

CAP members searching for missing Navy T-39 Sabreliner

Contributed by 1st Lt. Jeff Roberson
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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS – Members of Civil Air Patrol's Georgia Wing are involved in the search today for a missing U.S. Navy T-39 Sabreliner.

The twin-engine jet aircraft was on a routine training flight from Chattanooga, Tenn., to Pensacola, Fla., when it dissappeared with a Navy instructor and student, an Air Force student and a civilian contract pilot on board.

The T-39 departed Lovell Field in Chattanooga around 11 a.m. Jan. 10 on a navigational training mission. The plane was scheduled to arrive at Pensacola Naval Air Station around 3 p.m. Radio contact was last made at 11:20 a.m. in northwest-central Georgia.

According to Georgia Wing Public Affairs Officer Capt. Paige Joyner, wing members are involved in the air and on the ground. “We are presently flying aerial search missions and have ground teams working the northwest-central area of the state,” said Capt. Joyner.

Joyner also stated that both the Alabama and Florida wings had been notified of the search and presently had aircrews on standby to help with the search, if needed.

Organizations presently involved in the search include CAP, Air Force, Navy, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Georgia State Police and several local sheriff departments.

The Georgia Wing Mission Base is positioned at Gwinnett County Airport (KLZU) in Lawrenceville, Ga. The wing's incident commander is Lt. Col. Paul Branson.