

From: USAF CA 144 FW Mailbox HQ Public Affairs
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2018 2:50 PM
To: USAF CA 144 FW List ALL <usaf.ca.144-fw.list.all@mail.mil>
Subject: Tragic loss of a team member

Members of the 144th Fighter Wing,

I wanted to share some tragic news with all of you, we lost a member yesterday. Lt. Col. Seth "Jethro" Nehring, assigned to the 194th Fighter Squadron, was killed yesterday in an SU-27 plane crash in Ukraine. Jethro was deployed to Ukraine for the Clear Sky 2018 exercise. He was serving as the Operations Officer in the Joint Operations Center, meaning he was the liaison between the exercise director, Maj. Gen. Garrison and all flying operations. He was handpicked for this position due to his operational experience and long history with our unit. As part of the flying operations in Ukraine, our pilots and support personnel have been flying in the backseat of Ukraine aircraft and Ukraine personnel have been flying in the backseat of an F-15. These familiarization flights allow for invaluable training in foreign aircraft. Jethro has been a member of the 144th family for over 20 years. He began his career here as an enlisted crew chief before being selected for a pilot slot and flew the F-16 Viper for over 15 years and converted to the F-15 Eagle. A loss of any kind is always difficult and our thoughts and prayers go out to Jethro's family and friends. We will hold a memorial service on base in the coming weeks so we can all honor our friend and fellow Airman.

Both the Chaplain and DPH are always standing by to help lend a hand and support us through these challenging times. Please reach out to them if you need to speak to someone.

With Sympathy,
Col. Kelly