

Colorado Wing participates in successful search for lost boy

Contributed by 1st Lt. Jeff Roberson
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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS -- Several units of Colorado Wing took part in the search for an eight-year-old boy who was discovered Tuesday after wandering away from a Colorado campsite Saturday morning.

According to television and newspaper reports, the boy, Evan Thompson of Lakewood, Colo., was found by Vail Mountain Rescue approximately five miles away from the remote Colorado campsite where he was last seen Saturday.

By air and ground, Colorado Wing augmented the efforts of several searchers, including rescuers from surrounding counties, the U.S. Air Force, Colorado Search and Rescue, Colorado National Guard, Vail Mountain Rescue, Western State College Mountain Rescue and Alpine Rescue teams, reports stated.

According to 1st Lt. Ian Carman, wing administrator, the wing joined the search Saturday afternoon. Over the Memorial Day weekend, which includes Monday, 22 members devoted 350 manhours to look for the child, with three more ground teams activated Tuesday. Eight ground vehicles were also employed. The wing has used two aircraft for eight air sorties, including one with ARCHER, which uses a sensitive hyperspectral imaging camera to seek the spectral signature of an object on the ground.

Members from the following units were included in the search effort: Colorado Wing Headquarters, Evergreen Composite Squadron, Colorado Springs Cadet Squadron, Pikes Peak Senior Squadron, Boulder Composite Squadron, Pueblo Eagles Cadet Squadron, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron, and Group 3 and Group 4 Headquarters.