

Fresno Guardsmen killed in jet accident identified

By BETTY LEWIS
Staff Writer 13 JUN 87

The two Fresno-based Air National Guardsmen who died Saturday when their F-4D Phantom jet crashed on a training mission, were both accomplished fliers who had earned the confidence and respect of their colleagues.

Killed were Weapons System Operator Maj. John Q. Jordan Jr., 39, Sacramento and the jet's pilot, Capt. Wesley R. Deane, 37, of Chicago.

Their names were released Sunday by Air National Guard officials to say it could be weeks until a

cause is determined in the crash that occurred 25 miles southwest of Tucson, Ariz., near the town of Arivaca.

"There's no way even to speculate what happened," said Lt. Col. James A. Arthur, spokesman for the Fresno-based 144th Fighter-Interceptor Wing.

Both men had been with the Fighter-Interceptor Wing since it started flying the 1966-model two-seat combat aircraft in 1984.

It was the first fatality involving the Fresno-based F-4D Phantoms.

"Anytime there is an accident it always surprises and shocks me,"

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MAJ. JOHN Q. JORDAN JR.
— Weapons system operator



CAPT. WESLEY R. DEANE
— Plane's pilot

Guardsmen

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said Maj. Rick Ayres, the wing's chief of standards and evaluations.

Ayres said he had flown numerous times with Jordan and had also flown with Deane.

"They were both very accomplished," he said.

The 144th Fighter-Interceptor Wing is one of two air defense wings in the country, Arthur said, and contains about 1,000 guardsmen. The other is based in Massachusetts.

Arthur said the Fresno-based F-4D Phantoms are frequently used in training missions which can involve low-altitude flying over various terrain to intercept other aircraft. He said 23 of the supersonic fighter jets recently returned from a training mission in Germany in which Jordan participated.

"He was a very dedicated and professional air crew member," said Ayres. "He took his job very seriously. He was one of the few with normal specialized training in electronic warfare."

Jordan, a highly decorated Vietnam veteran, flew 82 combat missions over North Vietnam while on active duty with the Air Force's 388th Tactical Fighting Wing from 1972 to 1973.

He was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross among other military commendations for his efforts in Southeast Asia.

Following his Vietnam service, Jordan went to Arizona where he learned to fly F-4s and, after a three-year stint in Germany with the Air Force, returned to Arizona as an F-4 flight instructor.

He later became proficient flying F-4Gs, an electronic warfare aircraft, and became an instructor before leaving active duty in 1983.

He joined the Air National Guard's 144th Fighter-Interceptor Wing in 1984, about one month after the F-4D Phantoms arrived.

A part-time Guardsman, he had recently completed a graduate program at Sacramento State University in electronic engineering.

His wife, Toni, and 4-year-old son, Christopher, live in Sacramento. He has three other children from a previous marriage living in Phoenix.

Deane, a commercial pilot for American Airlines, originally joined the Fresno-based Air National Guard unit in July 1978 as an enlisted man.

He graduated from basic military training with honors and went on to flight school in Illinois. In 1982 he went to undergraduate pilot training and received a commission. In 1983 he returned to Fresno and joined the 144th Fighter-Interceptor Wing.

He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1985 from Fresno State University.

Although his current address is listed as Chicago, Lt. Col. Butch Songer at the 144th Fighter-Interceptor Wing said Deane had lived for a short time in Clovis. He leaves behind his wife, Cynthia, and a 4-year-old daughter, Amber in Chicago.

Arthur said that Deane and Jordan were the only two members of the 144th Fighter-Interceptor Wing who participated in the Arizona training mission.

He said this was because other F-4D Phantoms were scheduled to participate early Sunday in separate training exercises off the central California coast.

However, after learning of the accident, he said plans for the Fresno-based wing to participate were cancelled.

INTERMENT
Sacramento County Veterans
Memorial Park Cemetery

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
McClellan A.F.B. Honor Guard

HONOR FLY OVER
California Air National Guard
194th Fighter Interception Squadron

JOHN Q. JORDON, MAJOR
California Air National Guard

1947 - 1987

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL
Holy Spirit Catholic Church
June 20, 1987 at 10:00 A.M.

CELEBRANT
Rev. Charles Brady, Pastor
Holy Spirit Catholic Church

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
The Land Park Chapel of
Harry A. Nauman & Son
4041 Freeport Blvd.
Sacramento, California