

## After Action Report

DATE: 30 June, 2007

SUBJECT: After Action Report – Fort Huachuca 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 30 June. It does not address any SAR specific operational issues.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At approximately 1730 hours on 30 June, 2007 the RACES team received notification by page of a search and rescue mission at Fort Huachuca for an injured soldier located high on the side of a mountain in Garden Canyon. With the assistance of AZ DPS Ranger they located our subject on the mountainside. Sgt Noland was taken up to the location, assisted in loading the soldier into the helicopter and brought him down. The Rescue LZ was pretty precarious on the mountain and the helicopter could not fully sit down but they were still able to get the man successfully onto the aircraft. Later we found out he had to kill a rattlesnake while he was waiting for assistance. He was seriously dehydrated but should fully recover from his mishap. Mission number two for June 30 complete.

### 3. LESSONS LEARNED/ISSUES

Garden Canyon – We learned that there are a lot of low hanging tree limbs in the Garden Canyon area. Taking the MCU up past Picnic Area One is very dangerous to the rooftop antennas. We made a command decision and stopped at Picnic Area Two. Fortunately we did not lose any antennas but it very slow going and a ground guide is helpful getting past some of the lowest branches. The recommendation is that we not attempt going past Picnic Area One in the future, especially after dark when you have reduced visibility. I was able to hear the helicopter and Sgt Noland quite well off the ¼ wave antenna on my truck from Picnic Area One where I was assisting at the staging/landing zone so there was no advantage, on this mission, to proceeding further up the canyon.

Critical Phone Numbers – During the initial phase of the search we needed to contact Ft Huachuca and the Aerostat facility to gain flight clearance for the DPS helicopter. We also need to get a Border Patrol helicopter to leave the area so that DPS could get in closer to assist us. Until SGT Noland got in the area there was a delay getting clearance for the DPS helicopter and the BP helicopter to leave. We need to add these phone numbers to the list in the MCU to assist in this coordination.

#### 4. COMMENTS

Fort Huachuca Military Police assisted in keeping the command post and landing zone clear of unnecessary personnel. Fort Huachuca Fire responded an ambulance to transport the injured soldier to medical facilities.

#### 5. ACTION ITEMS

Add BP and Fort Huachuca phone numbers to our emergency contact list.

#### Appendix – Participants

CCSO SAR Unit

Fort Huachuca Fire

RACES Team

Lee Ilse - MCU Operator / Driver

Charles Campbell - MCU Operator

Bob Hollister - MCU Operator/ Chase

Dale Chidester – Home Unit

Floyd Sharp – Home Unit