



## Contour Search - MP

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**Objective:** To practice contour search techniques.

**Duration:** 2.0 hours

### SCENARIO

The widespread poor weather in the previous days apparently did not prevent a local farmer from flying. AFRCC has opened a search for the blue-on-white Navion, N1119Q. On board was Horace A. Farmer and his wife Lucille. No flight plan was filed, nor did the PIC receive a weather briefing from flight service. The pilot is well known at his home airport; the couple makes the trip about once a month. After topping off his aircraft on Friday evening, Mr. Farmer presumably departed for home. His daughter Mabel reported being unable to contact Mr. Farmer to the County Sheriff who in turn contacted AFRCC.

### ASSIGNMENT

1. Plan a contour search for your assigned grid \_\_\_\_\_.

### PRE-FLIGHT PLANNING

1. Discuss the purpose of the flight.
2. Using the details below, complete the pre-flight planning using the appropriate sections of the flight guide.
3. Discuss the crew duties. Review individual responsibilities and who manages what equipment (for example, how the airband radios will be used and by whom).
4. Do all normal pre-flight activities (call for a weather briefing, prepare weight and balance, etc.)
5. Prepare a CAPF-104 a. and b.

### PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

1. Locate the following communications equipment and discuss their use:
  - a. Nav/Comms
  - b. DME
  - c. ADF
  - d. GPS
  - e. VHF-FM (CAP) radio
  - f. Audio panel
  - g. Intercom
  - h. Push-to-talk buttons and mike
2. Have the trainee give an aircraft passenger and safety briefing:
  - a. Demonstrate use of safety belts and harnesses
  - b. Identify emergency exits and egress procedures
3. The mission pilot candidate should set up the CAP radio, DF, and FAA radios. Enter the proper nav/comm. frequencies and the first destination in the GPS. The MP candidate should demonstrate setup of the audio panel. Assist the MP candidate as necessary. The MP candidate should verbalize what she/he is doing



## FLIGHT

*During the flight, the trainee should concentrate on learning to use the aircraft radios, (especially the CAP radio), and navigation equipment (VOR, DME, ADF, and GPS).*

1. Enroute
  - a. Fly at the briefed altitude.
  - b. Discuss what to look for during a visual search. Whenever possible, have the trainee point out objects on the ground which resemble search visual clues, such as:
    - c. Light colored or shiny objects
    - d. Smoke and fire
    - e. Blackened areas
    - f. Local discoloration of foliage
    - g. Fresh bare earth
    - h. Breaks in cultivated field patterns
    - i. Water and snow
    - j. Tracks and signals
    - k. Birds and animals
2. Contour Search
  - a. Use contour search techniques in mountainous terrain other than canyons and steep valleys
  - b. Begin at the highest elevation
  - c. Maintain a constant altitude while flying adjacent to steep terrain
  - d. Once all terrain at that altitude has been searched, descend 500 feet and continue contour searching
  - e. Put your observers in the optimal position to detect the target
  - f. If you encounter a sub-ridge, either:
    - i. Include it in your current contour search
    - ii. Return later to search it separately
  - g. Two options in searching ridge or mountain:
    - i. Contour all the way around the terrain before descending
    - ii. Contour one face at a time
  - h. Resist temptation to scan when the terrain is on your side of the aircraft
  - i. Your job is to safely fly the airplane

## DEBRIEFING

1. Review the flight and answer any questions.
2. Complete the CAPF 104 and 104a.

## REQUIRED SQTR TASKS

1. None