



NEWS OF THE FORCE / Friday, May 21, 2004

Civil Air Patrol aids in recovering Rutgers Research underwater glider: The Civil Air Patrol assisted a team of ocean scientists from Rutgers University in the recovery of an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) off the coast of New Jersey on May 12, 2004.

The AUV lost communication with Rutgers scientists on May 2, 2004 during a Hudson River plume experiment. Unsuccessful attempts were made to communicate with the underwater vehicle until Mr. Herve Barrier; East Brunswick N.J., and Dr. Scott Glenn, Hopewell, N.J., of Rutgers University solicited the services of the Civil Air Patrol.

Lt. Col. Joseph Sirois; Bridgewater N.J., the incident commander, directed two search air crews.

Flying a Piper Seneca from Maine were Lt. Col. John Trask; Easton, Maine, and Maj. Thomas Goetz, Woodland, Maine, who flew over a 225 nautical mile section of the ocean off the New Jersey coastline in search of the underwater glider.

Dr. Josh Kohut, East Windsor, N.J., of the Coastal Ocean Observation Lab at Rutgers University Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences provided the Civil Air Patrol with search coordinates using CODAR, a coastal radar that uses radio waves to measure ocean surface currents. Based on the measured ocean currents, Dr. Kohut was able to determine the glider's probable location and define a search area for the Civil Air Patrol.

The two aircraft departed on their mission at 10:45 a.m. EDT from Trenton, New Jersey.

The second aircraft, a Cessna 172, was flown by Lt. Col. Richard Olszewski, Trenton, N.J., and air crew members 1st Lt. John Gibson, Yardly N.J., and 1st Lt. William Ward, Trenton, N.J., acted as the "High Bird," a communication relay, while the other was the primary search aircraft.

Several passes were made through the search area when, on the seventh pass, 1st Lt. William Ward of the Civil Air Patrol spotted the glider. Coordinates were then communicated to Ms. Liz Creed, Cranbury N.J., of Rutgers University, waiting on board the *Sorensen Miller*, the rescue vessel provided by Miller's Launch, Inc.

"The Civil Air Patrol handles 95 percent of search and rescue," said Lt. William Ward. Ward explained most rescues do not usually have such happy endings. They previously participated in rescue efforts including the John F. Kennedy, Jr., tragedy.

The AUV, or glider named "Cruiser" by New Jersey school children, was initially commissioned to perform water sampling tests in a week-long experiment in the Hudson River called the Lagrangian Transport and the Transformation Experiment (LATTE). Nontoxic red dye was released exposing the movement of water from the Hudson into the Atlantic Ocean. The six-foot AUV provided real time measurements of the density, salinity, and temperature which were relayed to researchers on shore and ships participating in the experiment.

Civil Air Patrol is a non-profit organization with some 62,000 members nationwide. It performs inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, and was credited last year by the AFRCC with saving more than 140 lives. CAP volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Members take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the almost 27,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 60 years.

For more information regarding the Civil Air Patrol, call 1-800-FLY-2338, or go to the Web site at: <http://www.cap.gov/> .

For more information regarding the Coastal Ocean Observation research lab, contact: Courtney Kohut, 732-932-6555 ext. 532. Her e-mail address is: chkohut@marine.rutgers.edu. On the Web: <http://marine.rutgers.edu/cool/> .

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See website for photos: <http://www.njwg.cap.gov/pub/CNJ050504-RutgersUniv/> .