FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Napa County, California

On Saturday August 9, 2014, at approximately 0830 hours, Napa County Sheriff requested the assistance of CHP Air Operations to locate a victim of a reported accidental shooting (hunting accident). CHP Air-37 (Cessna Airplane), piloted by CHP Officer Shayne Dickson and Flight Officer Russ Vough, responded from the Napa county airport to an area of Napa County approximately 15 miles north of Lake Berryessa near the Yolo County line. Almost immediately upon Air 37’s arrival in the area, the injured hunter’s fellow hunters were seen waving their orange hunting vests in the air. Officer Vough quickly assessed the scene and requested the assistance of CHP Helicopter 30 (H-30) for a medevac rescue. H-30, piloted by CHP/Officer David Power and Flight Officer/Paramedic Ben Schmidt, quickly responded from the Napa County Airport and was directed to the injured party by Officer Vough. Officer Vough also directed responding emergency personnel on the ground to the injured hunter. H-30 landed nearby and Officer/Paramedic Schmidt hiked to the injured hunter. With assistance of Napa County Sheriff, California Fish and Game and Yolo County Fire Department personnel, the hunter was prepared for medevac and transferred to the helicopter. The injured hunter was taken to a local trauma center in serious condition. Due to the remote and rugged location, the medevac saved precious transport time for a seriously injured person. This rescue was made possible through the collaborative work of numerous agencies.

The California Highway Patrol Golden Gate Division Air Operations unit, based at the Napa County Airport, operates four aircraft (two airplanes and two helicopters) which patrol approximately 6,923 square miles that incorporates a residential population of more than 7 million people. The helicopter is routinely staffed with a CHP Officer/Pilot and a CHP Officer/Paramedic. The helicopter is equipped with a rescue hoist that has 165 feet of cable that can lift patients and/or rescuers, with a cumulative weight up to 450 pounds.

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