

Hernando County Sheriff's Office Leverages Intrepid Response in High-Stakes Missing Person Search



The Challenge

On August 29, 2024, at approximately 1:30 PM, Lieutenant Tom Valdez of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office received a Silver Alert for a missing person. The individual, unfamiliar with the area, had been dropped off near a wooded region with the family dog. Hours later, the dog returned home alone — an alarming sign that something had gone wrong. By the time the family contacted law enforcement, crucial time had already been lost, making the search even more urgent.

With a vast 4-mile-wide dense and rural terrain to cover and few leads beyond a single deer camera sighting, the search faced major challenges. After two days with no success, Lt. Valdez knew they had to expand operations and improve coordination across multiple agencies.

The Solution

Recognizing the need for real-time collaboration, Lt. Valdez enlisted the support of the neighboring Pasco County Sheriff's Office and leveraged Intrepid Response to streamline the search effort. A Mutual Aid Channel was quickly created, allowing both agencies to operate under a shared common operating picture.





Intrepid Response Key Features Utilized

Live Mapping & Breadcrumb Tracking

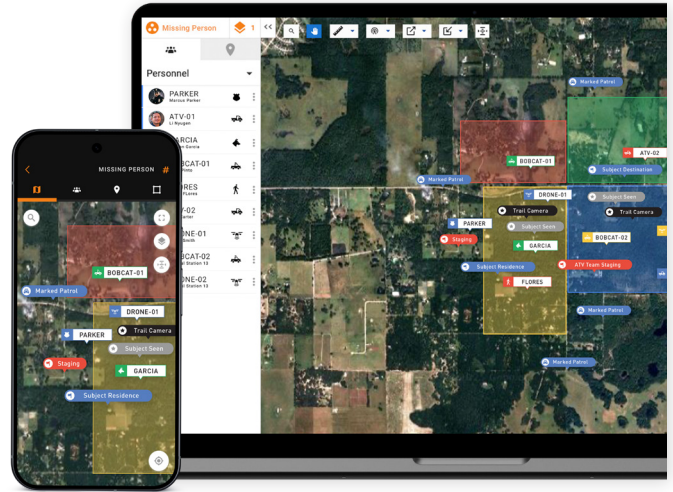
Teams could mark completed areas and visually track search progress in real time.

Mutual Aid Coordination

Additional agencies joined the operation and were able to immediately collaborate.

Digital Planning & Evidence Marking

Officers identified critical areas on the Intrepid map, added markers for key findings, and optimized search strategies. Information was easily shared over the data channels.



“Had we not had Intrepid Response, we would have been stuck with paper maps and no way to visualize and keep track of our team’s locations or search coverage,” explained Lt. Valdez. “With Intrepid, I could draw search grids for everyone to see, monitor progress, and could watch the breadcrumbs to ensure every areas was properly covered.”

“Thanks to the capabilities of Intrepid Response, we were able to efficiently collect and analyze data, enabling our team to progress through each stage of the search with precision. The intelligence provided by the platform allowed us to keep track of the areas that had already been searched and identify those that still required attention as the case evolved. This level of organization and foresight was instrumental in our ability to plan and execute our search operations effectively,” said Lt. Valdez.

As the number of search personnel grew, Intrepid Networks provided 25 additional complimentary licenses, allowing more responders to be integrated into the platform. This expanded capability significantly improved coordination among dozens of daily searchers, ensuring strategic coverage and efficient deployment of resources.

“We extend our deepest gratitude to Intrepid Networks for the support provided during our time of need. The customer support and Intrepid Response technology have made a lasting impact on our agency’s ability to carry out such investigations. On behalf of the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office, I want to thank Intrepid Networks for its unwavering commitment to assisting us in this critical mission. We look forward to our continuing partnership with Intrepid Networks and utilizing Intrepid Response in future operations.” – Lt. Valdez



The Impact

Despite a comprehensive operation involving drones, K-9 units, helicopters, and night searches, the missing person was not located. However, the search was conducted with unparalleled precision and coordination, leaving no doubt that all possible efforts were made.

With Intrepid Response's after-action reporting, Lt. Valdez compiled a full digital record of search activities — including search grids, team movements, chat logs, and incident markers — which was shared with the missing person's family.

"If someone came to me and asked if we did the best job we could have with the challenges we faced, I would look at the Intrepid Response Map and our reports from the incident and say without a doubt that we did everything right." – Lt. Valdez.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office formally recognized Intrepid Networks for its invaluable assistance in the search, acknowledging the platform's role in transforming public safety operations.

Why Intrepid Response

Intrepid Response is a highly interactive tool that enables teams to securely communicate, coordinate, and collaborate over a common operating picture.

Empower Teams

Accelerate informed decisions and improve response times in high-stress situations.

Enable Interoperability

Multi-agency collaboration is made easy with native, on-the-fly mutual aid capability.

Drive Efficiency

Automate critical workflows for faster, more accurate resource and data management.

Enhance Safety

Provide actionable and digestible information while reducing radio congestion.

By bridging the gap between field personnel and command centers, Intrepid Response is redefining emergency operations, ensuring speed, accuracy, and efficiency in life-critical situations.

Lt. Valdez also emphasized Intrepid Response's Unmatched Value: "Intrepid outperforms other solutions at a fraction of the cost. Intrepid's functionality and price point are a major benefit for government agencies."



Visit our website or contact us today to schedule a demo and learn how Intrepid Response can revolutionize your operations.