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MIDAIR COLLISION

Search now a recovery mission

AFTER 63-HOUR HUNT,
COAST GUARD SAYS
SURVIVORS UNLIKELY



By LORETTA KALB
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The U.S. Coast Guard shifted Sunday from a search and rescue mission to a recovery operation for nine crew members lost in a disastrous crash off the San Diego coast.

The search for survivors was suspended shortly before 10 a.m. after a final rescue effort by a Coast Guard Ag Hawk helicopter returned with no promising news. So ended 63 hours of search over more than 644 square miles of the Pacific Ocean.

It's not likely that anyone would have

survived," Lt. Josh Nelson, the Coast Guard's public affairs officer in San Diego, told The Bee.

Seven people were aboard a Coast Guard C-130 Hercules plane that left Sacramento on a mission to find a skiff with one aboard reported missing near Catalina Island. Two people were inside a Marine Corps helicopter on a training mission out of Camp Pendleton. The two aircraft collided Thursday night.

Coast Guard officials said Sunday they would not speculate on the cause of the

Capt. J.J.

O'Connor, commanding officer of the Coast Guard Air Station in Sacramento, on Sunday announces the search and rescue mission for lost crew members is now focused on recovery.

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10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Governor may get to pick No. 2

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
VACANCY MAY TRIGGER
A DOMINO EFFECT

By KEVIN YAMAMURA
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Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has complained that he doesn't get to pick his own lieutenant governor, a position he thinks should be more first mate than political detractor — if it must exist at all. He could soon get his wish.

If Democratic Lt. Gov. John Garamendi wins a special congressional election Tuesday in the Democrats-leaning 10th Congressional District, Schwarzenegger has the power to appoint Garamendi's replacement.

The Republican governor has not tipped his hand. He has the option of choosing a caretaker who will serve out Garamendi's last year. Or he could use the appointment to reward a Republican legislator for working on his behalf in recent years.

"Everything the governor does should send a message," said Steve Markusner, chief of staff to former Republican Gov. George Deukmejian. "The message that should be sent here is, 'If you stood with me in the past, I'm standing here for you today.' He should choose someone who reflects his policies and priorities and has a di-

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How the 10th
Congressional
District race is
shaping up.
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Guard: Local station stands down

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collision.

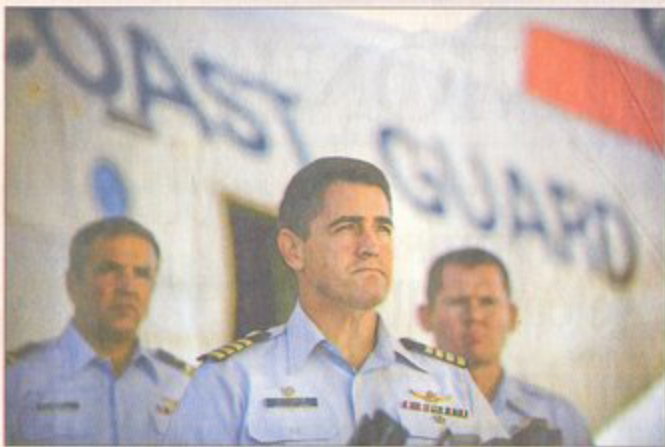
The commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard has called for an investigation, which is ongoing, said Capt. J.J. O'Connor, commanding officer of the Coast Guard Air Station in Sacramento, where the C-130 departed for its ill-fated flight on Thursday night.

A multi-agency joint mishap analysis board that includes the Coast Guard and Marine Corps will help guide the decision on the extent and duration of salvage efforts, Nelson said.

Among the questions for investigators is aircraft collision avoidance systems. The Coast Guard C-130 does have a collision avoidance system, which detects another aircraft in the area provided the other craft's transponder is squawking, Nelson said.

Investigators also will be looking for the on-board recording system for details on the crash.

The missing boater, identified as 50-year-old David Thomas Jines of Avalon, Catalina



"The Coast Guard family at large and especially here in Sacramento is grieving and coping with our loss," said Capt. J.J. O'Connor, commander of the Coast Guard Air Station in Sacramento.

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Island, has not been found, Petty Officer Christina Bote-man of the Los Angeles-Long Beach Coast Guard station said Sunday.

She said the search for Jines had continued despite the Thursday night casualties, but ended Saturday.

The Jayhawk's four-member crew on Sunday morning saw some debris from the crash area before returning to San Diego, Nelson said. The debris was not widely dispersed because winds were benign, he said.

The nearly 200 members of the Sacramento Coast Guard station stood down after the crash and will remain so until next Monday. Coast Guard Air Station Burbank Point Hawaii has stepped in to handle Sacramento station calls.

In the shade of a C-130

plane at McClellan on Sunday, O'Connor said at a news conference that four chaplains and a number of grief counselors had arrived to help the families of the missing crew members as well as the nearly 200 members of the Sacramento Coast Guard station.

"The Coast Guard family at large and especially here in Sacramento is grieving and coping with our loss," O'Connor said.

Chaplain Mark Smith, a captain in the Navy Chaplain Corps, which also serves the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, said he arrived Sunday morning in Sacramento to assist Chaplain Darrell Wesley.

Wesley, a Navy Chaplain Corps commander, came to Sacramento as soon as he heard about the collision, Smith said.

"He came here from Alameda, because they know him," Smith said.

Smith said chaplains and counselors are giving grieving family members and Coast Guard members "a chance to talk and help put things into perspective and help focus their efforts to honor the people they care about."

The Coast Guard is holding a memorial service for the crew to be attended by family and friends at 11 a.m. Friday at McClellan Air Park in North Highlands.

Officials said Sunday night they will announce this week whether the memorial service will be open to the public.

Call *The Bee's* Loretta Kallb,
(916) 321-1073.

CRASH VICTIMS

Coast Guard crew: Lt. Cmdr. Che J. Barnes, 35, Capay, aircraft commander; Lt. Adam W. Bryant, 28, Crews, Va., co-pilot; Chief Petty Officer John F. Seidman, 43, Carmichael, flight engineer; Petty Officer 2nd Class Carl P. Grigoris, 35, Mayfield Heights, Ohio, navigator; Petty Officer 2nd Class Monica L. Beacham, 29, Decaturville, Tenn., radio operator; Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason S. Moletzsky, 26, Norristown, Pa., air crew; and Petty Officer 3rd Class Danny R. Kieder II, 22, Elm Mott, Texas, drop master.

Marine Corps crew: Maj. Samuel Leigh, 35, Kennebec, Maine; 1st Lt. Thomas Claiborne, 26, Parker, Colo.