

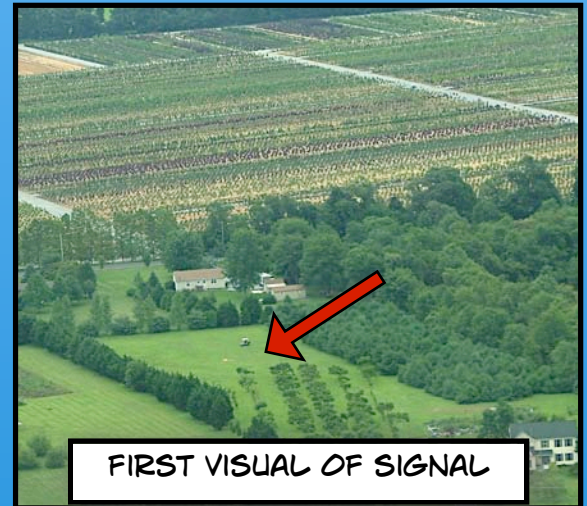
Date: 31JULY2018
From: Joseph Giannattasio, DSO-AV D5NR
RE: DeBrief – Operation HIKEAIR
(HIKEr/AIR Training Exercise)

On 31JULY2018 there was a successful practice evolution of an Auxiliary aircraft performing a search and visual locating of a lost hiker in the wilderness of the NJ Pine Barrens. This is the first documented mission of this type in 5NR. The purpose to determine and photo-document the practical challenges of locating a distress signal in a wilderness environment and determining location coordinates for rescue units. The findings may prove useful in targeting practical survival information to hikers, hunters and outdoors enthusiasts, and develop practical Wilderness SAR exercises for Auxiliary Air Program personnel.

Mission Overview:

- 1.) An Auxiliarist (FL08-07) sets up a distress flag surrounded by colorful surveyors tape in his wooded farm field in Cumberland county.
- 2.) Auxiliary Air crew members rendezvous at Woodbine Airport OBI (Cape May county) for mission pre-brief.
- 3.) Aircraft flies to the general location of aforementioned farm and conducts a Victor-Sierra search pattern attempting to establish a visual of the distress signal until sighting is confirmed.
- 5.) Secondary purpose involves monitor/document use and effectiveness of Visual Distress Signals (Orange Distress Flags and Surveyors Tape).
- 6.) Upon completion of exercise, assets rendezvous at Woodbine Airport (OBI) for debrief.

DEPLOYED DISTRESS
SIGNAL AND MARKER TAPE



FIRST VISUAL OF SIGNAL



DISTRESS SIGNAL IN FOREST CLEARING



NOTE DISTRESS SIGNAL
OFF WING TIP