



CIVIL AIR PATROL CALIFORNIA WING  
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HEADQUARTERS  
CALIFORNIA WING - CIVIL AIR PATROL  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Civil Air Patrol Continues Search for Missing Paraglider**

Search intensifies for a second day, with additional CAP aircraft in Kern County area.

(Bakersfield, CA) – July 3, 2003 – Civil Air Patrol (CAP) aircraft and flight crews continue with a second day of search for a missing Palmdale Paraglider, last seen by a friend on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at about 4:00 PM, near the pilot's vehicle, in the Black Mountain area. The pilot, whose name was not released, is in his 40s and an employee of Edwards Air Force Base. A missing persons report was filed late Tuesday evening by his family when they became concerned because he did not do his usual check in with them.

The CAP has established a primary mission base at the Bakersfield's Meadows Field airport, with a secondary base to provide more efficient aircraft refueling at the Tehachapi Muni airport. In its first day of search, Wednesday, the Civil Air Patrol launched three aircraft, and involved twelve persons completing almost eleven hours of air search. This second day of search participation by the Civil Air Patrol promises up to ten CAP aircraft and additional base support staff. Civil Air Patrol ground teams are available and standing by if necessary; however the Kern County Sheriff's department as the lead agency, is conducting the ground search effort.

The Kern County Sheriffs department, with a base at the Black Mountain area also activated its helicopter, and an additional two helicopters from the Edward's Air Force Base have been participating in a the team effort.

The search for this aircraft is made even more difficult by the fact that there was no flight plan, and there is no Emergency Location Transmitter (ELT) signal is being received, offering no homing device for the aircrews to track. Therefore, the CAP aircraft are committed to visual only grid searches in the mountainous terrain with dense shrub and forest also contribute to the difficulty of the mission, requiring intense scrutiny of the most probable flight path.

Anyone who might have seen this bright blue with pink wing tips Paraglider with about a 30 foot wingspan, and capable of ten miles or more flight, in the Black Mountain or the surrounding area after its take off on June 28<sup>th</sup>, or has any additional information is asked to call the Kern County Sheriff's Office at 661/861-3110.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, is a nonprofit organization of approximately 64,000 members nationwide with approximately 4,000 members in California. It performs more than 95% of inland search and rescue missions in the continental United States as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. CAP volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Recently, CAP members flew security over the launch site of the space shuttle Columbia and later assisted in the Columbia shuttle recovery. In the days after 9/11, California members flew blood products for the Red Cross when all commercial aviation was grounded. California alone had over 55 crews standing ready to be called into action. The CAP volunteers also take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to almost 27,000 of America's youth through CAP Cadet Programs.

For additional information and follow-up, please contact Candice Tuttle, 2Lt, CAP at 2Lt, Mission Information Officer; Hm Tel: 650.326.5214, Email: [Candice@LadyPIC.com](mailto:Candice@LadyPIC.com)

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