

Perseverance on Pause

Date, Mission:

11 FEB, 05M209A

Incident Commander:

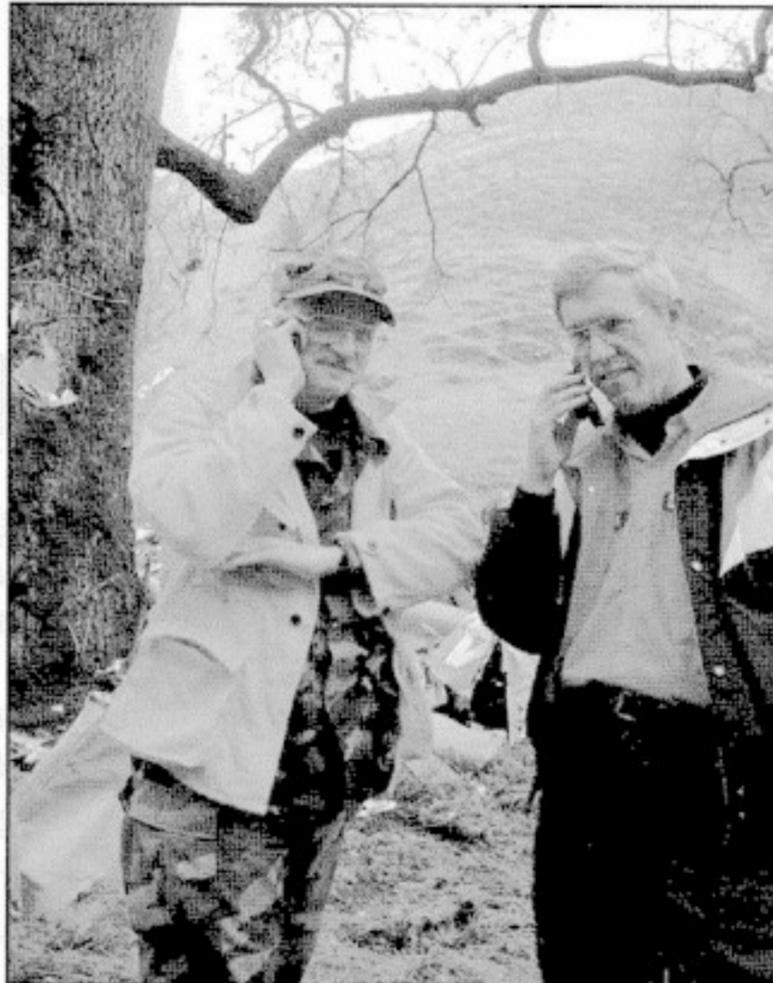
Capt. Eric Templeton

Briefing:

A pilot who departed from Fresno for Santa Monica is reported missing. Weather is inclement, with strong winds, rainstorms and snow in higher elevations. Pilot reported extreme turbulence over Gorman, with ceiling descending rapidly. The FAA Flight Control Center in Palmdale loses radio and radar contact. Meanwhile there is a possibly related ELT report in the Los Angeles basin. Weather has all crews on standby.

Find: Cessna 210 wreck found by Kern County Sheriff's department at 34 deg 57' N by 118 deg 45' W using coordinates provided by CAP, near Tejon Ranch. No survivors.

Citations: Asche: "This mission showed outstanding utilization of remote resources and coordination of Command and Control. We were making do with very



difficult communications conditions. It required great perseverance and patience because of the weather. Once you get geared up to go, 'on hold' is a tough position. There was also great communications between various agencies, especially FAA, NTSB, the Kern County Sheriff's department, for which we provided the inter-agency communication.

This was a good search, involving excellent coordination." Butts: "This incident would have been extremely difficult to find from the air, as it was in a very small canyon with heavy tree cover."

And the ESSy Goes to...

Lt. Col. Ron Butts, Ground Branch Director, Lt. Col. Steve Asche, Ground Team Leader and On-Scene Commander, and Capt. Eric Templeton. Skillfully utilizing topographical maps and the last-known heading, the CAP team plotted map coordinates so precise, sheriffs were led to within 20 yards of the actual wreckage. Bakers-

field Composite Squadron 121's ground team: Lt. Col. Asche, Lt. Col. Butts, Lt. Col. Alan Ferguson, ground team leader; Lt. Col. Gail Mizner, 1st Lt. Bill Ambrosecchia, 1st Lt. Mike Dickerson, and Cadet Brandon McNamara, ground team members.

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