



California Military Department California National Guard



EMERGENCY RESCUE

Information Alert

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California National Guard Launches Chinook in Search for Hikers

Three missing hikers were successfully rescued yesterday afternoon near Mount Whitney, California. All were safely transported to Lone Pine and are reported to be in good condition.

The California National Guard launched a CH-47 Chinook helicopter yesterday morning from Stockton Army Aviation Support Facility to assist Inyo County Sheriff's Department personnel with the search-and-rescue mission. The agencies were searching above 12,000 feet on Mount Whitney for the three hikers, who have been missing since Saturday.

The CH-47 Chinook helicopter is a twin-rotor, heavy-lift helicopter that enables it to perform sustained operations at high elevations. This particular aircraft is equipped with a hoist designed to extract persons from the ground to the aircraft in hard-to-reach areas, and is regularly used by the National Guard in the state's more mountainous and heavily wooded areas.

If you have any questions regarding this, or any other matter pertaining to the California National Guard, please contact Major (Retired) Darrin Bender at (916) 854-3705.