

TF-104G "38459" (US serial number 63-8459) at Luke AFB in July 1980

Date: Tuesday 14 July 1981
Time: day
Type: Lockheed TF-104G Starfighter
Owner/operator: 58 TFTW Luftwaffe
Registration: 63-8459
MSN: 5763
Fatalities: Fatalities: 0 / Occupants: 2
Aircraft damage: Written off (damaged beyond repair)
Location: Aquila, AZ - 🇺🇸 United States of America
Phase: Manoeuvring (airshow, firefighting, ag.ops.)
Nature: Military
Departure airport: Luke AFB, AZ
Destination airport: Luke AFB, AZ
Confidence Rating: Information is only available from news, social media or unofficial sources

TF-104G, construction number 583D-5763, company model 583-10-20, US serial number 63-8459, built by Lockheed manufactured by Group USA (ARGE-USA); assembly at Lockheed-Palmdale for Germany; test flights 1963 with US serial number "63-8459" aircraft for Germany delivery date in 1963

🇺🇸 operated by the 4510th CCTW at Luke AFB, Arizona (German shadow serial number 2761); coded 38459 in USAF Silver-finish color scheme; 2.792 flight hours in May 1977 crashed July 14, 1981 after engine failure due to a broken throttle control linkage (Electrical Fire), both crew ejected safely 3.417 flight hours; 69 TFTS, struck off charge order (AVA) July 14, 1981; crash site: near Aquila, 15 NM West of Wickenburg.



14 July 1981

TF-104G

63-8459

69TFTS

GAF

written off

pilots ok

(shadow serial 27+61) This Starfighter, based at Luke AFB, crashed in Arizona after an engine-stall. Pilots USAF Capt. (IP) Chris R. Glaeser and 2nd Lt Ralph P. Dietl ejected safely. The aircraft was conducting a transition training sortie in the Gladden MOA, Arizona. During the initial entry for a loop, an RPM decrease was experienced with a corresponding loss of thrust. The instructor resumed control of the aircraft and recovered it to level flight. He followed the standard restart procedures but sadly with no success. In total he made 3 attempts. Both pilots ejected at 5000 ft MSL (3000 ft AGL). Aircraft was destroyed completely on impact and both pilots were fine with some small injuries. Investigation revealed: engine failure due to a broken throttle control linkage (Electrical Fire). The International F-104 Society owns a copy of the official accident report. Crash location: 33 57 23. 7N 113 19 20.1 W