



California Military Department California National Guard



EMERGENCY RESCUE

Information Alert

(7/8/2011 11:18 AM)

California Air National Guard Rescues Missing Hiker

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD – Air National Guardsmen from the [129th Rescue Wing](#) conducted a successful rescue mission of a missing hiker near Pioneer, California, on the Fourth of July.

The California Air National Guard was contacted Sunday evening by the California Emergency Management Agency about a missing hiker in the El Dorado National Forest. The 129th Rescue Squadron, which earlier that day had participated in a Fourth of July celebration near Lake Tahoe, had rescue aircraft and personnel already positioned at the Truckee Tahoe Airport and accepted the mission.

At about 9 a.m. on Monday, a HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopter crew carried two separate civilian rescue crews to the El Dorado National Forest to search for Lauren Ellen DeLaTorre, a 54-year-old hiker, who had become lost on July 2.

Shortly after dropping off the second civilian rescue crew, California Guardsmen aboard the Pave Hawk spotted DeLaTorre in a remote area of the forest. The crew landed the helicopter and climbed through steep and rocky terrain to reach DeLaTorre, who had been without food, water and warm clothing for approximately 32 hours and was suffering from dehydration and extreme fatigue. The crew airlifted her to the incident command post where she was treated for minor injuries and reunited with her family.

“With lost hiker searches, you hope for the best but prepare yourself for the worst,” said aircraft commander Captain Nathan Nowaski. “It was extremely gratifying to find the missing hiker and get her back to her family safely.”

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