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By Lt. Col. Susan A. Romano, AFNORTH Public Affairs

AFRCC provides SAR assistance to downed F-16

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center here has dispatched two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and one HC-130 from the 23rd Wing at Moody AFB, Ga., in response to a collision of two F-16s from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., that collided in mid-air over the Atlantic Ocean late Thursday evening during a night training mission.

The HH-60s are manned by highly trained personnel and equipped with state-of-the-art navigation, communications and radar systems for its primary mission of search and rescue of downed pilots.

According to Shaw AFB officials, the pilot of the missing F-16 has been identified as Capt. Nicholas Giglio. The second F-16, piloted by Capt. Lee Bryant, was unharmed and was able to land safely at Charleston AFB, S.C.

“We are doing everything in our power to rescue our missing Airman,” said Master Sgt. Paul Buzbee. “We’re working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard who also has rescue assets on scene to comb the area and locate the missing pilot. We have launched an aggressive and thorough interagency search-and-rescue force for this effort.”

The cause of the crash is unknown and a board of officers will investigate the accident.