

1994: B52 Fairchild AFB

- Watch the video of the event on:

http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=eec_1176693008

1994: B52 Fairchild AFB (con'd)

■ General context

- Practice for an upcoming airshow
- Captain was known for his:
 - Lack of discipline,
 - Dangerous and reckless flying
 - and this for years
- All squadron FOs declined to fly with the Captain
- No Air force officer ranked higher than the commander of the unit ever questioned the Captain flying status
- After the Captain flew over a mountain with a 30 feet clearance the commander of the unit:
 - Decide to pull the Captain flying status after the airshow
 - Forbid anyone else from flying with him
 - Was in the copilot seat when the plane goes down

1994: B52 Fairchild AFB (con'd)

■ Operational context

- US Air Force authorize only 30° bank during airshows
- 92nd Bomb Wing officers cleared the Captain to perform "more aggressive" maneuvers during the airshow
- One of the maneuvers:
 - ➔ 360° turn centered over the tower
 - ➔ 60° bank angle
 - ➔ At 250 feet

1994: B52 Fairchild AFB (end)

■ Flying context

- During the 360° turn over the tower
- At mid turn, the B52 was in a 90° angle of bank
- Aircraft lost lift
- Hit the ground at 95° bank angle and 150 kts
- Copilot
 - Ejected, obviously realizing that they were going down,
 - But fell down in the fire ball created by the impact.