

Georgia State Patrol Policy Manual

SUBJECT MISSING PERSONS RESPONSE	POLICY NUMBER 17.10
DISTRIBUTION ALL EMPLOYEES	DATE 4/30/2002

17.10.1 Purpose

To establish procedures for members of the Georgia State Patrol, who may be called upon to assist local, state and federal law enforcement agencies concerning search and rescue operations and/or missing persons.

17.10.2 Policy

It is the policy of the Georgia State Patrol to treat all incidents involving the disappearance of any person, especially a juvenile or a person with disabilities as being of a serious nature requiring immediate investigation.

17.10.3 Procedures

It cannot be assumed that a child who has been reported as a runaway has indeed run away and will return safely with no further consequences. It is imperative that sworn members take a more aggressive role in attempting to locate any missing person, regardless of their age or circumstances.

Therefore, it is the position of the Department that all reported incidents of missing persons shall be investigated thoroughly.

- A. Upon receiving notification of a missing person the local agency shall be contacted and the pertinent information shall be released to them. When the local agency assumes the responsibility of the search, the Georgia State Patrol shall assist as requested.
- B. The assisting member shall notify the Communications Center and give complete details for a lookout to be broadcast to all units as a "BOLO" for a missing person.
- C. When requested to assist with search and rescue operations for juveniles or persons with disabilities, members should take into consideration the condition of the person and their ability to provide for their own safety. Dependant upon the missing person, certain individuals shall be consulted when required (e.g. relatives, physicians, juvenile officers.)
- D. Jekyll Island and Capitol Police shall follow the procedures established in their standard operations procedural manuals.
- E. The Georgia State Patrol will provide all reasonable assistance to local, state or federal law enforcement agencies, when requested to assist them in search and rescue operations for missing persons.

- F. The Post NCO/Unit Supervisor shall initially serve as the Department's liaison to coordinate assignments for personnel in search and rescue for missing persons.
- G. Any reasonably available department resource can be utilized in an effort to locate the missing person (e.g., aviation and ground support).
- H. The Public Information Office or the Post Public Information Officer when required, unless the appropriate law enforcement agency assumes the responsibility, shall conduct media relations. PIO will provide whatever assistance and personnel may be needed to help news media during a "Levi's Call" alert.