

Recovery team gives up effort of finding plane, for now

EAGLE, Colo. (AP) — After spending the night on a snowy mountain-side, a military recovery team today gave up its effort, at least for now, to reach the wreckage of the A-10 Thunderbolt last seen three weeks ago.

The specially trained four-member team had been taken by helicopter up to the 11,500-foot level Wednesday, but snowy weather had

made it impossible for them to climb the last 1,000 feet to the wreckage site. This morning, after calling for help, team members were walking to a location where a helicopter could pick them up.

It was not immediately known when recovery efforts would resume at the site, about 15 miles southwest of Vail.

Earlier Wednesday, a special operations expert dangling from a cable was able to retrieve pieces of the Air Force plane that vanished during a training mission. There was no sign of the pilot, Capt. Craig Button.

"I don't know if Captain Button was with the aircraft or was not with the aircraft so I cannot talk about remains," Air Force Maj. Gen. Nels

Running said Wednesday night. "The search continues."

Tech Sgt. Ishmael Antonio, who has climbed Mount McKinley, was the man who retrieved the debris, which confirmed once and for all that the A-10 had crashed there. Hanging from a cable dropped by a TH-53 helicopter, he fine-tuned the operation with commands to move

the chopper a little bit to the right, a little bit to the left.

Antonio tried to retrieve the biggest piece of wreckage, the one seen in aerial photos. It turned out to be bigger than he was, and the rescue specialist had to settle for two smaller pieces.

Air Force maintenance records identified the objects as part of the missing plane.

AAU claims diversity key to education

NEW YORK (AP) — A group of the country's most prestigious universities has adopted a plan for defending its right to use race, ethnicity and gender as criteria in selecting students, according to an advertisement published in The New York Times.

The Association of American Universities, which includes the top research institutions in the United States, adopted the plan during its annual meeting on April 14 in Washington, D.C. Rice University and the University of Texas at Austin are the Texas institutions affiliated with the group.

Calling diversity a "value central to the very conception of our institutions," the group backed admissions policies consistent with the broad principle of opportunity and equal protection.

The group said bans in California and Texas on using race, ethnicity, and a general debate about the goals of affirmative action, combined to create substantial uncertainty about the future of the admission of minority students to our student bodies.

The group said it did not support admission quotas or the admission of students who do not meet admissions criteria.

But it rejected the use of definitions of merit, and said that students benefit from studying with others whose backgrounds are different than their own.

"If our institutional capacity to bring together a genuinely diverse group of students is removed, the texture of education will be significantly diminished," the group's advertisement said.

The group includes members of the Ivy League, private colleges such as Rice, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale University and leading public universities such as UT-Austin and the University of California, Berkeley.

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