

Royal Navy and Royal Marines attempt inspiring 'Help for Heroes' Khumbu Challenge Expedition aided by the latest in Satcom technology



London, September 2009: Royal Marine and Royal Navy personnel will be undertaking a truly inspiring expedition to Khumbu, the mountain range also known as the Everest region in the Himalaya. The team will make use of the latest in satellite communications technology from NSSL, allowing them to stay in contact with base camp, update the expedition website with diary entries and videos and, should the need arise, call in emergency support.

KC09 is the inaugural expedition of Project FORTITUDE, "an initiative to facilitate further and enduring rehabilitation opportunities for those Royal Marines, Sailors and Soldiers injured on operations who suffer visible wounds, and those who bear the less visible wounds of psychological injury. The aim is to enhance the support to individuals and their dependants during the rehabilitation phase from point of injury until re-integration within the Royal Marines/Royal Navy or integration into civilian employment, care or retirement. Opportunity, Challenge, Focus, and Belonging are the cornerstones".

The Khumbu Challenge team is comprised of 5 teams totalling 86 personnel. What makes this expedition truly exceptional is that the team will include men and women injured in recent conflicts. As a result the participants in the adventure will have a very wide range of experience and mobility

NSSL is providing:

- Six Inmarsat Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) terminals for the mission. BGAN represents the latest in satellite communications providing voice and data to users globally via a small portable device connected to a laptop.
- BGAN voice and data airtime
- Backup satellite handsets
- Solar panels. These small portable devices can be set up when convenient to provide on-demand power to the BGAN terminals.

- Comprehensive end-user training
- 24 hour support. A dedicated team of highly skilled engineers is only a phone call away should the team have any technical difficulties.

Royal Marine Sergeant and expedition leader Steve Perry said:

"In support of military expeditions NSSL have provided exemplary worldwide mobile satellite solutions for both data streaming and voice communications. Experienced in providing reliable and robust equipment which is able to operate in remote and inhospitable environments they provide a 24 hour, 7 days a week service. Since the successful RN/RM Expedition to Kyrgyzstan in 2007 Project Fortitude has been fortunate to rely upon the continued support of NSSL and their highly motivated and dedicated staff. Khumbu Challenge 09 has a significant number of people who are undergoing medical rehabilitation and will be operating in the higher ranges of the Himalaya. Reliable, capable and robust communications is essential throughout this rigorous challenge. NSSL provides this; it is the first and foremost choice of KC09 and many other military expeditions around the Globe.

Danielle Edwards, Product Marketing Manager at NSSL commented:

"NSSL are honoured to be part of such an inspirational expedition. We have a long relationship with the Armed Forces and when we were informed as to the purpose of the mission, we simply couldn't say no. We are proud to be supplying the latest in satellite communications technology, allowing the team to stay in contact with base camp and call in emergency support. By providing communications equipment and support services, NSSL hopes to help ensure both a successful, rewarding experience and a safe return home for the team."

www.satcom-solutions.com/

www.kc09.org/

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Notes for editors

About NSSL

Established in 1969, NSSL Ltd is an independent service provider for satellite communications solutions. With a wide range of services and extensive experience of systems integration, network management and application development, our focus is on providing communication and IT solutions to the maritime, government, energy, media, finance and corporate sectors. NSSL is based in the UK and has a network of engineers and service agents worldwide to provide in country support to its global customer base.

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