



SATCOMS HELP ROYAL NAVY TEAM ATTEMPT RECORD BREAKING KAYAKING ADVENTURE



December 2007, London: Earlier this year a crack team of Royal Marines and naval personnel from HMS Endurance, the Royal Navy's Antarctica ice patrol ship, attempted to set a world record by kayaking around James Ross Island. If the team had succeeded it would have been a world record. Despite not succeeding, the team of three Royal Marines, four Endurance naval personnel and one civilian instructor showed the amazing capabilities of BGAN and Iridium handheld phones.

The team set off in February 2007, following months of training. Circumnavigating James Ross Island was an extremely ambitious plan. At times the temperature could drop to as low as -30C and at one point the team were a full 160 miles away from HMS Endurance – and help should anything drastic go wrong. The team also had to contend with icebergs capable of sinking their canoes, blinding hurricanes that made paddling impossible and killer leopard seals.

Thanks to the BGAN and Iridium kit, however, these dangers were significantly reduced. The kit allowed the team to:

- check weather reports independently of HMS Endurance
- go further and deeper into Antarctica than had ever been attempted before
- call in emergency help/assistance should anything go wrong
- update their daily blogs
- keep in contact with friends, family, sponsors and the media back in the UK

According to Steven Paris-Hunter, the expedition leader with experience of over 22 expeditions to date: “The kit was absolutely fantastic. It allowed us to go further and deeper into Antarctica than ever before and keep in contact with the outside world at times when it seemed we were the most isolated individuals on earth. Importantly, the kit was small and portable enough to fit into the confined space of a kayak.”

NSSL, the international satellite communications provider, supplied the BGAN set and two Iridium phones. According to Danielle Edwards, Product Marketing Manager, “This expedition really proves how satcoms have evolved to become a must have necessity for adventurers who want to push the limits of human endeavour. “



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Notes for editors

About NSSL

Established in 1969, NSSL Ltd is an independent service provider for satellite communications solutions, and one of the top Inmarsat service providers worldwide. With a wide range of services and extensive experience of systems integration and application development, our focus is on the maritime, government, energy, media, finance and corporate sectors. We provide voice, data and broadband solutions anywhere in the world. NSSL is based in the UK and has a network of agents and engineers worldwide to provide service support to its global customer base.

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