

Fresno fighter jet canopy comes off at 21K feet, pilot still landed safely

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Fresno, CA — A pilot of the 144th Fighter Wing in Fresno landed their wounded F-15 safely after a rare and what could have been a catastrophic malfunction.

The canopy of the single-seat jet blew off while the plane was flying at 21-thousand feet.

A pair of Air National Guard jets performed a flyover at the start of the Clovis Rodeo Saturday just before 2 p.m. after the National Anthem.

At approximately 2:30 p.m., the pilot declared the emergency over military training airspace above the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Instead of ejecting, the pilot flew back to Fresno Airport, landed the plane, and stopped on the runway where emergency personnel went to its aid.



The pilot was evaluated by EMS, but it's not known about his/her condition.

FOX26 News reached out to the 144th Fighter Wing for more information.

We are aware of an incident involving one of our aircraft flying in Military training airspace above the Sierra Nevada mountains, during which the aircraft experienced a canopy malfunction. The pilot safely recovered the aircraft and landed without incident. There were no injuries reported.

There's an ongoing investigation, and protecting the integrity of that investigation is critical. Because of this, policy doesn't allow us to discuss the matter in detail. We continue to be grateful that there are no reported injuries.

The jet canopy weighs around 500 pounds, so far, no reports of it being found.

