

HEADQUARTERS
CALIFORNIA WING-CIVIL AIR PATROL
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Civil Air Patrol Locates Missing Aircraft

(Lake Havasu, CA) – November 12, 2003 – A Civil Air Patrol (CAP) ground team located a missing aircraft that had failed to arrive as expected in Santa Maria on a flight from Glendale Arizona. The single engine experimental aircraft was located approximately 30 miles southwest of Lake Havasu in rugged terrain. There were no survivors.

The aircraft, a home built T-18C, departed Glendale approximately 10:15, Tuesday, November 11th with two persons on board for a flight to Santa Maria. When the aircraft failed to arrive, a friend of the pilot notified the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The FAA notified the United States Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. The AFRCC initially notified Lt. Col Jim Mackey of the Arizona Wing of the CAP at approximately 11:09 PM and requested the assistance from the CAP in locating the aircraft. After air traffic control determined the last known position of the aircraft was in California, responsibility for the mission was shifted to the California Wing.

Major Denise Edwards, Incident Commander, launched a ground team in an attempt to locate the missing aircraft. Ground team members Captain Bob Keilholtz, Lieutenants Denny Joyce and Shane Terpstra searched for the aircraft in the area of its last known position. Additionally four Civil Air Patrol Aircraft were on stand-by waiting for the weather to clear in order to join the search. After an all night search, the ground team located the aircraft at 8:20 Wednesday morning. The ground team hiked through rugged off-road terrain in order to reach the plane. The Civil Air Patrol also assisted the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and Coroner's Office in reaching the crash site.

In all, the mission consisted of approximately 20 members of the California Wing Civil Air Patrol. Included were the Incident Commander, Planning, Intel, Operations, a Ground Team and Communications Operators.

Although the pilot had not filed a flight plan, the search was successful in a relatively short time. The search area was determined using Standard Search procedures as taught by the National Search and Rescue Course of which the Incident Commander is a graduate.

The cause of the crash will be determined by the National Transportation Safety Board.

For additional information and follow-up, please contact Capt Brian Stover, Mission Information Officer, 818-523-9895, e-mail: bstover @ cawg.cap.gov