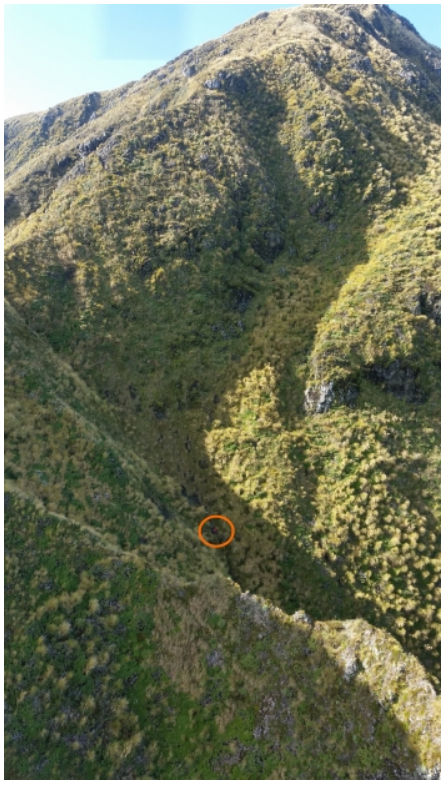
NEWS RELEASE

First life saved through next-generation MEOSAR search and rescue network

McMurdo instrumental in upgraded Cospas-Sarsat satellite system that found hiker 50 minutes faster than the existing system

Lanham, Maryland – July 5, 2016 – McMurdo, the most trusted name in Emergency Readiness and Response, has announced the first life saved using Medium-altitude Earth Orbit Search and Rescue system (MEOSAR) – an advanced next-generation satellite-based technology that is revolutionizing search and rescue (SAR).



Don Stevens, a 53-year-old teacher from Wellington, New Zealand, was hiking over rugged terrain in the Tararua Range when he fell more than 90 feet, breaking his leg and leaving him unable to walk. After he activated his McMurdo FastFind 220 personal locator beacon (PLB), the distress signal was relayed by the MEOSAR satellite system to the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand in only four minutes – 50 minutes sooner than the existing system picked up the same distress signal.

McMurdo was instrumental in all phases of the April 26 rescue, from the McMurdo FastFind 220 PLB to the McMurdo designed and installed MEOSAR satellite ground stations, Mission Control Centres and Rescue Coordination Centres.

Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand Manager Mike Hill, said: “The extra time created by receiving the signal faster was invaluable and potentially lifesaving. It meant we could get the search operation underway earlier, and that made all the difference with the limited daylight hours that are available at this time of year.”

Mr Stevens said: “I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for that beacon – everyone who hikes definitely needs one. If you’re going out, even if you’re in a group of two or three, you should always carry a beacon. Accidents can happen when you least expect it.”

Remi Julien, McMurdo President, said: “The MEOSAR system covering New Zealand had only been operating in test mode for three days when Don Stevens activated his PLB, yet this next generation system is already demonstrating the significant impact it will have on the speed and accuracy of locating people in distress. We are proud to be leading on this revolutionary new SAR network, that is already saving the lives of people like Don and providing SAR agencies the tools to save more lives even faster.”

McMurdo completed the installation of a six-antenna MEOSAR satellite ground station system in New Zealand in late 2015, the first implementation of MEOSAR in Asia Pacific. The project, which was part of a joint initiative with Maritime New Zealand and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, was expected to significantly boost search and rescue capability in the New Zealand and Australia search regions.

More about MEOSAR

- Since 1982, the Cospas-Sarsat international satellite SAR system has been instrumental in helping to save more than 40,000 lives by pinpointing the location of emergency distress beacon signals.
- The next-generation version of Cospas-Sarsat, known as MEOSAR, is expected to revolutionize the entire SAR process when fully deployed in the next three to five years
- MEOSAR will include global satellite coverage, near-instantaneous distress beacon detection and more accurate beacon location calculations (thanks to the 72 MEOSAR satellites vs. 12 today), and a unique Return Link Service feature that confirms receipt of the distress signal
- With MEOSAR, a beacon can be located within 100 meters (328 feet), 95% of the time, within 5 minutes of the distress signal instead of taking up to several hours today.

Distress beacon owners, government agencies, media groups and other SAR-related personnel globally, can now track the progress of MEOSAR’s deployment and better understand its functionality through a variety of informational and educational materials. Visit the MEOSAR Knowledge Center and sign up to receive the McMurdo MEOSAR Newsletter at http://www.mcmurdogroup.com/meosar-knowledge-center/.

For more information on McMurdo and its emergency readiness and response solutions, please visit http://www.mcmurdogroup.com.

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About McMurdo

McMurdo is a global leader in emergency readiness and response including search and rescue and maritime domain awareness solutions. At the core of these solutions are resilient positioning, navigation and tracking products, technologies and applications that have helped to save over 40,000 lives since 1982. A division of Orolia, McMurdo brings together nearly 150 combined years of experience by consolidating proven Boatracs, Kannad, McMurdo, SARBE and Techno-Sciences, Inc. brands into the industry's first end-to-end emergency readiness and response ecosystem (distress beacons, satellite connectivity infrastructure, monitoring/positioning software and emergency response management solutions). Airbus, Boeing, the British Royal Navy, the U.S. Coast Guard, NASA and others are among the hundreds of aviation, fishing, and government, marine and military customers around the world that trust McMurdo to prevent emergencies, protect assets and save lives. Established in January 2014, has offices in France (Guidel and Sophia Antipolis), the U.K. (Portsmouth) and the U.S. (San Diego and Washington D.C.).

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