

After Action Report

DATE: 2 June, 2008

SUBJECT: After Action Report – Cascabel UDA

FROM: Robert Hollister, CC RACES Officer
TO: David Noland, CCSO SAR Coordinator
CC: Mike Evans, CC Emergency Services
RACES Unit

1. PURPOSE:

This report briefly describes the support provided by the RACES Communications team to the Cochise County Search and Rescue unit on the evening of 1 June.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In the afternoon of 1 June the RACES unit received notification by page of a search mission in the northwest corner of Cochise County near Cascabel.

Callout was for a reported ill or injured undocumented alien (UDA) who became separated from the group he was traveling with. According to the report received from the Border Patrol the individual told the group was traveling with, and subsequently arrested, that he could go no further and stopped. A combination of ground teams and the AZ DPS Ranger helicopter searched the reported area until dark with no credible evidence of his whereabouts located. He may have stopped, rested, and continued traveling after being separated from the group. Mission was terminated at 20:00 hrs.

3. LESSONS LEARNED/ISSUES

a. Coffee Pot – The pot fell out of the coffee maker enroute to the scene. The last 16 miles of travel on Cascabel Road, also know as the San Pedro Highway, is a very rough washboard gravel surface. Fortunately it is a metal pot so no damage was experienced. One of the conduit panel covers was also popped open by the vibration. It was quickly and easily secured. A strap will be fabricated to hold the pot in place in place similar to the one used on the earlier coffeepot. The existing latch just is not up to the task for such rough terrain.

b. Mast Camera - When we turned on the TV screen, the camera came on momentarily and then we got the report on the screen of "No Signal". It is unclear if a connection came loose from the camera or the monitor screen due to the vibration or some other problem exists. The monitor was tested with the computer and displayed properly so we know it is a problem with the connection to the camera.

c. Bug Spray – Upon arrival on the scene a bunch of small insects descended upon us. Unfortunately we do not normally carry insect repellent in the MCU but will add a bottle to the cabinet.

4. COMMENTS

We were able to put up the HF antenna and check into the AZ Traffic and EmergencyNet (ATEN) while we were on scene. We had good HF signal coverage into the Phoenix and Chino Valley area. We also had good VHF coverage back to Sierra Vista using the VHF repeater on Mule Mountain from that location.

5. ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Identify and repair camera RF signal loss issue.
- 2) Fabricate a strap to hold the coffee pot in place.
- 3) Purchase a bottle of insect repellent to add to the normal supplies.

Appendix – Participants

CCSO SAR Unit
AZ DPS Phoenix Ranger
RACES Unit
Bob Hollister (Chase 1)
Lee Ilse (MCU Driver)
Mike McNeill (Chase 2)
Floyd Sharp (Home Unit)
Charles Campbell (Home Unit)

Bob
Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." - General George Patton Jr.