

After Action Report

DATE: 28 June, 2007

SUBJECT: After Action Report – Charleston/San Pedro Search & Rescue

FROM: Robert Hollister

TO: David Noland, CCSO SAR Coordinator

CC: Mike Evans, CC Emergency Services
RACES Team

1. PURPOSE:

This report briefly describes the support provided by the RACES Communications team to the Cochise County Search and Rescue Team on the evening of 28 June. It does not address any SAR specific operational issues.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At approximately 1800 hours on 28 June, 2007 the RACES team received notification by page of a search and rescue mission. A lady reported to be in her mid 40's had been overcome by the heat in the desert just north of the Charleston Bridge in the afternoon. A member of the group she was with went for help. A combined team of SAR members and Border Patrol set out to locate her. Initially the Border Patrol K-9 reacted favorably to a scent sign and proceeded for a while but eventually lost the scent. Ground trackers accompanied by the reporting party found the location where she had originally been left behind. Apparently when the sun went down and it had cooled off a bit, she recovered sufficiently to get up and start walking again. Fortunately the BP ground team was able to follow the sign and located her after some search. AZ DPS Ranger was able to pick her up, brought her to the CP where she was handed off to Fry Fire medical personnel, evaluated, and transported to the hospital as a precautionary measure.

3. LESSONS LEARNED/ISSUES

ACU 1000 Issue – We attempted to set up a cross patch with the ACU between the CC SAR Channel and the Border Patrol. For some unknown reason, we unable to make the audio patch work. The software and the ACU appeared to work properly but it is possible that the channel that we have labeled as BP Mule 1 does not match what the Border Patrol is calling Mule. The work-around for this mission was to sign out a portable radio from the MCU cache to a BP agent and he in turn provided one of his to us so we could monitor their activity.

4. COMMENTS

Overall the cooperation between the various teams and agents seemed to be very good on this mission. A second operational period RACES team was also ready to deploy as needed. It was just unfortunate that we could not make the ACU patch work. That would have facilitated the effort and perhaps saved some time.

5. ACTION ITEMS

1 – Contact the BP Radio Tech (Randy Federico. 432-5121) and ensure that we have the correct frequencies loaded in the ACU 1000 and are using the same naming convention so we can match up our radio channels more easily. I suggest bringing the MCU to Bisbee to test this audio patch with a Naco or Douglas unit to ensure we have this interoperability issue resolved.

Appendix – Participants

CCSO SAR Unit

AZ DPS Ranger (Phoenix)

Border Patrol (K9, Ground & Air Teams)

RACES Team

Dale Chidester - MCU Operator

Charles Campbell – MCU Operator/Chase

Bob Hollister - MCU Operator/Driver

Floyd Sharp - Home Unit Monitor

Barb Heck - Home Unit Monitor

Lee Ilse - Home Unit Monitor