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Northeast Region aircrew members locate missing Rutgers research vehicle

AUV spotted May 12 off coast of New Jersey

May 25, 2004 -



Aircrew members with the Maine and New Jersey Wings were responsible for finding an autonomous underwater vehicle May 12 off the coast of New Jersey. The vehicle, which belongs to researchers with Rutgers University's Coastal Ocean Observation Research Lab, lost contact on May 2.

[Hi-res version](#)



The Maine and New Jersey Wing aircrew members who located a Rutgers University autonomous underwater vehicle off the coast of New Jersey May 12 are, from left, 1st Lt. William Ward, Maj. Tom Goetz, Lt. Col. John Trask, Lt. Col. Richard Olszewski and 1st Lt. John Gibson.
[Hi-res version](#)

By Maj. Lisa Van Clief

Public Affairs Officer
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&

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NEW JERSEY -- Members of the New Jersey and Maine wings assisted a team of ocean scientists from Rutgers University in the recovery of an autonomous underwater vehicle off the coast of New Jersey May 12.

The AUV lost communication with Rutgers scientists on May 2 during a Hudson River plume experiment.

Unsuccessful attempts were made to communicate with the AUV, and then Herve Barrier of East Brunswick, N.J., and Dr. Scott Glenn, Hopewell, N.J. of Rutgers University solicited the services of the Civil Air Patrol.

Incident Commander Lt. Col. Joseph Sirois of Bridgewater, N.J., directed two search aircrews. Flying a Piper Seneca from the Maine Wing and acting as the primary search aircraft were Lt. Col. John Trask of Easton, Maine, and Maj. Thomas Goetz of Woodland, Maine. The two flew over a 225 nautical mile section of the ocean off the New Jersey coastline in search of the underwater glider. The second aircraft, a New Jersey Wing Cessna C-172, was flown by Lt. Col. Richard Olszewski of Trenton, N.J., along with aircrew members 1st Lt. John Gibson of Yardly, N.J., and 1st Lt. William Ward of Trenton. This aircraft, dubbed the "high bird," served primarily as a communication relay.

Dr. Josh Kohut of the Coastal Ocean Observation Lab at Rutgers University's Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences provided the wing members with search coordinates using CODAR, a coastal radar that uses radio waves to measure ocean surface currents. Based on the measured ocean currents, Dr. Kohut was able to determine the gliders probable location and define a search area.

The two aircraft departed on their mission at 10:45 a.m. EST from Trenton. Several passes were made through the search area when, on the seventh pass, Lieutenant Ward spotted the AUV. Coordinates were then transmitted to Liz Creed of Rutgers University, who was waiting on board the the rescue vessel Sorensen Miller, provided by Miller's Launch, Inc.

The AUV -- name "Cruiser" by New Jersey school children -- was initially commissioned to perform water-sampling tests in a week-long experiment in the Hudson River called the Lagrangian Transport and the Transformation Experiment or LATTE. Nontoxic red dye was released exposing the movement of water from the Hudson into the Atlantic Ocean. The six-foot AUV provided real time measurements of the density, salinity and temperature, which were relayed to researchers on shore and ships participating in the experiment.

For more information regarding the Coastal Ocean Observation research lab, contact: Courtney Kohut at chkohut@marine.rutgers.edu or go to <http://marine.rutgers.edu/cool>

For additional photos, go to www.njwg.cap.gov/pub/CNJ050504-RutgersUniv/

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