

COCHISE
COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF SEARCH AND RESCUE

Special points of interest:

- 6.2.15 Almost search mission Douglas
- 6.4.15 Training and Meeting
- 6.6.15 Bridge training—helo and self rescue
- 6.6.15 Search San Pedro House, 2 hikers
- 6.6.15 Search Dry Canyon, UDA
- 6.13.15 Helo Requals
- 6.14.15 Rescue Ramsey Canyon
- 6.16.15 Recovery Guadalupe Canyon
- 6.17.15 Recovery GTR
- 6.19.15 Lost Hiker Brown Cny
- 6.19.15 Lost UDA Palominas area
- 6.19 through 6.24.15 Lost person Rustler Park
- 6.19.15 Lost UDA outside Tombstone (handled by deputy)
- 6.19.15 Lost UDA area of Fairbank (handled by deputy)
- 6.20.15 Recovery Ft. Bowie (handled by deputy)
- 6.24 and 6.26 Search for UDA Graces Corner
- 6.24.15 Rescue Fairbank
- 6.25.15 F-16 crash
- 6.26.15 Search MP 388 SR8
- 6.27.15 Search for overdue Mountain biker Rustler Park

This Month in Search and Rescue

June 2015

6.1.2015 Almost Search Mission in Douglas

We might as well continue our busy streak from May. The team expended (volunteered) over 1000 hours (1070) for the 8 missions and 4 training missions, and who knows how many POV miles. This was one of the busiest May's I can remember. Well, on 6.2.2015 at approximately 1745 hours, I received a phone call from communications regarding dispatch having received a 911 call from a subject lost in the Douglas area. At the time of the call, I was not at home and informed dispatch I would call as soon as possible and check the coordinates plotted via the phase two 911 call. Subsequently the SAR team was placed on standby until I received further information pertaining to the location of the lost person. I re-contacted communications and was given two coordinates. The first set 31.3638000 and 109.5151950 placed the subject in an area just

northeast of 23rd street and Rogers, Douglas AZ. Communications further stated the 911 call was transferred to the Joint Operations Center 911 line and they plotted another location. The coordinates were given as 31.262104 and 109.509423.

These coordinates placed the subject approximately 4 miles into the Republic of Mexico. According to dispatch Border Patrol was not able to locate the subject(s).. While speaking with communications to obtain further information, dispatch received a phone call from BP indicating they just located the subject in the area of the first coordinates. SAR was consequently cancelled. According to the information provided by BP they had picked up several other illegal immigrants in this particular area earlier in the day. The subject located was a 14 year old male.

“People have been known to achieve more as a result of working with others than against them.”

Dr. Allan Fromme

6.4.2015 Training and Meeting

During our regular training Chief T. Smith and Cmdr. Genz brought in pizzas for everyone per Sheriff Dannels, in appreciation of what all you guys/gals do. He spoke about how truly they appreciate the countless hours each and everyone volunteers/donates to the cause. He further reiterated the “job” of SAR cannot be done without you the

volunteers. He even brought up the fact they used all the volunteer hours during the last budget process stating the hours made up the positions of at least 25 fulltime employees, what a saving to the county. And yes, we the coordinators appreciate your dedication to the cause as well. THANK YOU!!!



6.6.2015 Tech Training Charleston Bridge

“Remember upon the conduct of each depends the fate of all.”

Alexander the Great

This technical rescue training placed emphasis on self rescue and on practicing for the upcoming helo re-certification. Since DPS Air Rescue is going to a different approach for the first person to rappel out of the helo, we practiced this. Instead of the rope bag being dropped prior to rappel, the first person down will take the rope bag with them. This will prevent the subject below from grabbing the rope bag, and also will prevent any entanglement in possible vegetation.



Pictured are Scott, Travis and Dominic setting up the two anchors for the two rappel lines.



Dominic was the first one to rappel with the rope bag using the rescue figure eight and having the bag attached to the center of his harness.



Others tried the rope bag attachment to the side of their harness, whatever works best. However, the final say has the DPS medic.

Others practiced their self

rescue skills. Scott is at-



tempting to get out of a jammed descending device.



Dominic practiced the rappel with the SRT and completed a lock off as well. Bill,



who took all the “newbie’s” under his wings is showing them the proper hook up for rappel using the rescue 8.



Ryan is the first one down under the watchful eye of Bill. Gabby tried it also, and



she learned she has to keep her feet about hip distance apart in order to prevent tipping. Her second time down was almost video worthy. Even John tried it,



and found he has to go onto a physical fitness program.

Tech continued



Manuel was hooked after his first rappel. He did quite well on the lock off and completed this task rather proficient.



the top getting over the edge, and a second ascender might have helped.



Dominic tried ascending up the rope with a personal Purcell prusik system.

demonstrated and ascend using two ropes, something he had learned when he attended a Rope Rescue training class at "Ropes That Rescue."



Tom Sawyer from Graham County Search and Rescue

Everyone bugged me to try this also and yes I gave in and used the same system. It is definitely different, I might use a second set of ascenders. The only problem I encountered was at



"It is a fact that in the right formation, the lifting power of many wings can achieve twice the distance of any bird flying alone."
Unknown

Missions, missions and more missions 6.6.2015 Sand Pedro and Dry Canyon Searches

“Trust is knowing that when a team member does push you, they’re doing it because they care about the team .”

Patrick Lencioni

This was a long day for CCSO SAR, from tech training straight into two search missions. Though, we did have enough time for a short lunch break. Right at 1300hrs David received a phone call from dispatch advising him of two lost hikers in the area of the Sand Pedro House. The two subjects started their hike earlier in the day and were initially hiking west from the San Pedro House, when they lost their way and ended up about three miles south and on the east side of the river. We were



able to drive our vehicles to a location approximately 1/4 mile west of the subjects 911 phone ping location. Travis and Dominic were the first hasty team to hike towards the coordinates. Two other teams were deployed to search just to the north and south of said coordinates. The hasty team made voice contact with the two around 1400 hours and finally met up with them. The two ladies were pretty exhausted and dehydrated and were given water. Thankfully they were in the river bed area with lots of shade. While the teams tended to the two, David received another phone call from dispatch advising him of another lost person. This mission involved an illegal immigrant in the area of Dry Canyon off of SR 90. Bill and Ryan stayed with the two, while the others hiked back to the vehicles to respond

to the second mission. Scott



Unfortunately sustained a flat tire during his response to the second mission. Turning on this narrow road he struck a cut down mesquite tree (invisible stump) and damaged the side wall. Hence we had to conduct a tire change, which was truly a



pain. In the meantime, Bill and Ryan made it back to command post with our two subjects. Both still suffering from heat related stress were seated inside two vehicles with the AC on high to cool down. Both



were then transported back to the San Pedro House and the remainder of the team responded to the second mission. DPS Air Rescue assisted in this mission as well. Since we experienced a fluke two weeks prior where the Mexican cell phone pinged in a totally different area, we deployed a team to the Miller Canyon area to check there for our injured and lost UDA. Another team was deployed to the Sands Ranch area. BP apprehended, or tracked a group earlier in that particular area and our subject might have been left behind by the group. Another team checked the road leading from Dry Canyon to Sands Ranch all with negative contact in location our subject. The mission was subsequently suspended.



John locked his keys in the car and it took two of them to “break” into the vehicle.





July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Schedule of Events

- 7.2.15 Training and meeting Foothills station 1730 hrs
- 7.11.15 Tech Training Carr Canyon 0800 Stokes work and TBA
- 7.16.15 Coordinator training Foothills 1000hrs
- 7.18.15 Trauma First Aid Foothills Station 0800 to 1700 hrs (Certification Class)

“When he took time to help the man up the mountain, lo, he scaled it himself.”

Tibetan Proverb

6.13.2015 Helo Requals

Normally we start our helo training at 0900 hrs. David was called the day before asking us to be ready by 8 due to the very warm weather. Well, we were all ready at 8, but no helo, didn't show until the regular time. DPS had the Ranger 58 instead of 54, which is the smaller and older version. Taking the ship apart and readying it for the rappel work did not take all that long. As always, we received a safety briefing from Phil the medic and Brian the pilot. They spoke about a short haul in another county where one of the rescuer got hooked onto the haul line via his gloves. Apparently the subject had a small karabiner (non rescue just attachment for the gloves to the harness), which attached itself to the karabiner on the system and as the helo was lifting pulled the subject up as well. Luckily they saw it lowered and the subject was able to get free. **Make sure you have nothing, absolutely nothing dangling from your harness, which could get caught on anything.**

AUGUST 2015

Schedule of Events

- 8.1.15 Tech Training Scree Belay/ Low Angle Techniques Carr Canyon
- 8.6.15 Training and meeting 1730 Foot-hills Station
- 8.15.15 Pack test Bisbee 1000 with GPS training
- 8.20.15 Coordinator training Foot-hills

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Helo requals continued



Waiting for the helo to arrive. We actually put up a canopy for shade, which was a good thing, it became terribly hot.

Phil is going over the safety aspects again, ensuring we are all up to par for this always dangerous operation. Brian is explaining other operations as-



- Stop and point at the rotor blades
- Enter helicopter and place seat belt under the SRT
- Attach cross-cabin safety
- Remove seat belt and refasten behind you
- As you exit, keep one hand on the SRT
- Use second hand to guide you past the helicopter
- Duck head to chin to pass the skid
- (Pre-pack your bag preventing any dangling items)
- Wrap around backpack guide-line to control pack
- 1st person, remove SRT from harness
- Remove SRT from rope – begin belaying
- 2nd person, remove SRT from harness
- Attach 1st SRT to 2nd SRT for retrieval
- Lock Off – Wrap rope towards you and over SRT, between the rope and SRT; pull an arm's length bite of rope through your carabineer; put 2 half hitches above SRT, locking handle to rope; cut rope below you and SRT

This was an excellent training day with no hick ups. G-Geoff would have had nothing to complain about.



Unknown person rappelling, we all look the same, except Bill, who wears blue gloves.



The air to ground contact is always a little challenge Below, yes this is Bill—wearing



pects of the helo operations, as well as safety factors everyone on the ground should adhere to.

HELICOPTER PROCEDURE SHEET

SRT Diagram to the right, check correct function and for BURRS (

- Full harness check for all members (incl. medic)
- Knife accessible, Helmet, Eyes, Ears, Gloves, NO Dangling items
- Approach helicopter in pairs from 2:00 or as dictated by the terrain (wait for pilot's signal)



Dominic and Yvonne shared the duties of ground safety, ground belay and rope bag control . Yvonne said this is quite a job paying attention to so many things at one time. Rappeller, rope bag etc.

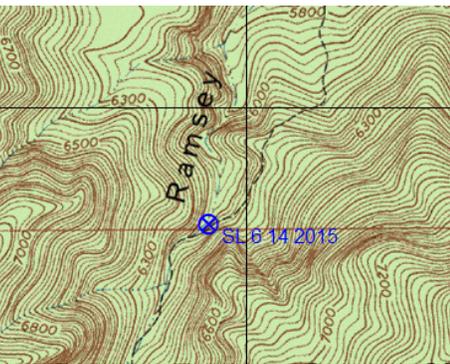


the blue gloves.



6.14.2015 Technical Rescue Mission Ramsey Canyon

Normally we have some type of mission right after or during training, like the previous weekend. Well, we had one day, barely, prior to our mission call out. David activated the team around 1345 hours on Sunday 6.14.15 for a possible injured person in the preserve area. Hiker head someone call for help. Again others thought it might have been a mountain lion. It was a good thing we did not believe the mountain lion story and sent up a hasty team to investigate. The hasty team came across an individual, who actually found the injured person with three others and he guided the team directly to our injured subject. Oh, was he in a bad



place. The subject was literally in a slot canyon, about 100 feet deep and only about 6 feet wide. In order to allow for an air evac we had to raise the subject to an area above, and that required setting up a haul system. Anchors and space were a problem. The gear was hauled up via two additional teams, the stokes basket and some other gear, the rope bag and hardware. Since time was of essence and it was getting dark on us, we had to work fast to get the subject to an area accessible for the helo short haul. Once we had the subject on the flat area of the point we were working off, DPS Air rescue attempted to conduct the short haul, however, due to the area we were in, a bowl DPS was unable to conduct the short haul. Pima County SAR already had been placed on standby to assist us. Their helo is equipped with a hoist and was able to raise the subject and then fly him to the command post were he was transferred to a waiting ambulance. Not knowing if the helo would be able to conduct the air evac, we prepared for a possible carry out. Hence several of the members dug into their MREs for "fuel". This would have been an all night affair.



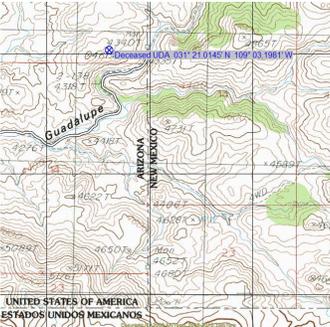
Thank you Pima County SAR for your assistance. And Thank you CCSO volunteers for your hard work during this mission.

6.16-17.2015 Body Recoveries East of Douglas & Almost Search In Carr Canyon

What can I say, June has not been very nice to us thus far in regard to missions. Back to back, with almost no room to breathe, and it is only going to get worse. On 6.16.15 morning hours, CCSO received a call pertaining to a UDA in distress having been left behind by a group of illegal immigrants, who turned themselves in. Apparently the subject for our search fell ill and collapsed. Border Patrol back tracked the group to find the location, where the subject was left behind. Prior to David having been able to activate the team border Patrol located the subject, unfortunately deceased. David did contact

one half mile west of the NM state line and about 1.5 miles north of the international border off of Guadalupe Canyon Rd. We did not make it to the location, due to a locked gate, therefore we established a LZ west of the gate on Guadalupe Canyon Rd. Nothing

The team is waiting for the helo.



DPS Air but desolated desert. Unfortunately we rescue to respond to more of these sad missions.

to assist with this recovery since the terrain was rather steep and difficult. The location was approximately



Heed the Heat

With the hot summer months being upon us, it is very imperative you keep hydrated. Also review some of the signs for heat related illnesses or distress. Make sure you are prepared for the strenuous outdoor activities

you might be involved in. All I can say is hydrate, hydrated and hydrate. You might want to keep some Gatorade powder

in your pack to replenish some of those electrolytes you lose during your hiking/rescue mission activities. During your response to a mission you might to start hydrating during the drive. If you feel this so called

cotton mouth, you are already dehydrated. Stay and be safe.

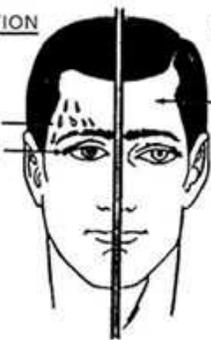
Wilderness First Aid

Heat Injuries

HEAT EXHAUSTION

HEAT STROKE

- 1. MOIST & CLAMMY SKIN
- 2. PUPILS DILATED
- 3. NORMAL OR SUBNORMAL TEMPERATURE



- 1. DRY HOT SKIN
- 2. PUPILS CONSTRICTED
- 3. VERY HIGH BODY TEMPERATURE

outdoorsselfreliance

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The Spec Ops Blog

by Michael Heger, Marquette, Michigan USA
www.outdoorspecops.com/Michigan-BorderSecurity/SearchAndRescue



AM I HYDRATED?

Urine Color Chart

1		
2		If your urine matches the colors 1, 2, or 3, you are properly hydrated.
3		Continue to consume fluids at the recommended amounts.
4		If your urine color is below the RED line, you are
5		DEHYDRATED and at risk for cramping and/or a heat illness!
6		YOU NEED TO DRINK MORE WATER!
7		
8		

The chart will tell you, how much liquids you need to consume to prevent dehydration. It is summer and very, very hot. Heed the heat and replenish.

6.16.2015 Recovery Missions continued

Upon the arrival of DPS Air Rescue they informed us they were going to fly a recon over the area to assess the terrain and possible ingress location. Some time passed, and David was informed they were able to land a couple hundred feet from our subject and were able to conduct the recovery for us. They flew back to our area and personnel was able remove the body from the helo and transport it to meet with the mortuary. Thankfully, we were able to find an identification on the body making notification to next of kin through the Mexican Consulate much easier, allowing closure for the families. It was not only hot, it was



rather dusty as well. I would say zero visibility for some period of time for the pilot and the flight medic.

Prior to heading back Walter conducted a quick training exercise with Roxy. She is being trained in human remains detection.



While en-route back to another mission in the Carr Canyon area, we learned Border Patrol located some more human remains in an area just north west of this location and south east of Geronimo Trail. We decided to recover these remains the following day. Our search mission in the Carr Canyon area was cancelled, since the responding deputy was able to hike to the subject and assisted him back to the camping area. On 6.17.15 early morning hours we responded back to GTR and met with BP near mile marker 24 and hiked to the

location of the human remains discovered the day prior. WE were able to drive some of the distance, but then had to hike about 1.5 miles. It appeared the subject might have passed away further up in the mountains and the body was washed down the wash via heavy rains. This was the first time we actually found an identification card within the remainder of the clothing making notification and closure for the family a little easier. 99 % of the time we never find any kind of ID with remains. This is one of the harder missions we have to conduct, recovering deceased and or human remains bringing closure to families.



We also encountered our first rain storm of the season requiring a carwash party!

6.19.2015 What a weekend search, after search, after search

Father's Day weekend started off with a search for a lost hiker in the area of Brown Canyon on Friday afternoon around 1400hrs. The team was activated shortly thereafter. The subject started the hike from the Ramsey Canyon Preserve looking for some rare bird. The subject had walked for about 2.5 hours, when he took a break. The subject came across the rare bird and started the return hike. The trail did not look familiar at all to the subject realizing he was on the wrong trail. He was smart, he stopped called 9-1-1, and did not continue on. We initially set up CP at the Brow Ranch, but when looked at the map a little closer I saw the subject was closer to Brown Canyon and we

moved the CP to the parking area off Ramsey Canyon Rd. The team was able to drive up quite a distance up the jeep trail leading to the Panoma Mine before they parked their vehicles and started their hike. The subject was approximately 1/2 mile up Brown Canyon, and the team made voice contact with him about 10 minutes into their hike. They made physical contact about half hour into the hike. The subject appeared to be in good health, just slightly exhausted from the hike and the heat. Friday was one of those excessive heat days, and it was blasting hot. R72A, Jay, with the assistance of Katherine drove a side by side up the trail and transported the subject back to CP. The subject

was then driven back to the place he was staying. He was from Iowa and more than likely not adapted to our hot weather.



What a weekend this has been 6.19 to 6.21.2015

**Dr. Scuba
Corner**

“It is literally true that you can succeed best and quickest by helping others to succeed.”

Napoleon Hill

We were chasing mission after mission, this was a heck of a weekend, beginning with the search for the lost hiker in Ramsey/Brown Canyon. The team barely made it back to the station, when I received a call from dispatch about a UDA calling 9-1-1 asking for help stating he ran out of water. The 9-1-1 plotted the subject in the Palominas area off of Copper Glance just east of East Goods Trail. Upon my arrival I met with an area deputy who called the subject to get some further information since he was Spanish speaking only. He gave his name and how many days he had been traveling. In regard to his surrounding, he only could state he was in a deep wash and could not see any mountains around him. Two teams were deployed. One of the teams hiked directly to the given coordinates with negative contact. We also had the phone pinged, since it was a Verizon phone. This location, given as 100%, placed the subject west of the 9-1-1 coordinates. The second team made it to those coordinates, again with negative contact in locating the subject or any sign of him being there. We also had assistance from a BP helicopter, who searched the area rather thoroughly, also with negative contact. Neal

DOC chase team to assist with this search. Since the hasty search did not



produce any clues we asked for further assistance from Pima County and Graham County as well as DPS Air rescue to assist. This particular search spanned



over a 48hr plus period with absolutely no signs or clues from our missing person. Teams took a little coffee break



before they were again deployed to search the trails and roads around the Rustler Campground.



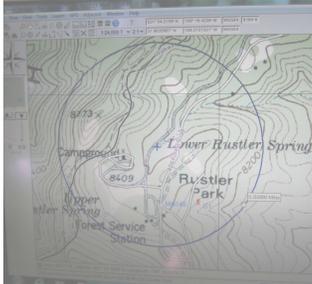
was our scribe during this mission. While personnel was still out searching we received another call for a missing person at Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mountains. David, with five personnel responded to this call, while the outstanding team returned to command post and the MCU was tearing down. Walter with Roxy, and Gabby with Cesar and Heidi responded from Tucson (they had canine training planned for the weekend). We also contacted the

**PERSONAL EQUIPMENT—24 HR
PACK**

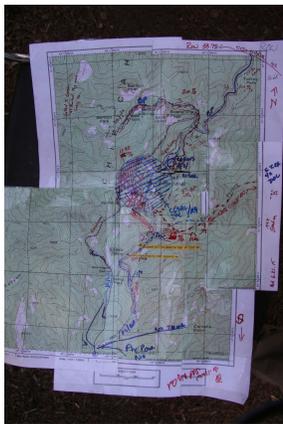
- First Aid Kit
- Space Blanket
- Water 2-4 qts
- Flashlight
- Food, candy, nuts, jerky
- Mirror (metal)
- Flame light
- Paper and Pencil
- Map of area
- Scissors or shears
- Camera
- Poncho or trash bags
- Cord 1/4"
- Toilet tissue
- Compass / GPS
- 2 locking carabineers (can be aluminum to reduce weight)
- Lighter and matches
- Fuel cells
- Dental floss
- Flares, smoke
- Knife, forceps, or tweezers
- Hand soap, antiseptic
- Surveyors tape
- Thread and needle
- Fishing line and hook
- Binoculars
- Leatherman
- Extra batteries
- Comb
- Whistle
- 20 feet of 1 inch tubular webbing

Weekend Search continued

This was our initial search area, depicting the outer perimeter of



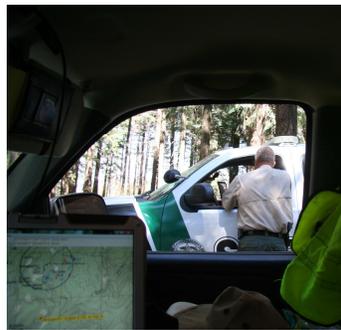
a possible location for our subject, This area was expanded to



over a mile, including many trails and roadways. The search teams and the canine teams worked very hard and endlessly in an attempt to find our missing person. The scent never left the campground area, and still we covered all possibilities of her being somewhere. While this mission was ongoing, dispatch called David on his Satellite phone (only phone working up there) with three additional missions, one recovery and two search missions for two different groups of illegal immigrants needing help. The recovery was handled by a deputy and Park Rangers. One of the search missions was handled by Border Patrol and one was handled by another coordinator. Pam, was gracious enough to bring up the food initially planned for our mow party that weekend. Personnel pretty much expended their 24 hour



pack supplies. Hamburgers, hot dogs and fruit was a welcome addition. Thank you Pam. David



receiving and making many phone calls during this mission relaying updates to command staff. Bor-



der Patrol and Forest Service also assisted in the search. Constant



reevaluation of the search was a must. What has been covered, what needs to be covered and so on. David is explaining to the team what



area needed to be searched.



Gaby and Denise heading out with Daisy for another perimeter search to the north. While



Yvonne took over the radio and scribe duties. Frustration set in. No sign or clue



was found. Day two of the search was as fruitless as day one. No clues no sign no scent leaving the park. Personnel was released later on that day. A new scent article was delivered, however, that was fruitless as well. Smaller teams returned to the area on Monday and on Wednesday to again search certain areas of the park, again negative. We have to thank all the volunteers, SARA, Graham, DOC Chase team, Border Patrol, and Forest Service for their untiring search efforts. Thank you, thank your, and again thank you.

“Just as treasures are uncovered from the earth, so virtue appears from good deeds, and wisdom appears from a pure and peaceful mind. To walk safely through the maze of human life, one needs the light of wisdom and guidance of virtue.”
Buddah

And the busy week continues F-16 Crash, and three searches 6.24. through 6.27

This was no week of rest. The search missions continued. Wednesday 6.24.15 several team members went back to Rustler park to check one more area for the detectives. Getting the brief-



ing from the detective and what specifically he wants us to search. We spent a couple of hours searching, when David got another call for a Rescue mission in Fairbank, a subject had fallen several feet from a tree and sustained a back injury. We couldn't have been at the other end of the county for this call, and on top of a mountain with nothing but dirt roads going down. DPS Ranger was available, as well as several of our team members in town. Bob R70 is working on



some traffic control SR 82.



Deuce was ready for the short haul, but did ground work instead with Dominic.



If you think the day ended here, think again. We almost had a swift water mission after this rescue. A lady got her vehicle stuck in Carr Canyon by the first wash. From all the radio traffic, it was quite intense in Sierra Vista in regard to swift running water in all the washes.

In the morning hours, while driving to Rustler, I was called in regard to a UDA calling 9-1-1 from the area of Graces Corners, Bisbee. A deputy and Border Patrol handled the call, but were not able to find him. So, Denise and I hiked to all the coordinates, and we also did not find the subject.

David, was called around 213 hrs in regard to the F-16 crash, and it ended up being a very long day for him and for some of us.



While on scene of the crash site, we were asked to search an area of SR 80 MM 388 to 389 for the missing driver of a load vehicle involved in a pursuit Sunday night. Several members of the team responded stating they were able to help. The subject was called in by family as a missing person.

Also, Benson deputies were dealing with a missing, possibly suicidal subject during the same time frame, and the team was activated to search for him. Denise responded with Daisy, and she also tracked the subject from the back of the residence to some tire tracks and lost the scent, pretty much indicative of a car pick up. Rick tracked the guy the day before to the same location with no other sign or clues to be located. DPS Air Rescue also search the area with negative results.

On Friday 6.26.15, several members of the team responded to the area and searched for several hours with negative results in

locating the subject. Walter,



with the assistance of Denise is getting Roxy ready for the search.

Lo and behold, the team was called, while conducting this search, to search for the subject from Wednesday. Family members reported him as missing. The team responded to commence this search around 1200 hrs. This was not an easy search. Deputies, BP and a helo searched for the subject on Wednesday and could not locate him. Denise and I checked on Wednesday hiking to all the plotted coordinates from the 9-1-1 call, also with negative results. We



checked areas not checked before and still were unable to find the subject. Upon suspending the search, we learned the subject made his way down the mountain and was picked up by a BP Agent going to work. The subject was transported to TMC as a result of his internal organs shutting down.



6.27.15 Search for Overdue Mountain Biker, Rustler Park

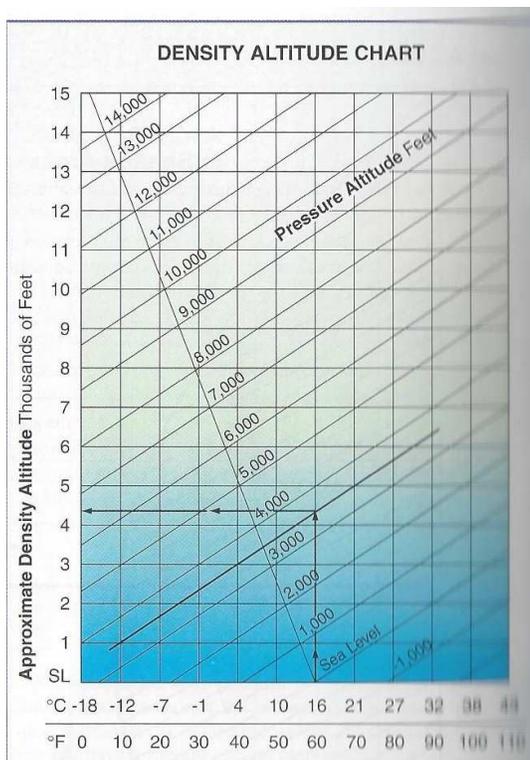
Well, we thought we would get a break this weekend, wrong. David called me around 2130hrs informing me of an overdue mountain biker in the greater Rustler Park area. The overdue subject, brother to our missing person, was dropped off by his wife around 1600hrs, with a rendezvous point of Southfork. He never showed up, and his sister called him in as missing. She could not give any information regarding to equipment taken or intended route. Many of the trails listed on the Chiricahua trail map are no longer in exist-

tence and or are in very bad shape, with large trees crossing the trail. Walter, responded from Tucson (planned canine training) and drove to Southfork to meet with the reporting party and family. When he arrived no one was at the gate. Bill and I made it all the way up to Rustler Park, when we heard other responding units mention something about the mission having been cancelled. I contacted dispatch via radio to confirm this information. I was told the family called stating the subject made it to Southfork. We have been way

to many times up in Rustler over the past week, continuing to look for Janet, with no luck.



Helicopter Operations



12 Standard Questions to ask involving helicopter operations.

1. Is this flight necessary?
2. Who is in charge?
3. Have all hazards been identified and have they been made known?
4. Should the operation of flight be stopped because of -
 - * Inadequate and unclear communication
 - * Hazardous weather
 - * Turbulence
 - * Insufficient or untrained personnel
 - * Conflicting priorities
 - * Deceased rescue subject
5. Is there a better or different way to do it?
6. Are we driven by an overwhelming sense of urgency?
7. Can we justify our actions
8. Are other aircraft in the area? Communication?
9. Do we have an escape route?
10. Are any rules being broken?
11. Are communications getting tense?
12. Are we deviating from the assigned operation or flight?

Remember: When in doubt—Don't

Density Altitude

The density altitude greatly affects a helicopter's performance. At lower elevations the rotor blade cuts through denser air, which provides a better performance than the air at higher altitudes. At a higher altitude, for example at 10,000 feet there are fewer air molecules per cubic foot of air, resulting in diminished performance. Density altitude is defined as the actual pressure altitude corrected for temperature and humidity variations. An increase in humidity as a minor effect on density altitude compared with an increase in the altitude or temperature. Humid air is less dense than dry air. Humid air is less dense than dry air, which means that aircraft performance suffers on a humid day. High density altitudes may also be present at lower elevations on hot days.

The hover ceiling is the highest altitude at which a helo can successfully hover while loaded to its maximum gross weight.

All rescuers working beneath a low-hovering helicopter must remain aware of the increased risk arising from the pilot's inability to auto-rotate safely. All ground personnel should have a mental escape plan ready.

Information courtesy of High Angle Rescue Techniques.