2003 recommended that the Tutor be replaced as soon as possible and warned of significant safety risks if the air force continued to fly the jets. In June 2004, the military decided instead to extend the lifespan of the jets until 2020.

Crash kills Snowbird pilot

IDNUMBER 200705190088
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Local
PAGE: A14
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: McCaughey;
DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 428

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (CNS) — The Canadian Forces' elite Snowbirds squadron suffered another tragic loss Friday as a pilot was killed when his jet crashed during practice manoeuvres in Montana.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., near Montreal, was flying in formation alongside several other Snowbirds when his jet veered off course and plummeted to the ground in Great Falls around 3:45 p.m. local time.

"It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," area resident Gillian Scarber told the Great Falls Tribune.

The aerial demonstration team had been practising for a pair of air shows this weekend at the local Malmstrom Air Force Base.

A Canadian Forces flight safety team has been sent to Montana to conduct an investigation.

McCaughey is the sixth snowbird pilot killed since 1972.

The pilot, who was engaged to be married, was in his second year with the Snowbirds, according to a biography on the group's website.

McCaughey's family declined comment on the tragedy Friday night.

The commander of the 15 Wing Moose Jaw military base struggled for composure as he described McCaughey as a professional and competent pilot.

"He was very jovial, very caring," Col. Richard Foster told reporters at a news conference in Moose Jaw, where the squadron is based.

"He did his job very well, a very credible pilot, a good friend." Foster said there would be a temporary halt in Snowbird performances but that the team would fly again this season.

"Canadian Forces Snowbirds are the finest members of the Canadian Forces — they represent the Canadian Forces' interests well, and I have no doubt that they will continue to do so in the future." Gregg Dart, a Great Falls football coach, was parked next to the highway, watching the Snowbirds with his young son and daughter, when he saw the plane go down.

Dart said that moments before the crash, three planes were flying in formation. He estimated they were about 60 to 90 metres off the ground.

"I just feel horrible that something tragic like this happened," he said. "It happened so fast.

"As the two separated, the third plane kind of nosed up, turned slightly on its wing and went straight down," Dart said.

"We looked for a parachute; we didn't see a parachute.

. . . There was a concussion wave that hit us. You could feel it. . . . It's like somebody just hit you with an air gun." Dart said it wasn't clear whether the jets had touched in formation.

"I don't know if it was clipped. It definitely reacted funny when the two lead planes separated." The Snowbirds, officially named the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, fly CT-114 Tutors and perform at air shows throughout North America.

This is the first Snowbird crash since a pilot safely ejected from his jet just before it crashed into the woods west of Thunder Bay, Ont., on Aug. 24, 2005.

Two of the aerial demonstration jets collided in December 2004 south of Moose Jaw, during a training mission, instantly killing Capt. Miles Selby, 31, of Tsawwassen, B.C. That was the fifth fatal crash in the team's 37-year history.

Snowbird pilot dies; Pilot killed while rehearsing for a weekend air show in Montana

IDNUMBER 200705190123

PUBLICATION: The Leader-Post (Regina)

DATE: 2007.05.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Great Falls Tribune / United States Air Force personnel and others look over the wreckage at the crash site of a Canadian Forces Snowbird plane Friday, at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. The jet crashed during rehearsal for weekend performances at the base, killing the pilot. ; Colour Photo: Roy Antal, Leader-Post / Wing Commander Col. Richard Foster talks to the media Friday evening about the crash that killed Cap. Shawn McCaughey. ; Colour Photo: Shawn McCaughey ;

DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.

BYLINE: Pamela Cowan

SOURCE: Leader-Post and CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 670

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot from Quebec was killed Friday afternoon when his jet crashed while doing practice manoeuvres near Great Falls, Mont.

The pilot was identified by the air force as Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., south of Montreal.

McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds, according to his biography on the group's Web site.

He was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor aircraft before joining the fleet. He had more than 1,400 hours of military flying time, the biography said.

Eyewitnesses said the aerial team was flying in formation before one jet left the group and fell to the earth around 4 p.m. Central Time.

"It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," Gillian Scarber of Geyser, Mont., told the Great Falls Tribune.

"They were practising manoeuvres, and this plane, this Snowbird 2, left its formation and shortly after that pitched down and crashed," said Allen Kenitzer, a regional spokesman for the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

"The pilot, the sole occupant, did not eject and he was fatally injured."

The planes had been rehearsing for two shows this weekend at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

Gregg Dart, a local football coach, was parked next to the highway, watching the Snowbirds with his young son and daughter, when he saw the plane go down.

Dart said moments before the crash, three planes were flying in formation. He estimated they were about 60 to

90 metres off the ground.

"I just feel horrible that something tragic like this happened," he said. "It happened so fast.

"As the two separated, the third plane kind of nosed up, turned slightly on its wing and went straight down. We looked for a parachute; we didn't see a parachute," Dart said.

"There was just a dull thud. There was a concussion wave that hit us. You could feel it ... It's like somebody just hit you with an air gun.

"I just heard a thud and then (saw) a mixture of dirt and black smoke. And then a heavy, pungent smell of fuel.

"I don't know if it was clipped ... it definitely reacted funny when the two lead planes separated."

A coroner reportedly was called to the scene.

The Wing Commander of 15 Wing Moose Jaw struggled for composure as he addressed the media Friday evening in Moose Jaw.

Col. Richard Foster described McCaughey, who was engaged to be married, as a very professional and competent pilot.

When asked to describe McCaughey as a person, Foster said: "Shawn was very professional pilot. I knew him before he became an instructor here in Moose Jaw.

"He was very jovial, very caring. He did his job very well, a very credible pilot — a good friend."

Foster said the tragedy will bring the team closer together.

"It shows the bonds and friendship that we all have as Snowbirds," he said.

A Canadian Forces Flight Safety team has been sent to Montana to conduct an investigation.

"Canadian Forces Snowbirds are the finest members of the Canadian Forces — they represent the Canadian Forces' interest well and I have no doubt that they will continue to do so in the future," Foster said of the team, which was preparing for its first show of the season.

"This means that the team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season," said Foster.

Moose Jaw residents were in shock when they heard news of the crash but those interviewed all said they want the Snowbirds to stay in the air.

"I think it's very devastating that it happened again ... I don't know if it's carelessness or what's going on but it's pretty sad — hard on the families," Cathy Charpentier said. "Unfortunately it does happen but learn from it — the Snowbirds are very important, we need them."

Ken Shatkowski agreed.

"I hope they continue because it's a pretty good show. But this is a tragedy."

Nathan Smith also wants the team to continue performing, saying the Snowbirds are a source of pride in Moose Jaw.

"It's heart-breaking and tragic that someone died," he said. "People from all over go and see the Snowbirds."

A history of Snowbird crashes

- Aug. 24, 2005: Capt. Andy Mackay of Orleans, Ont., bailed out when his jet experienced engine problems just before the start of an air show in Thunder Bay, Ont.
- Dec. 10, 2004: Capt. Miles Selby died in a fiery collision with Capt. Chuck Mallet during a training session near Moose Jaw, Sask. Mallet survived.
- June 21, 2001: Two planes collided while preparing for an air show near Port Burwell, Ont. No injuries.
- Dec. 10, 1998: Capt. Michael VandenBos, 29, died after ejecting when his jet collided with another aircraft.
- March 21, 1994: Two pilots ejected near Moose Jaw, Sask., sustaining minor injuries.
- 1992: Two pilots ejected safely after a collision near Bagotville, Que.
- Aug. 14, 1992: Plane crashed near CFB Moose Jaw due to failed engine bearing. No injuries.
- Feb. 26, 1991: Jet crashed near CFB Moose Jaw during routine training flight. Both pilots escaped serious injury.
- Sept. 3, 1989: Capt. Shane Antaya, 24, was killed when his plane crashed into Lake Ontario during an air show in Toronto.
- May 3, 1978: Capt. Gordon de Jong, 32, was killed during an air show in Grande Prairie, Alta.
- 1972: Capt. Lloyd Waterer, 24, was killed during an air show in Trenton, Ont.
- Source: CanWest News Service

Stunt pilot dies in crash; Snowbird jet slams ground in Montana

IDNUMBER 200705190229

PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald

DATE: 2007.05.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Courtesy, DND / Capt. Shawn McCaughey died Friday when his jet crashed near Great Falls. ; Colour Photo: Rion Sanders, Great Falls Tribune / The Canadian aerobatic team the Snowbirds practise over Malmstrom air force base near Great Falls, Mont., on Friday. During the rehearsal, a plane broke from the formation and crashed. ;

KEYWORDS: AIR SHOWS; AIRCRAFT

BYLINE: Kerry Williamson

SOURCE: Calgary Herald and Herald News Services; With files from The Canadian Press

WORD COUNT: 707

A pilot with the Snowbirds was killed Friday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, the Canadian military announced.

Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

Col. Richard Foster, the commander of 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said McCaughey, who was engaged to be married, was a veteran and part of a group of some of the finest pilots in the world.

"He was a very professional pilot," Foster said at a news conference at the base in Moose Jaw, the home base of the aerobatic squadron.

"I knew him before he became an instructor here in Moose Jaw. He was very jovial, very caring. He did his job very well. He was a very credible pilot and a good friend.

"The team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season."

The crash happened at 3:45 p.m., when a group of planes were rehearsing manoeuvres for an airshow, expected to begin today despite the tragedy.

Witnesses said they saw three planes coming out of what looked like a loop, when the trailing plane pitched down and slammed into the ground.

"The front two split and the trailing one just reacted funny. It looked like it lifted and dropped. It lifted, turned and went down," Gregg Dart, a Great Falls high school coach, told the Herald.

"I couldn't believe I saw it."

Dart was watching the Snowbirds practise with his young son and daughter.

They had parked their Ford Explorer on a highway running past the base, and watched in horror with other motorists as the Canadair CT-114 Tutor jet fell from the sky.

"When it hit the ground there was a dull thud, not even like an explosion, just a thud."

"We actually felt the concussion of it, and then saw just a big black smoke cloud rising up from it," said Dart.

"I said to my kids, 'That had to be a practice bomb' and they were like, 'No, that was the plane, that was the plane.' "

Dart said he didn't see a parachute.

A coroner was apparently called to the crash site, just west of Great Falls. The planes were rehearsing for two shows this weekend, part of the base's open house and auto-rama.

The Montana city is known as an air force town.

The Snowbirds, officially named the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, perform at 60 different airshows throughout North America.

Gillian Scarber, of Geyser, Mont., told the Great Falls Tribune that she was driving into the city when she saw a group of four or five planes practising a formation when one of the jets crashed near the south end of Malmstrom's major runway.

"It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," Scarber said, adding smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene.

Lt. Jeff Noel, a spokesman for CFB Moose Jaw, where the Snowbirds are based, said the crash happened during a "routine training mission."

Friday's crash is the first Snowbird incident since a pilot safely ejected from his jet just before it crashed into the woods west of Thunder Bay, Ont., on Aug. 24, 2005.

Two of the aerial demonstration jets collided in December, 2004, south of Moose Jaw, Sask., during a training mission, instantly killing Capt. Miles Selby, 31, of Tsawwassen, B.C.

Three new pilots were appointed to show team positions earlier this week. However they are not expected to fly in air shows until next year.

The fate of the Snowbirds squadron has been hotly debated in recent years, with some critics calling for the decommissioning of their 43-year-old Tutor jets.

The Snowbirds have flown their distinctive red-and-white planes before more than 100 million spectators since the team was formed in 1971.

It is the only air force squadron still flying the Tutors, which have been phased out of service by the rest of the Canadian Forces.

An air force study in 2003 recommended that the Tutor be replaced as soon as possible and warned of significant safety risks if the air force continued to fly the jets. In June 2004, the military decided instead to

extend the lifespan of the jets until 2020.

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Snowbird crashes

- Aug. 24, 2005: Capt. Andy Mackay of Orleans, Ont., bailed out when his jet experienced engine problems just before the start of an air show in Thunder Bay.
- Dec. 10, 2004: Capt. Miles Selby died in a fiery collision with Capt. Chuck Mallet during a training session near Moose Jaw, Sask. Mallet survived.
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- May 3, 1978: Capt. Gordon de Jong, 32, killed during air show in Grande Prairie.
- 1972: Capt. Lloyd Waterer, 24, killed during air show in Trenton, Ont.

Canadian Snowbird pilot dies in jet crash at Malmstrom base in Montana

DATE: 2007.05.18

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 353

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP-CP) _ Snowbirds pilot Capt. Shawn McCaughey was killed Friday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, the Canadian military announced.

McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

Col. Richard Foster, the commander of 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said McCaughey was part of a group of some of the finest pilots in the world.

“He was a very professional pilot,” Foster said at a news conference in Moose Jaw _ the home base of the aerobatic squadron.

“The team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season.”

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in air crashes since 1972.

While McCaughey was a former flight instructor with 1,400 hours of military flying time, he was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor jet.

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practising a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

“It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames,” Scarber said. Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene, she said.

Witnesses said they saw no signs of a parachute and presumed the pilot was in the plane when it crashed.

Gregg Dart was sitting in his car outside the air base when he said he saw three of the Snowbirds approaching, flying low.

“My son said, ‘Dad, look at their wings,’” he said. “And as I looked, the wing wiggled up and it went straight down.”

“It was less than a second before it hit the ground,” Dart said.

“There was a thud, then the shock wave of it hitting. After that, there was a big black cloud and the smell of jet fuel.”

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors.

The team was scheduled to perform Saturday and Sunday in Great Falls at Malmstrom's open house and sport auto-rama.

An event organizer said the open house would continue as scheduled.

The team flies the planes almost daily, year-round _ logging 3,700 hours annually.

Word of McCaughey's death rippled through Moose Jaw quickly.

People were in tears. One woman hugged a member of the military at the entrance to the base.

McCaughey was is in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the No. 2 jet in the Inner Right Wing position.

He joined the Canadian Forces in 2000 after earning a Bachelor's degree in Physical Geography from Concordia University in Montreal.

He also held a civilian commercial pilot's license.

CBC National News, Friday, May 18

DATE: 2007.05.18
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 587

TORONTO _ Canadian dollar closes at US91.94 cents, a high not seen since 1977; the dollar's rise is good news for people travelling to the U.S., not so good for Americans travelling to Canada or Canadian manufacturers hoping to sell their goods south of the border; Canada has lost more than 250,000 manufacturing jobs since the dollar started to rise in 2004; dollar is rising on expectations the Bank of Canada will raise interest rates to stem inflation. CVD.

UNDATED _ Price of gas has crept so high people are beginning to wonder when it will end; gas prices began climbing over a decade ago; analysts say gas prices should rise even further this summer; oil industry blames lack of refining capacity; some call for a consumer boycott. CVD.

UNDATED _ Strike shuts down Greyhound bus services in four western provinces; many small towns in western Canada depend on Greyhound's shipping services. CVD.

MALMSTROM, Montana _ One of Canada's Snowbird aerobatic jets has crashed, killing the pilot. CVD.

OTTAWA _ Secret strategy the Conservatives may have been using to bog down procedures on Parliament Hill was leaked Thursday; the document was given to parliamentary committee chairs days before they stopped functioning; chairs were given advice that seemed aimed at making sure no committee witnesses would embarrass the government; Liberal MP Ralph Goodale says the document is evidence that the Conservatives are the authors of a parliamentary stalemate; the Conservatives continue to blame the opposition. CVD.

OTTAWA _ Officials say they are in touch with Saudi Arabia in the case of two Saudi-born Canadians aged 16 and 22 being held for their part in a schoolyard brawl in which a boy died; if found guilty they could be beheaded; Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay says Canada is closely monitoring their treatment. MAIN ELEMENTS CVD PREVIOUSLY.

MONTREAL _ Officials say an Ethiopian woman forced to work under slave-like condition by her Lebanese employers; police say an anonymous tip led to a raid on the house where she worked; 16 months later her employers are on trial for human trafficking. CVD.

TORONTO _ Former TV comic appears in court; Tony Rosato has been in jail for more than two years without a trial in a case that has his own lawyer bewildered; in early 2005 he complained to police that his wife and daughter had been replaced by imposters; his lawyer says Rosato has a rare delusional disorder; police eventually accused Rosato of harassment; the office of the Attorney General says it tried to get Rosato sent for psychiatric assessment instead of to jail; it is unclear why that didn't happen. CVD.

CHICAGO _ Conrad Black tells CBC Radio says it's clear if there's any criminal in the case, it's his former business partner David Radler. CVD PREVIOUSLY; BLACK MADE SIMILAR COMMENTS OUTSIDE COURT ON THURSDAY.

TORONTO _ The National Women's Hockey League, one of country's premier hockey leagues, has suspended operations for at least a year; one team owner says with small crowds, no TV presence and no

money from Hockey Canada, it was better to shut down and start over. CHECKING.

NEW YORK _ Rare Cree outfit sells for US\$510,000 to an Ontario art dealer. CVD.

UNDATED _ Treasure hunters say they discovered a colonial-era shipwreck from which they've retrieved buckets of coins. CVD.

WINNIPEG _ Cut-rate deals from Internet travel websites might not get you the best deal; non-scientific CBC study suggests the best hotel deals can sometimes be had by calling the hotel; Hotel Association says hotels can change rates several times a day. FEATURE.

CP Toronto

URGENT–Snowbird–Crash–Cda–Update (death confirmed)

DATE: 2007.05.18

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT DEFENCE

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 175

MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, Montana — Aviation officials in the U–S have confirmed that a Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed today when his jet crashed at an airforce base in central Montana.

The pilot was part of an aerial aerobatics team that was pratising for a weekend airshow at the base.

Allen Kenitzer, an official with the U–S Federal Aviation Administration, says a group of planes was practising manoeuvres at the base, when one jet suddenly left the formation and crashed.

Lieutenant Jeff Noel (nole), a spokesman for 15–Wing Moose Jaw in Saskatchewan where the Snowbirds are based, confirmed the crash but wouldn't confirm that a pilot had died.

He says the C–T 114 Tutor jet involved in the crash had been used by the team since 1971 and was used as a standard training model aircraft up until 2000.

Noel says all the pilots involved in the practice run were veteran fliers.

He says three new team members that were recently accepted into the Snowbirds weren't part of the group.

Gillian Scarber was driving along the highway near Great Falls, Montana when she saw a jet crash and a huge ball of flames at the end of the air force base's runway.

It's the sixth Snowbird pilot to die since 1972.

(BN, AP)

lga

Snowbird pilot killed during training mission

IDNUMBER 200705190212
PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: D1 / FRONT
COLUMN: World Briefs
DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.
SOURCE: Star News Services
WORD COUNT: 308

GREAT FALLS, Mont. – A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot from Quebec was killed Friday when his jet crashed while doing practice manoeuvres near Great Falls, Mont.

The pilot was identified by the air force as Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 30, of Candiac, Que., south of Montreal.

McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds, according to his biography on the group's website.

He was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor aircraft before joining the fleet. He had more than 1,400 hours of military flying time, the biography said.

Eyewitnesses said the aerial team was flying in formation before one jet left the group and fell to the earth around 4 p.m. Central Time.

"It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," Gillian Scarber of Geyser, Mont., told the Great Falls Tribune.

"They were practising manoeuvres, and this plane, this Snowbird 2, left its formation and shortly after that pitched down and crashed," said Allen Kenitzer, a regional spokesman for the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

"The pilot, the sole occupant, did not eject and he was fatally injured."

The planes had been rehearsing for two shows this weekend at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

Greg Dart, a local football coach, was parked next to the highway, watching the Snowbirds with his young son and daughter, when he saw the plane go down.

Dart said moments before the crash, three planes were flying in formation. He estimated they were about 60 to 90 metres off the ground.

"I just feel horrible that something tragic like this happened," he said. "It happened so fast.

"As the two separated, the third plane kind of nosed up, turned slightly on its wing and went straight down. We looked for a parachute; we didn't see a parachute," Dart said.

"I just heard a thud and then (saw) a mixture of dirt and black smoke. And then a heavy, pungent smell of

fuel.

"I don't know if it was clipped ... it definitely reacted funny when the two lead planes separated."

A coroner reportedly was called to the scene.

The Snowbirds, officially named the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, fly CT-114 Tutors and perform at 60 different airshows throughout North America.

This is the first Snowbird crash since a pilot safely ejected from his jet just before it crashed in the woods west of Thunder Bay on Aug. 24, 2005.

Crash at U.S. air base kills Snowbird pilot

IDNUMBER 200705190144

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star

DATE: 2007.05.19

EDITION: Met

SECTION: News

PAGE: A10

ILLUSTRATION: Rion Sanders AP Emergency crews at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Mont., check the wreckage where a Canadian Forces Snowbird jet crashed yesterday afternoon while practising manoeuvres. The pilot was killed. Snowbird pilot Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was killed during practice. Snowbird pilot Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was killed during practice. ;

BYLINE: Thulasi Srikanthan

SOURCE: Toronto Star

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WORD COUNT: 435

Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot Capt. Shawn McCaughey died yesterday when the jet he was flying crashed during a rehearsal for an air show in Montana.

McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes practising manoeuvres above a U.S. air force base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

Col. Richard Foster, commander of 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said McCaughey was a veteran and part of a group of some of the finest pilots in the world.

"He was a very professional pilot," Foster told a news conference in Moose Jaw, home base for the aerobatic squadron.

"The team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season."

McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew the No. 2 jet in the inner right wing position.

He joined the Canadian Forces in 2000 after earning a bachelor's degree in physical geography from Concordia University in Montreal. He also held a civilian commercial pilot's licence.

McCaughey was a former flight instructor with 1,400 hours of military flying time and the first Snowbird to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor jet. Snowbirds have used those jets since 1971.

His death yesterday brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots killed in crashes since 1972.

Someone answering the phone at the McCaughey residence last night had "no comment" when contacted by the Star.

The team was manoeuvring above Malmstrom Air Force Base, preparing for weekend performances. Ty James, 14, on his way to his mother Monica's Petal & Blooms flower shop on the base, was watching the planes do their formations when the crash occurred.

"I was listening to my iPod and I was watching them flying across when, all of a sudden, one of the planes just kind of turned to its side, dove down and started spinning and hit the ground," James told the Star last night.

Greg Dart, another witness, told CTV News he and his family had driven to a vantage point off the Interstate highway to watch the Snowbirds. What they witnessed left them shaken.

Dart said the crash occurred toward what appeared to be the tail end of practice after the jets completed a "heart-shaped smoke figure in the sky. It looked like they were getting ready to disassemble," Dart said.

Two of the planes split off in different directions and that's when the "third plane veered a little and plummeted straight and hit the ground," said Dart.

Witness Gillian Scarber was driving into Great Falls when she saw the jet hit the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said. "It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames."

Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene, she said.

Witnesses saw no signs of a parachute, so they presumed the pilot was aboard when it crashed.

Word of the crash rippled through Moose Jaw quickly.

People were in tears. One woman hugged a member of the military at the base entrance.

The Snowbird team flies almost daily, year-round, logging 3,700 hours annually and thrilling spectators with low-altitude precision flying stunts.

With FILES from Canadian Press

and Associated Press

Inside Today

IDNUMBER 200705190223
PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A2
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Israelis demand action against Hamas rockets;
SOURCE: The Gazette
WORD COUNT: 352

Israelis demand action against Hamas rockets

As fighting between Hamas and Fatah continued in the Gaza Strip, Israeli warplanes countered Hamas's rocket attacks yesterday with new air strikes at Hamas training areas. Residents of Sderot, three kilometres from northern Gaza, raged against the Israeli prime minister for not preventing such attacks. Details, Page A22

Treasure ship yields millions

Deep-sea treasure hunters said yesterday they retrieved 17 tonnes of silver coins from a shipwreck off Land's End, near the English Channel, saying the find is the largest of its kind, worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Details, Page A24

The trouble with 'little bullies'

The most common response from the parents of young bullies or those being bullied is: "They'll grow out of it." But studies show the opposite is true: Bullying left unchecked leads to severely maladjusted teenagers and adults. Details, Page A6

Pedophile suspect to be turfed

Richard Steve Goldberg, a child molestation suspect who was on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list for years, told his Montreal deportation hearing yesterday that he never knew turning himself in voluntarily would be so difficult. Details, Page A8

Huge ice island cutting loose

A Manhattan-sized ice island off the northwest coast of Ellesmere Island could soon be on the move because of extraordinary conditions in the eastern Arctic,

ice experts say. Details, Page A12

Snowbird pilot dies in crash

A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot from Candiac was killed yesterday when his jet crashed while doing practice manoeuvres near Great Falls, Mont. The pilot was

identified as Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 30.

Details, Page A12

business

Ads that go too far?

Ads targeting the hard-to-reach youth market can sometimes land a company

in hot water – just ask the Couche-Tard convenience-store chain. Details, Page C1

sports

Barbaro changed everything

When the horses leave the starting gate

for today's Preakness, memories of Barbaro and his tragic fate will resonate for many viewers. Details, Page D1

Homefront

Taking the inside outdoors

It's a trend that started in the U.S. sunbelt: More and more homeowners are outfitting their decks with kitchens, fireplaces, patio heaters and hot tubs. Details, Page F1

Working

Cirque plays to its strength

The Cirque du Soleil – with 3,000 employees worldwide – fosters leadership and creativity by building on successes and learning through storytelling. Details, Page G1

Books

Novelist inspired by reality

Novelist Chuck Palahniuk channels the strangeness of the real world into bold works that feature extreme situations

and unfettered violence. Details, Page J6

Travel

The land of Genghis Khan

Mongolia hasn't changed much since Genghis Khan. It has few roads – but you can drive, ride and camp along a spiderweb of tracks and trails. Details, Page K1

Snowbird crash kills Quebec pilot in Montana practice run; Plane 'reacted funny' before plummeting

IDNUMBER 200705190195
PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A12
KEYWORDS: AIR SHOWS; CANADIANS
DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 370

A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot from Quebec was killed yesterday afternoon when his jet crashed while doing practice manoeuvres near Great Falls, Mont.

The pilot was identified by the air force as Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 30, of South Shore Candiac.

McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds, according to his biography on the group's website.

He was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor aircraft before joining the fleet. He had more than 1,400 hours of military flying time, the biography said.

Witnesses said the aerial team was flying in formation before one jet left the group and fell to earth around 5 p.m.

"It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," Gillian Scarber of Geyser, Mont., told the Great Falls Tribune.

Allen Kenitzer, a regional spokesman for the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, said "they were practising manoeuvres and this plane, this Snowbird 2, left its formation and shortly after that pitched down and crashed."

"The pilot, the sole occupant, did not eject."

The planes had been rehearsing for two shows this weekend at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

Football coach Gregg Dart was parked next to the highway, watching the Snowbirds with his young son and daughter, when he saw the plane go down.

Dart said moments before the crash, three planes were flying in formation. He estimated they were about 60 to 90 metres off the ground.

"I just feel horrible that something tragic like this happened," he said. "It happened so fast.

"As the two separated, the third plane kind of nosed up, turned slightly on its wing and went straight down. We looked for a parachute; we didn't see a parachute," Dart said.

"There was just a dull thud. There was a concussion wave that hit us. You could feel it. ... It's like somebody just hit you with an air gun.

"I just heard a thud and then (saw) a mixture of dirt and black smoke. And then a heavy, pungent smell of fuel.

"I don't know if it was clipped ... it definitely reacted funny when the two lead planes separated."

The Snowbirds, officially named the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, fly CT-114 Tutors and perform at 60 different airshows throughout North America.

This is the first Snowbird crash since a pilot safely ejected from his jet just before it crashed into the woods west of Thunder Bay, Ont., on Aug. 24, 2005.

Two of the aerial demonstration jets collided in December 2004 south of Moose Jaw, Sask., during a training mission, instantly killing Captain Miles Selby, 31, of Tsawwassen, B.C. It was the fifth fatal crash in the team's 37-year history.

The fate of the Snowbirds has been hotly debated in recent years, with some critics calling for the decommissioning of their 43-year-old CT-114 Tutor jets.

Snowbird pilot killed during training mission

IDNUMBER 200705190053
PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: D1 / FRONT
COLUMN: World Briefs
DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.
SOURCE: Star News Services
WORD COUNT: 308

GREAT FALLS, Mont. – A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot from Quebec was killed Friday when his jet crashed while doing practice manoeuvres near Great Falls, Mont.

The pilot was identified by the air force as Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 30, of Candiac, Que., south of Montreal.

McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds, according to his biography on the group's website.

He was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor aircraft before joining the fleet. He had more than 1,400 hours of military flying time, the biography said.

Eyewitnesses said the aerial team was flying in formation before one jet left the group and fell to the earth around 4 p.m. Central Time.

"It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," Gillian Scarber of Geyser, Mont., told the Great Falls Tribune.

"They were practising manoeuvres, and this plane, this Snowbird 2, left its formation and shortly after that pitched down and crashed," said Allen Kenitzer, a regional spokesman for the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

"The pilot, the sole occupant, did not eject and he was fatally injured."

The planes had been rehearsing for two shows this weekend at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

Greg Dart, a local football coach, was parked next to the highway, watching the Snowbirds with his young son and daughter, when he saw the plane go down.

Dart said moments before the crash, three planes were flying in formation. He estimated they were about 60 to 90 metres off the ground.

"I just feel horrible that something tragic like this happened," he said. "It happened so fast.

"As the two separated, the third plane kind of nosed up, turned slightly on its wing and went straight down. We looked for a parachute; we didn't see a parachute," Dart said.

"I just heard a thud and then (saw) a mixture of dirt and black smoke. And then a heavy, pungent smell of

fuel.

"I don't know if it was clipped ... it definitely reacted funny when the two lead planes separated."

A coroner reportedly was called to the scene.

The Snowbirds, officially named the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, fly CT-114 Tutors and perform at 60 different airshows throughout North America.

This is the first Snowbird crash since a pilot safely ejected from his jet just before it crashed in the woods west of Thunder Bay on Aug. 24, 2005.

Crash at U.S. air base kills 30-year-old Snowbird pilot

IDNUMBER 200705190201

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen

DATE: 2007.05.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A3

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Robin Loznak, the Great falls tribune / United Statesair force personnel and other investigators look over mangled wreckage where the Snowbirds Tutor jet flown by Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 30, of Candiac, Que., crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base yesterday while rehearsing for an airshow this weekend. Capt. McCaughey was in his second year with the aerial flight team. ; Photo: Capt. Shawn McCaughey had more than 1,400 hours of military flight time logged, but was new to the Snowbirds' Tutor jets. ;

DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Montana

SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen

WORD COUNT: 641

GREAT FALLS, Montana – A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot from the Montreal area was killed yesterday afternoon when his jet crashed while doing practice manoeuvres for a weekend airshow.

The pilot was identified by the air force as Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 30, of Candiac, Que., south of Montreal.

Capt. McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds, according to his biography on the group's website.

He was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor aircraft before joining the team. He had more than 1,400 hours of military flying time, the biography said.

Eyewitnesses said the aerial team was flying in formation before one jet left the group and fell to the earth at around 4 p.m. central time.

"It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," Gillian Scarber of Geyser, Montana, told the Great Falls Tribune.

"They were practising manoeuvres, and this plane, this Snowbird 2, left its formation and shortly after that pitched down and crashed," said Allen Kenitzer, a regional spokesman for the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

"The pilot, the sole occupant, did not eject and he was fatally injured."

The planes had been rehearsing for two shows this weekend at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

Gregg Dart, a local football coach, was parked next to the highway, watching the Snowbirds with his young son and daughter, when he saw the plane go down.

Mr. Dart said moments before the crash, three planes were flying in formation about 60 to 90 metres off the

ground.

"I just feel horrible that something tragic like this happened," he said. "It happened so fast.

"As the two separated, the third plane kind of nosed up, turned slightly on its wing and went straight down. We looked for a parachute; we didn't see a parachute," Mr. Dart said.

"There was just a dull thud. There was a concussion wave that hit us. You could feel it ... It's like somebody just hit you with an airgun.

"I just heard a thud and then (saw) a mixture of dirt and black smoke. And then a heavy, pungent smell of fuel.

"I don't know if it was clipped ... it definitely reacted funny when the two lead planes separated."

Lieut. Jeff Noel, a spokesman for 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said all the Snowbirds involved in the practice run were experienced pilots, though he couldn't say how many aircraft were in the air at the time of the incident.

"That information is being compiled right now," Lieut. Noel said. "They did recently accept three new pilots into the program but those pilots won't be flying with the program until next year."

The Snowbirds, officially named the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, fly CT-114 Tutors and perform at 60 different airshows throughout North America.

This is the first Snowbird crash since Capt. Andy Mackay, 39, of Orleans, safely ejected from his jet just before it crashed into the woods west of Thunder Bay on Aug. 24, 2005.

Two of the aerial demonstration jets collided in December 2004 south of Moose Jaw, Sask., during a training mission, instantly killing Capt. Miles Selby, 31, of Tsawwassen, B.C.

The fate of the Snowbirds squad has been hotly debated in recent years, with some critics calling for the decommissioning of their 43-year-old CT-114 Tutor jets.

The Snowbirds have flown their distinctive red-and-white planes before more than 100 million spectators since the team was formed in 1971. It is the only air force squadron still flying the Tutors, which have been phased out of service by the rest of the Canadian Forces.

An air force study in 2003 recommended that the Tutor be replaced as soon as possible and warned of significant safety risks if the air force continued to fly the jets. In June 2004, the military decided instead to extend the lifespan of the jets until 2020.

— — —

Log book

— Aug. 24, 2005: Capt. Andy Mackay of Orleans bailed out when his jet experienced engine problems just before an air show in Thunder Bay, Ont.

— Dec. 10, 2004: Capt. Miles Selby died in a fiery collision with Capt. Chuck Mallet during a training session near Moose Jaw, Sask. Mallet survived.

— June 21, 2001: Two planes collided while preparing for an airshow near Port Burwell, Ont. No injuries.

- Dec. 10, 1998: Capt. Michael VandenBos, 29, died after ejecting when his jet collided with another aircraft.
- March 21, 1994: Two pilots ejected near Moose Jaw, Sask., with minor injuries.
- 1992: Two pilots ejected safely after a collision near Bagotville, Que.
- Aug. 14, 1992: Plane crashed near CFB Moose Jaw. No injuries.
- Feb. 26, 1991: Jet crashed near CFB Moose Jaw during routine training flight. Both pilots escaped serious injury.
- Sept. 3, 1989: Capt. Shane Antaya, 24, was killed when his plane crashed into Lake Ontario during an airshow.
- May 3, 1978: Capt. Gordon de Jong, 32, was killed during a Grande Prairie, Alta. airshow.
- 1972: Capt. Lloyd Waterer, 24, was killed during an airshow in Trenton, Ont.

Crash at U.S. airshow kills Snowbird; Elite pilot practising manoeuvres with team ahead of Montana event

IDNUMBER 200705190197
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Early
SECTION: News
PAGE: A4
DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Montana
SOURCE: Canwest news service
WORD COUNT: 383

GREAT FALLS, Montana – A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed yesterday afternoon when his plane crashed while doing practice manoeuvres for a weekend airshow.

It was the sixth fatal crash of the elite team's 37-year history.

Witnesses report seeing the team flying in formation before one jet left the group and fell to the ground at around 4 p.m. central time.

"It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," Gillian Scarber, of Geyser, Montana, told the Great Falls Tribune.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration confirmed the pilot died during the crash.

"The pilot, the sole occupant, did not eject and he was fatally injured," said Allen Kenitzer, a regional FAA spokesman.

Despite the FAA's report, a spokesman for CFB Moose Jaw, where the Snowbirds are based, said early last night he could not confirm the pilot had been killed.

"I can confirm for you that one Snowbird CT-114 Tutor jet has crashed near Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Montana, this afternoon during a routine training mission," said Lieut. Jeff Noel.

The planes had been rehearsing for two shows this weekend at Malmstrom Air Force Base.

Greg Dart, a local football coach, was parked next to the highway, watching the Snowbirds with his young son and daughter, when he saw the plane go down.

Mr. Dart said moments before the crash, three planes were flying in formation. He estimated they were about 60 to 90 metres off the ground.

"As the two separated, the third plane kind of nosed up, turned slightly on its wing and went straight down. We looked for a parachute; we didn't see a parachute," Mr. Dart said.

"There was just a dull thud. There was a concussion wave that hit us. You could feel it ... It's like somebody just hit you with an air gun."

The Snowbirds, officially named the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, perform at 60 airshows across North America.

This is the first Snowbird crash since Capt. Andy Mackay, 39, of Orleans, safely ejected from his jet just before it crashed into the woods west of Thunder Bay on Aug. 24, 2005.

The fate of the Snowbirds squad has been hotly debated in recent years, with some critics calling for the decommissioning of the 43-year-old jets.

The Snowbirds have flown their distinctive red-and-white planes before more than 100 million spectators since the team was formed in 1971. It is the only air force squadron still flying the Tutors, which have been phased out of service by the rest of the Canadian Forces.

An air force study in 2003 recommended that the Tutors be replaced as soon as possible, and warned of significant safety risks if the air force continued to fly the jets. In June 2004, the military decided instead to extend the lifespan of the jets until 2020.

Snowbird killed during practice flight

IDNUMBER 200705190282
PUBLICATION: National Post
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: National
SECTION: Canada
PAGE: A12
DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 214

GREAT FALLS, Mont. – A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed yesterday afternoon when his plane crashed while doing practice manoeuvres near Great Falls, Mont.

"It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," Gillian Scarber of Geyser, Mont., told the Great Falls Tribune.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration confirmed the pilot died during the crash. The pilot was identified by the Canadian Forces as Captain Shawn Mc– Caughey, 30, of Candiac, Que., south of Montreal. Capt. Mc–Caughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds, according to his biography on the group's Web site. "The pilot, the sole occupant, did not eject and he was fatally injured," said Allen Kenitzer, a regional FAA spokesman.

The planes had been rehearsing for two shows this weekend at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. Greg Dart, a local football coach, was parked next to the highway, watching the Snowbirds with his children, when he saw the plane go down.

Mr. Dart said that moments before the crash, three planes were flying in formation. He estimated they were about 60 to 90 metres off the ground.

"I just feel horrible that something tragic like this happened," he said. "It happened so fast."

The Snowbirds, officially named the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, fly CT–114 Tutors and perform at 60 different airshows throughout North America.

KEYWORDS: AIR SHOWS; CANADIANS

Snowbird pilot killed in fiery Montana crash; Jet plunged to earth during rehearsal for airshow

IDNUMBER 200705190223
PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Capt. Shawn McCaughey;
KEYWORDS: AIR SHOWS; AIRCRAFT
DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.
SOURCE: CanWest News Service; with files from the Canadian Press
WORD COUNT: 538

GREAT FALLS, Mont. – A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed Friday afternoon when his plane crashed while doing practice manoeuvres near Great Falls, Mont.

The pilot was identified by the air force as Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., south of Montreal.

McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds, according to his biography on the group's website.

Eyewitnesses report seeing the team flying in formation before one jet fell to the earth around 3 p.m. MDT.

"It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," Gillian Scarber of Geyser, Mont., told the Great Falls Tribune.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration confirmed the pilot died during the crash.

"The pilot, the sole occupant, did not eject and he was fatally injured," said Allen Kenitzer, an FAA spokesman.

The planes had been rehearsing for two shows this weekend at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

Gregg Dart, a local football coach, was parked next to the highway, watching the Snowbirds with his son and daughter, when he saw the plane go down.

Dart said moments before the crash, three planes were flying in formation about 60 to 90 metres off the ground.

"I just feel horrible that something tragic like this happened," he said.

"It happened so fast," Dart said.

"As the two separated, the third plane kind of nosed up, turned slightly on its wing and went straight down. We looked for a parachute; we didn't see a parachute.

"I just heard a thud and then saw a mixture of dirt and black smoke. And then a heavy, pungent smell of fuel."

The Snowbirds, officially named the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, fly CT-114 Tutors and perform at airshows and events throughout North America.

Col. Richard Foster, the commander of 15 Wing, said McCaughey was a fine pilot and a top military officer.

"He was a very professional pilot," Foster said at a news conference at CFB Moose Jaw, Sask., the home base of the aerobatic squadron.

"I knew him before he became an instructor here in Moose Jaw. He was very jovial, very caring. He did his job very well. He was a very credible pilot and a good friend.

"The team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season."

This is the first Snowbird crash since a pilot safely ejected from his jet just before it crashed into the woods west of Thunder Bay, Ont., on Aug. 24, 2005.

The fate of the squad has been hotly debated in recent years, with some critics calling for the decommissioning of their 43-year-old CT-114 Tutor jets.

The Snowbirds have flown their distinctive red-and-white planes before more than 100 million spectators since the team was formed in 1971.

It is the only air force squadron still flying the Tutors, which have been phased out of service by the rest of the Canadian Forces.

An air force study in 2003 recommended that the Tutor be replaced as soon as possible and warned of significant safety risks if the air force continued to fly the jets. In June 2004, the military decided instead to extend the lifespan of the jets until 2020.

SNOWBIRD CRASHES

- Aug. 24, 2005: Capt. Andy Mackay of Orleans, Ont., bailed out when his jet experienced engine problems just before the start of an air show in Thunder Bay, Ont.
- Dec. 10, 2004: Capt. Miles Selby died in a fiery collision with Capt. Chuck Mallet during a training session near Moose Jaw, Sask. Mallet survived.
- June 21, 2001: Two planes collided while preparing for an air show near Port Burwell, Ont. No injuries.
- Dec. 10, 1998: Capt. Michael VandenBos, 29, died after ejecting when his jet collided with another aircraft.
- March 21, 1994: Two pilots ejected near Moose Jaw, sustaining minor injuries.
- 1992: Two pilots ejected safely after a collision near Bagotville, Que.
- Aug. 14, 1992: Plane crashed near CFB Moose Jaw due to failed engine bearing. No injuries.
- Feb. 26, 1991: Jet crashed near Moose Jaw during routine training flight. Both pilots escaped serious injury.
- Sept. 3, 1989: Capt. Shane Antaya, 24, was killed when his plane crashed into Lake Ontario during an air show in Toronto.

- May 3, 1978: Capt. Gordon de Jong, 32, was killed during an air show in Grande Prairie.
- 1972: Capt. Lloyd Waterer, 24, was killed during an air show in Trenton, Ont.

CanWest News Service

Snowbird pilot killed Jet crashes in show practice

SOURCETAG 0705190749

PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun

DATE: 2007.05.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 20

BYLINE: AP-CP

DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.

WORD COUNT: 219

Snowbirds pilot Capt. Shawn McCaughey was killed yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, the Canadian military announced.

McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

Col. Richard Foster, the commander of 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said McCaughey was a veteran and part of a group of some of the finest pilots in the world.

"He was a very professional pilot," Foster said at a news conference in Moose Jaw — the home base of the aerobatic squadron.

"The team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season."

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in crashes since 1972.

While McCaughey was a former flight instructor with 1,400 hours of military flying time, he was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor jet.

'BALL OF FLAMES'

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practising a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames," Scarber said. Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene, she said.

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Tutors.

The team flies the planes almost daily, year-round — logging 3,700 hours annually.

They are scheduled to perform at the Manitoba Air Show at Portage la Prairie on June 2 and 3.

KEYWORDS=CANADA

Snowbird pilot killed Jet crashes in show practice

SOURCETAG 0705190747

PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun

DATE: 2007.05.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 20

BYLINE: AP AND CP

DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.

WORD COUNT: 210

A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana while rehearsing for performances this weekend.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration confirmed the death in a release.

The crash occurred at 3:45 p.m., when a group of planes were practising manoeuvres above the base. One plane left the formation and "for some reason shortly thereafter pitched down and crashed," FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer said.

Lieut. Jeff Noel, a spokesman for 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said all those participating in the practice run in Montana were veterans, though he couldn't say exactly how many aircraft may have been in the air at the time of the incident.

'BALL OF FLAMES'

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practicing a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames," Scarber said. Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene, she said.

Witnesses said they saw no signs of a parachute and presumed the pilot was in the plane when it crashed.

No further information was available.

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors.

The team was scheduled to perform today and tomorrow in Great Falls at Malmstrom's open house and sport auto-rama.

An event organizer said the open house would continue as scheduled, but it was uncertain if the Snowbirds will perform.

The team flies the planes almost daily, year-round — logging 3,700 hours annually.

KEYWORDS=CANADA

Snowbird pilot dies in crash

SOURCETAG 0705190321

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.05.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 8

BYLINE: AP AND CP

DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.

WORD COUNT: 181

Snowbird pilot Capt. Shawn McCaughey was killed yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, Canadian military officials say.

McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

Col. Richard Foster, the commander of 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said McCaughey was a veteran and part of a group of some of the finest pilots in the world.

"He was a very professional pilot," Foster said at a news conference in Moose Jaw — the home base of the aerobatic squadron.

SIX KILLED SINCE 1972

"The team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season."

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbird pilots who have died in crashes since 1972.

Witness Gillian Scarber said she saw four or five planes practising a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames," Scarber said.

Witnesses said they saw no signs of a parachute.

Gregg Dart saw three of the Snowbirds approaching, flying low.

"My son said, 'Dad, look at their wings,' " he said. "And as I looked, the wing wiggled up and it went straight down.

"It was less than a second before it hit the ground," Dart said.

"There was a thud, then the shockwave of it hitting. After that, there was a big black cloud and the smell of jet fuel."

The Snowbirds were scheduled to perform this weekend in Great Falls. KEYWORDS=CANADA; MILITARY; AIRCRAFT; ACCIDENT; FATAL

Snowbird pilot killed during practice Jet crashes in 'big ball of flames' during preparation for weekend airshow

SOURCETAG 0705190649

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.05.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 4

BYLINE: AP AND CP

DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.

WORD COUNT: 266

A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana while rehearsing for performances this weekend.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration confirmed the death in a release.

The crash occurred at 3:45 p.m. when a group of planes were practising manoeuvres above the base.

One plane left the formation and "for some reason shortly thereafter pitched down and crashed," FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer said.

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practising a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, Scarber said. "It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames."

Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene, she said.

Gregg Dart was sitting in his car outside the air base when he said he saw three of the Snowbirds approaching.

"My son said, 'Dad, look at their wings,' " he said. "And as I looked, the wing wiggled up and it went straight down."

'BIG BLACK CLOUD'

"It was less than a second before it hit the ground," Dart said. "There was a thud, then the shock wave of it hitting. After that, there was a big black cloud and the smell of jet fuel."

Witnesses said they saw no signs of a parachute.

Lieut. Jeff Noel, a spokesman for 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said all the Snowbirds participating in the practice run in Montana were veterans, though he couldn't say exactly how many aircraft may have been in the air at the time of the incident. "That information is being compiled right now," Noel said.

Snowbird pilot killed during practice Jet crashes in 'big ball of flames' during preparation for weekend airshow

Word of the pilot's death rippled through Moose Jaw quickly.

People were in tears. One woman hugged a member of the military at the entrance to the base.

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in crashes since 1972.

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors.

The team was scheduled to perform today and tomorrow in Great Falls at Malmstrom's open house and sport auto-rama.

OTHER DEATHS

- Dec. 10, 2004 -- Capt. Miles Selby, near Moose Jaw, Sask.
- Dec. 10, 1998 -- Capt. Michael VandenBos, Mitchellton, Sask.
- Sept. 3, 1989 -- Capt. Shane Antaya, crashed into Lake Ontario during air show in Toronto.
- 1978 -- Capt. Gordon de Jong, 32, Grande Prairie, Alta.
- 1972 -- Capt. Lloyd Waterer, Trenton. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Frontpage Ghost Busters? Chris Stevenson reports from Buffalo, where desperate fans are trying to scare up spirits of playoff flubs past not this time, Senators say

SOURCETAG 0705190642

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.05.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 1

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo by Errol McGihon, Sun Jason Spezza and Dany Heatley celebrate a goal during a drill at practice yesterday at Scotiabank Place. Buffalo loudmouths are already calling the series Buffalo in seven, but the Sens snipers intend to silence those critics today. 2. photo SNOWBIRD PILOT KILLED IN CRASH 3. photo LOCKER ROOM OR LAGER ROOM? Sports world rethinking its free-spirited relationship with alcohol

WORD COUNT: 0

Crash kills Snowbird pilot in Montana

SOURCETAG 0705190164
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A5
BYLINE: SUN MEDIA NEWS SERVICES
DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, MONT.
COLUMN: News Digest
WORD COUNT: 154

A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana while rehearsing for performances this weekend. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration confirmed the death in a release. The crash occurred at 3:45 p.m. when a group of planes were practising manoeuvres above the base. One plane left the formation and "for some reason shortly thereafter pitched down and crashed," FAA spokesperson Allen Kenitzer said. Lieut. Jeff Noel, a spokesperson for 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said all the Snowbirds participating in the practice run in Montana were veterans, though he couldn't say exactly how many aircraft may have been in the air at the time of the incident. "That information is being compiled right now," Noel said. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Snowbird pilot killed in crash in Montana

SOURCETAG 0705190155

PUBLICATION: The London Free Press

DATE: 2007.05.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A1

2 photos by AP 1. REHEARSING: The Snowbirds rehearse for weekend performances over Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., yesterday. One of the jets later crashed in the rehearsal. 2. CRASH SITE: United States Air Force personnel and others look over the wreckage at the crash site of a Canadian Forces Snowbird plane yesterday at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont.

BYLINE: SUN MEDIA NEWS SERVICES

DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, MONT.

WORD COUNT: 338

Snowbirds pilot Capt. Shawn McCaughey was killed yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, the Canadian military announced.

McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

Col. Richard Foster, the commander of 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said McCaughey was a veteran and part of a group of some of the finest pilots in the world.

"He was a very professional pilot," Foster said at a news conference in Moose Jaw — the home base of the aerobatic squadron.

"The team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season."

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in crashes since 1972.

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practising a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, Scarber said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames," Scarber said. Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene, she said.

Witnesses said they saw no signs of a parachute and presumed the pilot was in the plane when it crashed.

Gregg Dart was sitting in his car outside the air base when he said he saw three of the Snowbirds approaching, flying low.

"My son said, 'Dad, look at their wings,' " he said. "And as I looked, the wing wiggled up and it went straight

down.

"It was less than a second before it hit the ground," Dart said. "There was a thud, then the shock wave of it hitting. After that, there was a big black cloud and the smell of jet fuel."

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors.

They were scheduled to perform 60 air shows in 40 locations this year, including June 23–24 in St. Thomas.

The team was scheduled to perform today and tomorrow in Great Falls at Malmstrom's open house and sport auto-rama.

An event organizer said the open house would continue as scheduled, but it was uncertain if the Snowbirds will perform.

The team flies the planes almost daily, year-round — logging 3,700 hours annually.

Word of the pilot's death rippled through Moose Jaw quickly.

People were in tears. One woman hugged a member of the military at the entrance to the base.

While McCaughey was a former flight instructor with 1,400 hours of military flying time, he was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor jet.

He was is in his second year with the Snowbirds and flew in the No. 2 jet in the Inner Right Wing position.

McCaughey joined the Canadian Forces in 2000 after earning a Bachelor's degree in Physical Geography from Concordia University in Montreal.

He also held a civilian commercial pilot's license. KEYWORDS=CANADA

Snowbird pilot dies Crashes in Montana while rehearsing for performance

SOURCETAG 0705190529

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.05.19

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 7

ILLUSTRATION: photo of SHAWN MCCAUGHEY Veteran pilot

BYLINE: AP AND CP

DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.

WORD COUNT: 258

Snowbirds pilot Capt. Shawn McCaughey was killed yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, the Canadian military announced.

McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in a group of planes practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

Col. Richard Foster, the commander of 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said McCaughey was a veteran and part of a group of some of the finest pilots in the world.

"He was a very professional pilot," Foster said in Moose Jaw – the home base of the aerobatic squadron.

"The team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season."

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in crashes since 1972.

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practising a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames," she said.

Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene, she said.

Witnesses said they saw no signs of a parachute and presumed the pilot was in the plane when it crashed.

Gregg Dart was sitting in his car outside the air base when he said he saw three of the Snowbirds approaching, flying low.

"My son said, 'Dad, look at their wings,' " he said. "And as I looked, the wing wiggled up and it went straight down."

"It was less than a second before it hit the ground," Dart said.

"There was a thud, then the shock wave of it hitting. After that, there was a big black cloud and the smell of jet fuel."

The Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors.

The team was scheduled to perform today and tomorrow in Great Falls at Malmstrom's open house and sport auto-rama.

An event organizer said the open house would continue as scheduled, but it was uncertain if the Snowbirds will perform.

The team flies the planes almost daily, year-round – logging 3,700 hours annually.

Word of the pilot's death rippled through Moose Jaw quickly. People were in tears. One woman hugged a member of the military at the entrance to the base. KEYWORDS=CANADA

Snowbird pilot killed in fiery crash

SOURCETAG 0705190407
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 4
ILLUSTRATION: photo of SHAWN MCCAUGHEY pilot killed
BYLINE: AP AND CP
DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.
WORD COUNT: 237

Snowbirds pilot Capt. Shawn McCaughey was killed yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana, the Canadian military announced.

McCaughey, 31, of Candiac, Que., was in one of a group of planes that were practising manoeuvres above the base when his aircraft left the formation and pitched into the ground.

Col. Richard Foster, the commander of 15 Wing, said McCaughey was a fine pilot and a top military officer.

"He was a very professional pilot," Foster said at a news conference at the base in Moose Jaw, Sask.

"I knew him before he became an instructor here in Moose Jaw. He was very jovial, very caring. He did his job very well. He was a very credible pilot and a good friend.

"The team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season."

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbirds pilots who have died in air crashes since 1972.

While McCaughey was a former flight instructor with 1,400 hours of flying time, he was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the CT-114 Tutor jet.

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practising a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames," Scarber said. Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene, she said.

Witnesses said they saw no signs of a parachute and presumed the pilot was in the plane when it crashed.

"My son said, 'Dad, look at their wings,'" he said. "And as I looked, the wing wiggled up and it went straight down," said Gregg Dart.

"It was less than a second before it hit the ground." KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

INSIDE TODAY'S GLOBE AND MAIL

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 071390293

DATE: 2007.05.19

PAGE: A1

BYLINE:

SECTION: News Index

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 195

WORD COUNT: 216

Fatal Snowbird crash A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot, Captain Shawn McCaughey of Candiac, Que., was killed when his plane crashed during rehearsal in Montana yesterday. He was flying in formation with five other planes from the renowned aerial team. News, Page A3 Sarkozy shakes things up Wasting no time to break with the past, French President Nicolas Sarkozy appoints a human-rights crusader as Foreign Minister; downsizes cabinet, giving women half its seats; and appoints the country's first minister of North African descent. News, Page A16 It's not about the rocks A new mining boom is under way, and the motherlodes are more likely to be found in the backroom than in the bush.

Report on Business, Pages B4–5 Putting adversity on ice Every hockey team endures bad luck, bad bounces and bad losses. But the Ottawa Senators, who can eliminate the Buffalo Sabres from the NHL playoffs today, have learned how to deal with such setbacks. Sports, Page S1 Game results, globesports.com Sex, drugs and cycling There's a new hit reality show, Doping with the Stars, featuring Tour de France champion Floyd Landis. Allan Maki explains. Sports, Page S2

AIRPLANE DISASTER Quebec pilot killed in Snowbird crash 'There was a dull thud and then a huge cloud of black smoke. . . . You could smell the burning jet fuel'

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 071390035

DATE: 2007.05.19

PAGE: A3 (MAP)

BYLINE: UNNATI GANDHI

SECTION: National News

SOURCE: STAFF CP

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 1091

WORD COUNT: 958

UNNATI GANDHI With a report from Canadian Press A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed when his plane crashed during a routine rehearsal for an air show in Montana yesterday afternoon.

The jet was flying in formation with five other planes from Canada's renowned aerobatics team. Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 31, died in the crash.

"Unfortunately, it was my son," said Ken McCaughey last night from the family home in Candiac, Que.

Capt. McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds, after having joined the Canadian Forces in 2000.

The Concordia University graduate flew the No. 2 jet in the inner right wing position. As a graduate of the NATO Flying Training in Canada Program, he was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience flying the CT-114 Tutor.

Colonel Richard Foster, the commander of 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said last night that Capt. McCaughey was a veteran and part of a group of some of the finest pilots in the world.

"He was a very professional pilot and he'll be missed," Col. Foster said in a telephone interview from the home base of the aerobatic squadron.

"The team will take an operational pause to remember Shawn McCaughey like we need to, and then we will go back and do the rest of the show season." Several local residents were watching the rehearsal when the plane went down.

Gregg Dart, from Great Falls, Mont., had just picked his son and daughter up from school and was on his way home when they saw the planes practising at Malmstrom Air Force Base for the weekend air show.

"My kids said, 'Let's go watch them,' " he told The Globe and Mail yesterday, "so we parked out on the interstate. We weren't even a quarter of a mile away." About 15 other cars had pulled over to watch as well.

Mr. Dart, head football coach for a local high school, hadn't been there for five minutes when his 11-year-old son told him to look at the wing of one of the jets, which had broken away from the formation.

"It wobbled up a little and then [the whole plane] went straight down," he said.

"There was a dull thud and then a huge cloud of black smoke. We felt the concussion thud and you could smell the burning jet fuel." Mr. Dart said there was no parachute, and because the planes were flying so low, there probably wouldn't have been enough time to open one.

"The one image that's going to stick in my mind is two of the planes came circling back over the wreckage, through the black cloud.

I'll remember that more than the actual crash," he said. "I can only imagine what those men were thinking as they flew over their fallen comrade." Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practising a formation when she saw one of them crash at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames." She said smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene.

The plane crashed about 4 p.m.

Emergency personnel were on the scene within minutes, and a coroner was also sent out.

The Moose Jaw-based Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors and are part of the Canadian Air Force. The team performs at 60 shows a year in North America.

The fatality brings to six the number of Snowbird pilots who have died in crashes since 1972.

The team was scheduled to perform today and tomorrow in Great Falls.

An event organizer said the open house would continue as scheduled.

The team flies the planes almost daily, year-round – logging 3,700 hours annually.

SNOWBIRD HISTORY The Snowbirds have flown the Canadair CT-114 Tutor jet since 1971.

The aircraft was designed and built in Canada and was used by the Canadian Forces as its basic pilot training aircraft until 2000.

There have been questions about the safety of the aging Tutor jets the Snowbirds use – the last Tutor came off the assembly line in 1966. However, according to the Canadian Forces website, the Snowbirds "are very confident flying the Tutor. It is safe and performs extremely well as a demonstration aircraft." The jets weigh approximately 3,370 kilograms and are powered by a J-85 engine, producing 2,700 pounds of thrust. Top speed of the aircraft, with smoke tanks attached, is 763 km/h.

Source: Department of National Defence Accidents since 1972 * 1972: Trenton, Ont. – Captain Lloyd Waterer, 24, killed during an air show.

* 1978: Grande Prairie, Alta. – Captain Gordon de Jong, 32, killed at an air show after a mechanical failure.

AIRPLANE DISASTER Quebec pilot killed in Snowbird crash 'There was a dull thud and then a huge cloud of

- * 1989: Toronto – Captain Shane Antaya, 24, killed when plane crashed into Lake Ontario after a midair collision during the air show at the Canadian National Exhibition. The other pilot safely ejected.
- * 1991: Near CFB Moose Jaw – Jet crashed during routine training flight near Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Both pilots escaped serious injury.
- * 1992: Near CFB Moose Jaw – Crash blamed on a failed engine bearing. No injuries.
- * 1992: Near Bagotville, Que. – Two pilots ejected safely.
- * 1994: Near Moose Jaw, Sask. – Two pilots ejected. Minor injuries.
- * 1997: Glen Falls, N.Y. – Two jets touched wings in midair.

No injuries.

- * 1998: Near Moose Jaw, Sask. – Two Snowbirds make contact in midair. Captain Michael VandenBos, 29, died after ejecting. The other pilot returned safely to base.
- * 2000: Toronto – Two jets sustain minor damage when the wing of one grazed the tail of another on the way to an air show. No injuries. Both planes landed safely.
- * 2001: Comox, B.C. – Landing gear on a jet collapsed upon landing. No injuries.
- * 2001: Over Lake Erie, near London, Ont. – Major Robert Painchaud and a passenger ejected after a midair collision. Passenger suffered minor injuries. The other aircraft returned to base.
- * 2004: Mossbank, Sask. – Captain Miles Selby died in a training accident. The other pilot landed with parachute, suffering only minor injuries.
- * 2005: Thunder Bay, Ont. – Capt. Andrew Mackay safely ejected from his aircraft during a warm-up before an air show.

WING–TO–WING The Canadian Snowbirds air acrobatic team risks death each time it flies, even in practice.

CT–114 TUTOR Speed: 763 km/h Weight: 3,370 kg Ceiling: 11,850 m Range: 648 km Crew: 2

SOURCE: CANADA NATIONAL DEFENCE |ADDED SEARCH TERMS: |GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Montana; United States; Canada |SUBJECT TERM:air shows; air accidents; deaths; history; chronology; aircraft; statistics; biography; table |PERSONAL NAME: Shawn McCaughey |ORGANIZATION NAME: Air Force; Canadian Snowbirds

AIRPLANE DISASTER Quebec pilot killed in Snowbird crash 'There was a dull thud and then a huge cloud of

AEROBATICS Crash in rehearsal kills Snowbird pilot 'There was a dull thud and then a huge cloud of black smoke. . . . You could smell the burning jet fuel'

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 071390034

DATE: 2007.05.19

PAGE: A3 (MAP)

BYLINE: UNNATI GANDHI

SECTION: National News

SOURCE: STAFF CP

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 980

WORD COUNT: 857

UNNATI GANDHI With a report from Canadian Press A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot was killed when his plane crashed during a rehearsal for an air show in Montana yesterday afternoon.

The jet was flying in formation with five other planes from Canada's renowned aerobatics team. The pilot's name was not released.

Gregg Dart, from Great Falls, Mont., had just picked his son and daughter up from school and was on his way home when they saw the planes practising at Malmstrom Air Force Base for the weekend air show.

"My kids said, 'Let's go watch them,'" he told The Globe and Mail in an interview yesterday, "so we parked out on the interstate.

We weren't even a quarter of a mile away." About 15 other cars had pulled over to watch as well.

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The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

AEROBATICS Crash in rehearsal kills Snowbird pilot 'There was a dull thud and then a huge cloud of black smoke. . . . You could smell the burning jet fuel'

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames," Ms. Scarber said. Smoke drifted across the highway as emergency crews raced to the scene, she said.

The plane crashed about 4 p.m. at the south end of the air force base's runway. Emergency personnel were on scene within minutes and a coroner was also sent out.

Lieutenant Jeff Noel, a spokesman for 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said all those participating in the practice run in Montana were veterans, although he couldn't say exactly how many aircraft were in the air at the time of the incident.

The Moose Jaw-based Snowbirds perform high-speed, low-altitude manoeuvres in nine Canadair CT-114 Tutors and are part of the Canadian Air Force. The team performs at 60 shows a year in North America.

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AEROBATICS Crash in rehearsal kills Snowbird pilot 'There was a dull thud and then a huge cloud of black

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CANADA NATIONAL DEFENCE |ADDED SEARCH TERMS: |GEOGRAPHIC NAME:
SOURCE: Montana; United States; Canada |SUBJECT TERM:air shows; air accidents; deaths; history;
chronology; aircraft; statistics; table |ORGANIZATION NAME: Air Force; Canadian Snowbirds

Snowbird jet crashes during practice, pilot killed

IDNUMBER 200705190113
PUBLICATION: The Hamilton Spectator
DATE: 2007.05.19
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Canada/World
PAGE: A3
DATELINE: GREAT FALLS, Mont.
SOURCE: Spectator wire services
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 146

A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot died yesterday when his jet crashed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana while rehearsing for performances this weekend.

The crash occurred at 3:45 p.m. when a group of planes were practising manoeuvres above the base. One plane left the formation and "for some reason shortly thereafter pitched down and crashed," FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer said.

Lieutenant Jeff Noel, a spokesman for 15 Wing Moose Jaw, said all the Snowbirds participating in the practice run in Montana were veterans,

The fatal crash brings to six the number of Snowbird pilots who have died in crashes since 1972.

Witness Gillian Scarber said she was driving into Great Falls and observed a group of four or five planes practising a formation when one of the planes crashed into the ground at the south end of Malmstrom's main runway.

The plane was coming down on a vertical loop, she said.

"It just smacked into the ground, and there was a big ball of flames," Scarber said. Witnesses said they saw no signs of a parachute.

Jet crashes, Snowbirds pilot dies Quebec officer killed during team practice in Montana

PUBLICATION: WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

DATE: 2007.05.19

PAGE: A1

SECTION: Canada Wire

WORD COUNT: 670

CP Wire GREAT FALLS, Mont. — A Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot from Quebec was killed Friday afternoon when his jet crashed while doing practice manoeuvres near Great Falls, Mont.

The pilot was identified by the air force as Capt. Shawn McCaughey, 30, of Candiac, Que., south of Montreal.

McCaughey was in his second year with the Snowbirds, according to his biography on the group's website.

He was the first Snowbird pilot to have no previous experience on the Snowbirds' CT-114 Tutor aircraft before joining the fleet.

He had more than 1,400 hours of military flying time, the biography said.

Eyewitnesses said the aerial team was flying in formation before one jet left the group and fell to the earth around 4 p.m. CT.

"It just smacked into the ground and there was a big ball of flames," Gillian Scarber of Geyser, Mont., told the Great Falls Tribune.

"They were practising manoeuvres, and this plane, this Snowbird 2, left its formation and shortly after that pitched down and crashed," said Allen Kenitzer, a regional spokesman for the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration.

"The pilot, the sole occupant, did not eject and he was fatally injured." The planes had been rehearsing for two shows this weekend at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. The Snowbirds are scheduled to perform in the Manitoba Air Show June 2 and 3 at Southport air base at Portage la Prairie.

Greg Dart, a local football coach, was parked next to the highway, watching the Snowbirds with his young son and daughter, when he saw the plane go down.

Dart said moments before the crash, three planes were flying in formation. He estimated they were about 60 to 90 metres off the ground.

"I just feel horrible that something tragic like this happened," he said. "It happened so fast.

"As the two separated, the third plane kind of nosed up, turned slightly on its wing and went straight down. We looked for a parachute; we didn't see a parachute," Dart said.

"There was just a dull thud. There was a concussion wave that hit us. You could feel it... It's like somebody just hit you with an air gun.

"I just heard a thud and then (saw) a mixture of dirt and black smoke. And then a heavy, pungent smell of fuel.

"I don't know if it was clipped. It definitely reacted funny when the two lead planes separated." A coroner reportedly was called to the scene.

The Snowbirds, officially named the Canadian Forces 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, fly CT-114 Tutors and perform at 60 different airshows throughout North America.

This is the first Snowbird crash since a pilot safely ejected from his jet just before it crashed into the woods west of Thunder Bay, Ont., on Aug. 24, 2005.

Two of the aerial demonstration jets collided in December 2004 south of Moose Jaw, Sask., during a training mission, instantly killing Capt. Miles Selby, 31, of Tsawwassen, B.C. It was the fifth fatal crash in the team's 37-year history.

The fate of the Snowbirds squad has been hotly debated in recent years, with some critics calling for the decommissioning of their 43-year-old CT-114 Tutor jets.

The Snowbirds have flown their distinctive red-and-white planes before more than 100 million spectators since the team was formed in 1971. It is the only air force squadron still flying the Tutors, which have been phased out of service by the rest of the Canadian Forces.

An air force study in 2003 recommended that the Tutor be replaced as soon as possible and warned of significant safety risks if the air force continued to fly the jets. In June 2004, the military decided instead to extend the lifespan of the jets until 2020.

— CanWest News Service A history of Snowbird crashes Aug. 24, 2005: Capt. Andy Mackay of Orleans, Ont., bailed out when his jet experienced engine problems just before the start of an air show in Thunder Bay, Ont.

Dec. 10, 2004: Capt. Miles Selby died in a fiery collision with Capt. Chuck Mallet during a training session near Moose Jaw, Sask.

Mallet survived.

June 21, 2001: Two planes collided while preparing for an air show near Port Burwell, Ont. No injuries.

Dec. 10, 1998: Capt. Michael VandenBos, 29, died after ejecting when his jet collided with another aircraft.

March 21, 1994: Two pilots ejected near Moose Jaw, Sask., sustaining minor injuries.

1992: Two pilots ejected safely after a collision near Bagotville, Que.

Aug. 14, 1992: Plane crashed near CFB Moose Jaw due to failed engine bearing. No injuries.

Feb. 26, 1991: Jet crashed near CFB Moose Jaw during routine training flight. Both pilots escaped serious injury.

Sept. 3, 1989: Capt. Shane Antaya, 24, was killed when his plane crashed into Lake Ontario during an air show in Toronto.

May 3, 1978: Capt. Gordon de Jong, 32, was killed during an air show in Grande Prairie, Alta.

1972: Capt. Lloyd Waterer, 24, was killed during an air show in Trenton, Ont.

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