

# A Grid One Third the Area of Rhode Island

## Date, Mission:

29 SEP, 05M1851A

**Incident Commander:** Capt. Bob Keilholtz

**Briefing:** A pilot on a pipeline patrol flight in Kern County is reported overdue. There is no ELT or last-known position radar sighting.

**Find:** Cessna 150, near Bakersfield, 35 07.64 N by 119 33.37 W. Crash site is found in a canyon outside the primary search area. The pilot did not survive.

**Citations:** Keilholtz: "The primary search area was over 300 square miles, covering some 24 quarter grids. A unified command was established with the Kern Country Sheriff's department to perform a hasty search. What I thought initially was going to be just following 10 to 15 miles of pipeline turned out to be quite a mission, because there were all these feeder lines that made it, effectively, hundreds of miles. The guys did a great job of searching and felt confident they'd covered the grid, so we expanded it out and planned well. We found the wreck a couple of

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miles outside the track. It was the right grid, the right lighting, and we found the guy." Asche: "Due to intelligence I gathered from the aircraft owner, we were able to narrow the search area down to a small area. We determined through several interviews

what the pilot's typical habits were."

### And the ESSy Goes to...

1st Lt. Ron Brewster, SM Samantha Lack and 1st Lt. Dave McCarthy, Bakersfield Composite Squadron 121, awarded Distress Finds.

