

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 15, 2008

**IDAHO CIVIL AIR PATROL UNITS PARTICIPATE IN DISASTER EXERCISE**

Members of the Idaho Civil Air Patrol will be participating in a large-scale, state-wide exercise designed to provide training for a response to a simulated natural disaster, homeland security situations, and search operations. The exercise will be formally evaluated by the U.S. Air Force and is designed to test the Idaho CAP in their ability to perform a broad range of emergency services missions in support of local, state, and federal emergency management authorities.

The exercise will involve CAP members from throughout Idaho, with support being provided from the Utah CAP organization. It will be managed from an Incident Command Post established at the Burley airport. Aircraft and crews will be assigned to fly missions that are designed to provide training in aerial search, damage assessment, and other tasks commonly performed by CAP during a local, regional, or national disaster. In addition, their skills in search and rescue will be tested by looking for practice beacons that simulate signals that may be emitted from aircraft emergency locator transmitters or personal locator beacons. Ground units will be sent out to conduct searches and provide support to the overall operation.

The Idaho portion of the exercise is going to center on operations at Burley, Idaho Falls, Coeur d'Alene, and Boise-Nampa. Aircrews and ground teams in both Idaho and Utah will be given mission assignments from the Burley command center beginning on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. The exercise will end on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Idaho Civil Air Patrol is an all volunteer organization with 250 adult and 200 cadet, or youth members, in units throughout the state. In addition to emergency services, it has an organized youth program that concentrates on aerospace education and leadership.

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The Idaho Civil Air Patrol website is located at [www.idwg.cap.gov](http://www.idwg.cap.gov)