

Search on for missing copter passengers

by UPI

MANILA, Philippines -- Philippine and U.S. search-and-rescue operations were under way Wednesday to locate passengers of a downed presidential helicopter, officials said.

Three bodies were recovered from in the wreckage of the aircraft that crashed near the town of Tinoc in Ifugao province, Philippine broadcaster GMA News reported. It was reported missing Tuesday

Government-run radio dzRB reported that a U.S. Sea Knight helicopter would assist local rescue workers searching for five missing passengers of the Bell 412 craft.

The Philippine helicopter was carrying Press Undersecretary Jose Capadocia, military aide Brig. Gen. Carlos Clet, Undersecretary for Presidential Engagements and Appointments Malou Frostrum, Presidential Management Staff Assistant Director Perlita Bandayanon, naval officer Demy Reyno, and air force Sgt. Roe Gem Perez. It had two pilots on board.

The report didn't give a cause of the crash.

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