

Stories & Testimonies

It was time for the death notification. There were two souls on board the small, single-engine Cessna – a father and his son. The two were taking a well-deserved vacation, a week of fishing together, just the two of them. When they failed to arrive at their destination, emergency responders began a ground and air search. On the second day, the wreckage of the crumpled airplane was spotted. A ground team confirmed there were no survivors. The Incident Commander ordered, “All aircraft, return to base.” The chaplain was there at mission headquarters. Gently, he approached the family and asked everyone to be seated. He laid out the details of what was known. Then he said, “I’m so sorry. Your husband and son did not survive. They are dead.” There were a variety of reactions. Some cried, others became angry. They all had a host of questions. Later, they expressed appreciation for the many who helped locate the crash site and for the care of a chaplain in this, the greatest loss of their lives.