



Application Scenario

Seven Rescued After Three Days in Life Raft (Cell Phone Coverage) – Story from *The News Journal, Wilmington, Delaware*

The Situation

Seven friends set sail on the charter boat, *The Chief*, for an overnight deep-sea fishing trip in the Atlantic Ocean off the Delaware/New Jersey coast. The 40-ton vessel had taken the passengers out more than 75 miles to fish for tuna and swordfish. The boat was quite capable of handling the storm and rough seas that set in as it returned from the fishing grounds in the deep waters of the Wilmington Canyon...and then the vessel struck something. A metal cargo container, a whale, or a railroad tie, whatever it was tore a massive hole in *The Chief* and the boat sank within minutes. The radio operator radioed "Mayday and position" alerts as the seven friends immediately abandoned ship and scrambled to the only item left floating – a rubber life raft designed for four. As one they reached for their cell phones to no avail; without service their phones were useless. They would have to endure the raging storm throughout the night. Little did they realize that their struggle to survive would last two more days and nights! They clung to life drifting further out to sea, literally unable to move for fear the raft would sink with the excess bodies and weight. Finally, a Coast Guard helicopter spotted them and the men were rescued after more than 45 hours adrift.



Although *The Chief* went down beyond the reach of terrestrial phone coverage, an advanced satellite-terrestrial communications network under development

by SkyTerra Communications would have insured the stranded fishermen the ability to make a connection when the terrestrial phone service was unavailable. This capability could have helped locate the raft and expedited rescue of the seven friends adrift in the ocean.

The Solution

An integrated satellite-terrestrial communications network, currently being developed by SkyTerra, will provide ubiquitous wireless broadband services throughout North America. This network, using commercially available handsets, will offer significant advantages over existing wireless networks. Such potential advantages include vastly expanded and improved phone coverage, higher data speeds, lower costs and flexibility to support a range of custom IP applications and services. These features will all be possible through SkyTerra's new hybrid service. With SkyTerra's next generation services, the stranded fishermen would have had coverage to call and direct searchers and contact worried family members.

SkyTerra Overview

SkyTerra is developing its hybrid satellite-terrestrial communications network, based on SkyTerra's patented ancillary terrestrial component (ATC) technology. The company expects its next-generation network will provide seamless, transparent and ubiquitous wireless coverage of the United States and Canada to conventional handsets. SkyTerra plans to launch two of the most powerful commercial satellites ever built. These satellites will provide a platform for interoperable, user-friendly and feature-rich voice and high-speed data services. SkyTerra's network will enable communications in a variety of industry segments including public safety, homeland security, aviation, transportation and entertainment.

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