

Commander gives glimpse into SAR mission

Contributed by 1st Lt. Jeff Roberson
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FLORIDA -- It was the night of Dec. 7/8 and I just got home from night shift at the Florida Air National Guard. I settled in to get some sleep when, at 4 a.m., my phone rang. It was the on-call scene commander for the North Florida region.

Members of the Cecil Field Composite Squadron pose before the White House during a recent visit to Washington D.C.
By 1st Lt. David M. Lowe
Commander
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He said an emergency beacon was going off somewhere near the Buckman Bridge and he needed a ground search team to locate the source. It was my turn to be on call for the search team so I called my operations officer and coordinated a place to meet and we were on the hunt.

Using our locator, we searched all around the Buckman Bridge area, but could not find an emergency beacon signal. After about two hours I suggested we try the top of the bridge. After reaching the top, we finally had a hit -- it was coming from Naval Air Station -- Jacksonville.

We thought the signal might be coming from a boat when we entered the station, so we drove to the yacht club. We narrowed it down to a boat in one of the slips. Someone had inadvertently hit the beacon's switch.

This time around no one was in danger, but it could have been a rescue mission. That's what it's all about for the members of CAP. We train for real world missions to save lives.