

Two Missions in Three Days

UDF Teams & Aircrew search for Signals in separate incidents

July 23, 2007

CHATTANOOGA, TN – This weekend allowed the members of the Chattanooga Composite Squadron several opportunities to interact with the public, just not in ways that had been anticipated. On Saturday, 21 July, while squadron personnel were presenting information to the public on the opportunities available through the US Civil Air Patrol at a regional home school event, the first mission was activated to locate an emergency beacon in the vicinity of the Chickamauga Dam and Lakeshore Marina.

Major Hyder of Tennessee Wing Group II, the incident commander, activated the first Urban Direction Finding (UDF) Team and the Aircrew at 1130 hrs local time. The UDF Team consisted of 1Lt. Nix and Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Chubbuck of the Chattanooga Composite Squadron. The Aircrew was activated from the Tullahoma Squadron with Major Don Roberd as the pilot and Lt. Colonel William Frye as the observer. The Flight was designated CAP Flight 4154 utilizing a Cessna 182 aircraft. Major Spears of Group II was designated the Air Branch Director. With the UDF Team and Aircrew in the area, the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) reported loss of signal at 1213 hrs local time. The ground team was still receiving intermittent signals in the area, so an additional team was activated. 1Lt. Broach and Cadet Senior Airman Broach were designated as the second UDF Team on the mission. Additional equipment was brought in by Major Spears of Group II. The teams continued the ground search until 2130 hrs local time, but were unable to locate the source of the signal. Major Hyder had a single team return to the area on Sunday, in hope of locating the source of the signal. Unfortunately, the team was unable to locate even an intermittent signal. Major Hyder closed the mission on Sunday with a result of “Successful/Signal Ceased”.

On Monday, 23 July, Major Hyder again activated a UDF Team at 0600 local time to locate an emergency beacon in the vicinity of Hixson, Tennessee. Again, 1Lt. Broach and Cadet Senior Airman Broach were called upon for the mission. The team located the beacon on a boat which had recently arrived from Florida. The boat was located at a Maintenance and Repair Facility approximately five miles from the Tennessee River. The mission was closed by Major Hyder as a “Find” with the AFRCC at 0830 hrs local time. When asked about the missions, the Squadron Operations Officer stated, “The commitment of the Emergency Services (ES) qualified cadets on these missions was extraordinary. The depth of training was evident by their exceptional performance over an extended search time.” The Squadron Commander commented on the performance of the teams by stating, “I was proud of the rapid response of the teams; the integration of the ES qualified cadets into the missions and the successful conclusions that were reached.

While the members of the Chattanooga Composite Squadron are proud of the performance of their teams and that of the Tullahoma Aircrew, perhaps Major Hyder said it best: “The dedication of the Officer/Cadet teams and the Aircrew over the extended length of the missions show the outstanding commitment and professionalism of the members of the US Civil Air Patrol.”

Compiled and written by:
SM Mark Landrum
Public Affairs Officer
Chattanooga Composite Squadron