

## WB-57F crash site on Isleta Pueblo, NM

DATE June 27, 1972

AIRCRAFT WB-57F, USAF ID No. 63-13292

GENERAL LOCATION On Isleta Pueblo lands approximately 15 NM east of Albuquerque

PEOPLE ABOARD Pilot and navigator

REFERENCES USAF Accident Report No. 72-6-27-1, *ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL* newspaper articles in June 28, 1972, edition

### HISTORY

The following story is summarized from the references.

The crew of Aircraft WB-57F, SN 63-13292, Call Sign Kite 33, was scheduled for a training mission along with Aircraft SN 63-13500, Call Sign Kite 30. Both aircraft were operating at or above FL 500. At a point in the mission, both aircraft were orbiting in preparation for a pass over the ABQ VORTAC. Kite 33 and Kite 30 coordinated their times to leave orbit and decided they could both safely leave at the same time for their VORTAC passes that were along different VORTAC radials 90-degrees apart. During that operation, the navigator in Kite 33 was tasked with making radio calls 30 seconds apart as the plane approached the VORTAC. At some point, radio calls from Kite 33 ceased and a passing F-105 reported an aircraft breaking up 3-5 miles from their position. After obtaining permission from ABQ Center, the F-105 orbited the area and reported ground impact of a major portion of an aircraft at 1841Z (1241 MDT). On subsequent examination that the aircraft that was Kite 33 was destroyed and both crew members died.

The impact site is on Isleta Pueblo land and the site was later cleaned up by a contractor hired by the Pueblo. Being on tribal land, permission to visit the site must be obtained before going there.



Photo of a sister aircraft in the squadron