

Aircraft Wrecks in the Mountains and Deserts of the American West

F-86A 8/12/50

On August 12, 1950 USAF 2nd Lt. Charles D. Roby was flying North American Aviation F-86A 48-189A from George A.F.B. in San Bernardino County, CA on a routine aerobatic training flight when the slats on the starboard wing failed to lock resulting in loss of control. 2nd Lt. Roby was forced to eject inverted at 10,000'. His F-86A crashed and exploded on the north slope of the rugged San Bernardino Mountains southeast of Hesperia, CA. 2nd Lt. Roby came down safely, and walked out of the of the mountains and was rescued by George A.F.B. personnel.

Little effort was made to recover the remains of 48-189A, and wreckage remained scattered, and unmarked until January 30, 2021 when three hikers visited the crash site.

Their attached crash site photos provide a unique look into past.

Colonel Charles D. Roby had a distinguished Air Force career that included 100 combat missions during the Korean War. Sadly Col. Roby was shot down and killed on a combat mission over Viet Nam in March 1968 while flying a F-4 Phantom. Col Roby was listed as MIA until his remains were recovered in 1988.

F-86A site visitation team: Pat J. Macha, Jeff Hammond, and Kai Hammond

Accident report courtesy Craig Fuller at AAIR

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