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MYSTERY JET PILOT'S IDENTITY DISCLOSED

Air Force officials Saturday identified a pilot killed in the crash of a mysterious aircraft believed to be a top-secret F-19 Stealth fighter as guards with automatic rifles sealed off a wide area of Sequoia National Forest surrounding the crash site.

The Air Force imposed strict secrecy about the crash and would only confirm the identity of the pilot killed, Maj. Ross E. Mulhare, 35, who was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas.

Mulhare, 35, a native of Fall River, Mass., was married and had four children. He was attached to the 4450 Tactical Group at Nellis. Air Force officials refused to reveal the group's mission.

The pilot's father, Edward A. Mulhare of River Edge, N.J., said Saturday that his son trained other Air Force pilots 'by playing the devil's advocate in the air, by flying like the Soviet pilots fly.'

Mulhare said his son's work was so secret that 'he didn't talk to anyone, including his wife, about it, and had to have a lie-detector test every three months to prove it.'

'I just wanted people to know that we consider our son a hero who was doing exactly what he wanted to do, despite the danger involved,' Mulhare said before boarding a flight to be with his son's family at Nellis.

Nellis is one of three sites in Nevada used to test super-secret aircraft. Its bombing and gunnery range covers about 3 million acres of desert and mountain areas, and borders on three sides the Nevada Test Site, where nuclear weapon tests are conducted.

The other aircraft test sites are the Tonopah Test Range, about 200 miles northwest of Las Vegas, where the runway was lengthened about one year ago, and a location known only as Area 51, about 100 miles north of Las Vegas.

So confidential is Area 51 that military officials refuse to confirm its existence. It includes *Groom*Lake, *a dry lake bed.

A recently published book, 'Stealth Aircraft,' by British author Bill Sweetman, says Stealth fighters are tested in a closely guarded section of Nellis.

The F-19, reportedly built by Lockheed California Co. in its Burbank plant, has been described as an experimental aircraft that would employ the latest electronic technology, materials and aerodynamic design to foil radar and infrared sensors. Officially, the Air Force doesn't even acknowledge that the aircraft exists.

'The Air Force has no comment on what type of aircraft it was, where it came from, what it was doing and its mission,' said Edwards Air Force Base spokesman Don Haley.

Haley said the Air Force was taking special precautions in releasing information about the crash.

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