

Search for missing Malaysian airliner to resume next month

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USPA News - A deep-sea search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 is expected to commence in September and will focus in particular on southern areas of the search area, Australian and Malaysian officials said on Thursday, nearly six months after the airliner vanished with 239 people on board. Surveyors will face a year-long operation starting next month to examine the ocean floor in the 1.1 million square kilometers-wide search area, of which 87,000 square kilometers has already been surveyed.

A new analysis of information will point the first stages of the search towards the southern parts of the search area. "Over the last few weeks and months continuing work is being done on refining the information that we have in relation to the most likely resting place for this aircraft," said Australian Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss. "The search area remains the same, but some of the information we now have suggests to us that areas a little further to the south - within the search area but a little further to the south - may be of particular interest and priority in the search area." The focus on southern parts of the search area results from an analysis of a satellite phone call from Malaysia Airlines to the aircraft after it disappeared from radar on March 8. While the phone call was unsuccessful, a recent analysis of the call has provided new details about the aircraft's position and heading. Senior government officials from Australia, Malaysia and China met in Australia on Thursday to discuss the next phase in the search, which has already been described as the biggest search operation in history with the surface search covering more than 4.5 million square kilometers. Despite no physical evidence having been found after nearly six months, officials remain optimistic. "Ministers remain cautiously optimistic that the missing aircraft will be found," the ministers said in a joint statement. "Ministers reiterated that the passengers and families of MH370 have not left their thoughts, and while they cannot begin to comprehend the suffering of the next of kin, reiterated their commitment to do all they could

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