

A.C. Frieden Visits U.S. Air Force Accident Investigations Facility

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico, USA (July 26, 2014) – Novelist A.C. Frieden attended a seminar at the U.S. Air Force accident investigations headquarters at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The facility, known as the Air Force Inspection Agency and the Air Force Safety Center, helps determine the causes of non-combat air crashes and recommends safety improvements. Frieden also toured the facility’s outdoor “crash lab”, where the wreckage of dozens of USAF fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters are laid out in the desert to reconstruct the accident scenes. “As a pilot, I am fascinated by the work done here at this USAF facility,” Frieden said. “The engineers and pilots who lead these investigations do a meticulous job of analyzing debris in search of clues—ultimately to help improve pilot safety.”



(Above) Novelist A.C. Frieden stands next to debris from a USAF B-1 bomber. This crash was blamed partly on a poorly designed fuel line that ruptured, causing an uncontrolled fire.

Kirtland Air Force Base is located adjacent to Albuquerque International Airport, with which it shares the same runways. Kirtland AFB is one of the largest installations in the U.S. Air Force. It occupies over 50,000 acres and provides employment to thousands of civilians and military personnel. Kirtland is also the home of the Air Force Materiel Command's Nuclear Weapons Center (NWC), the nation’s key center dedicated to nuclear weapons. The NWC is composed of the 377th Air Base Wing and 498th Armament Systems Wing, along with other groups and squadrons. The airbase operates a variety of aircraft, including the MC-130H and MC-130P Combat Shadow, UH-1N Huey, HH-60G Pave Hawk and the new CV-22 Osprey transport aircraft.

The Air Force Inspection Agency and the Air Force Safety Center located at Kirtland are both responsible for a variety of safety related investigations. One of its facilities on Kirtland’s southeast side is Air Force Safety Center’s so-called “crash lab”, which includes wreckage of a B-1 bomber, several F-16 fighter jets, an A-10 Warthog ground-attack jet, a T-38 Talon, a helicopter and other aircraft and parts. The facility is a key site to train investigators and help develop safety enhancements to the Air Force’s current fleet of aircraft. The center also offers training to military officers from foreign and allied nations through its International Flight Safety Officer program.



(Above) *Novelist A.C. Frieden stands next to wreckage of an F-16 fighter jet at the Air Force crash lab.*



(Above) *An aerial view of the headquarters of the Air Force Inspection Agency and the Air Force Safety Center (center/right building), located on the grounds of Kirtland Air Force Base, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.*



(Above) Wreckage of an F-16A that was involved in a fatal crash in 1986.

About the author: A.C. Frieden is a Chicago-based fiction author, lawyer, pilot, divemaster and former biologist and army sniper. He is the author of the acclaimed Jonathan Brooks thriller series and other fiction and non-fiction books. His novels are published by Avendia Publishing (paperback) and Down & Out Books (Kindle and Nook). For details, visit www.acfrieden.com.

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