



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Toledo Air National Guard Student Pilot Dies During Training Mission

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Second Lieutenant David J. Mitchell of Toledo, Ohio, died on Friday, Mar. 14, when his F-16 Fighting Falcon crashed at approximately 12:17 p.m. Pacific Standard Time south of Alamo Lake, Arizona. Mitchell, a member of the 180th Fighter Wing, Swanton, Ohio, was a student pilot on an air-to-air training mission when the crash occurred. Mitchell was temporarily assigned to the 62nd Fighter Squadron at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, as a part of the Basic Qualification Course within the Initial Pilot Training program. Mitchell, a traditional member of the Ohio Air National Guard, was scheduled to complete Initial Pilot Training in June 2008.

Mitchell enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard in October 2001 and joined the 180th Fighter Wing's Maintenance Squadron as a Jet Engine Shop Mechanic. He was selected for a Commission in 2006 and completed the Air National Guard's Academy of Military Science Commissioning program earning the rank of Second Lieutenant. After his Commission, Mitchell attended and graduated from both the Undergraduate Pilot Training and the Fighter Bomber Course in 2007 held at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

Mitchell, a native of Lorain, Ohio, graduated from Marion L. Steele High School in 1999. He attended Bowling Green State University and graduated in 2005 with a degree in Aircraft Maintenance. Mitchell was born on May 13, 1981, and is the son of David M.

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Mitchell, Sandusky, Ohio and Jo Anne Nagy, Parma, Ohio. He married Kristi M. Mitchell in April 2006 who is from the greater Cleveland, Ohio, area.

The Adjutant General's Department and the 180th Fighter Wing wish to express their condolences and deepest sympathies to the family and friends of 2nd Lt. David J. Mitchell.

- 30 -

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Lt Col Thomas R. Gee, 180th Fighter Wing, at (419) 276-6330 or (419) 885-7003. Please visit our public website for more information about the Ohio National Guard at www.ohionationalguard.com