

**Middlebury Police Department  
Media Release**

**9 April 2008**

**SUB: Missing Person Investigation – Nicholas Garza**

The Saranac Fire Department Technical Rescue Team (SFDTRT), assisted by the Middlebury Fire Department began an underwater and shoreline search for Nicholas Garza or any evidence related to his disappearance. Also on scene were representatives of the Vermont State Police Search and Rescue team and the Colchester technical Rescue Team. The search began in the morning and ended shortly before 6:00 p.m.

Chief Don Uhler of the Saranac Fire Department reported that searchers were hampered by fast water current and high water level. Otter Creek has risen 2 feet since they made their assessment on Saturday.

The search started in the Frog Hollow area just below the water fall and progressed to an area just below the foot bridge. In the meantime, other members of the SFDTRT conducted a search along the shoreline of Otter Creek from Frog Hollow to the Pulp Mill Bridge. This search was conducted from the water.

SFDTRT and the Middlebury Fire Department will resume operations on Thursday, commencing the search from a point just below the footbridge in Frog Hollow.

Media parking will once again be available in the same Mill Street parking lot. There will be a briefing at 11:00 a.m.

Plans are underway to conduct a large-scale, wide area ground and aerial search following the water search, should it be necessary, now that the snow is gone. In addition, with the water search hampered by present water conditions, a follow-up search is being planned for June when water conditions should be more conducive to searching.

As water searches are underway, tentative arrangements are being made with the US Coast Guard for a water and shoreline search of Otter Creek as it nears Lake Champlain.

The following contains a list of all the organizations that have provided technical, logistical, staffing, and other assistance to the Middlebury Police Department to date in this investigation.

1. Vermont State Police, New Haven
2. Vermont Fusion center
3. Middlebury Explorers
4. Middlebury Fire Department
5. Middlebury College Public Safety

6. Community Emergency Response Team
7. Middlebury College Administration
8. Vermont State Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigation
9. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
10. Federal Bureau of Investigation – Burlington & Rutland Field offices
11. National Center for Violent Crime, Behavioral Analysis Unit
12. Middlebury College Facilities Staff
13. Acker Excavating
14. National Crime Information Center
15. Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Center
16. Middlebury Department of Public Works
17. Vermont State Police Search and Rescue Team
18. Colchester Technical Rescue
19. Norwich University Cold Weather Rescue team
20. New England Canine
21. Upper Valley Wilderness Response Team
22. Stowe Mountain Rescue Team
23. Office of the US Attorney, Vermont
24. Addison County State's Attorney
25. The Carol Sund/Carrington Foundation
26. Vermont State Police, Criminal Division
27. Central Vermont Public Service
28. U.S. Border Patrol
29. U.S. Marshalls Service
30. Department of Homeland Security
31. Lower Adirondack Search and Rescue Team
32. Vermont Outdoor Guide Association
33. Howard County (MD) Sheriff's Department
34. Vermont State Police Polygraph Unit
35. America's Most Wanted
36. Bara-Hutton Group, NJ
37. Texas EquuSearch and Gary Peterson
38. Otter Creek Brewing
39. Saranac Fire Department Technical Rescue Team
40. Yale University Police Department
41. University of Vermont Police Department
42. Adjunct Investigation Staff

Chief Thomas Hanley