



CIVIL AIR PATROL

NEWS

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY, CALIFORNIA WING, HEADQUARTERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 24, 2005

### CALIFORNIA WING CALLED INTO ACTION, TRAINING TURNS INTO MISSION

The California Wing of the USAF Auxiliary, the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), just completed a very demanding but successful period of mission activity and public service, all centered in the southern portion of the State.

The week began with a multi agency coordinated search mission for a crashed Cessna 182 in the Palm Springs area. Then, there were almost 10 different Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) missions, urgently prosecuted and silenced through out the week. The seven day period ended with a major, planned, search and rescue exercise (SAREX) based in Santa Maria, which immediately transitioned into an actual search mission for a crashed Bellanca aircraft reported missing on a flight from Exeter to Tehachapi. There were no survivors in any of the crashes.

Over 100 CAP member volunteers provided their time and expertise to these emergencies during the very active week of May 15-22, with more than 30 sorties flown in support of the missions using member owned and corporate aircraft.

Emergency services are a prime reason individuals join the Civil Air Patrol. An additional benefit of membership is the CAP Cadet program where young people learn discipline, aerospace education, and leadership skills. A major Cadet and Senior non-emergency activity was also held at the end of this very busy week. 115 Cadets and Seniors combined to provide Civil Air Patrol services of flight line and crowd control, first aid, and other safety functions for the general public, and the event organizers, at the very popular Chino Air Show.

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*Civil Air Patrol, the official Air Force Auxiliary, is a nonprofit organization. It performs more than 85% of inland search and rescue missions tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center in the continental United States. Volunteers also take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to America's youths through CAP cadet programs.*

*-- On the Web: <http://www.cawg.cap.gov>*