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Cobham Assists in Pinpointing Location of Sailor in At Sea Medical Medevac

SAN DIEGO – California — A sailor suffering from life threatening diabetic seizures received a quick rescue response April 23rd when his Cobham 406 Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) signal was received and effectively provided Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates, directing US Coast Guard (USCG) rescuers to the sailor's location 120 miles south of San Diego.

According to USCG reports, an emergency signal from a Cobham ACR Products GlobalFix™ 406 EPIRB was received at 3:45 p.m, sent by the crew of a 40 foot sailboat when the boat owner became ill and needed medical assistance. USCG crews reached the 71-year-old man at 5:45 p.m., just two hours after receiving the distress signal.

The following is the official USCG report of the incident:

<http://www.uscgsandiego.com/go/doc/830/1071855/>

"The benefit to having the EPIRB was fast notification of a distress," said Chris Wahler, Product Line Manager for Cobham's ACR Products. "There was no searching involved; the Coast Guard was able to fly the 120 miles directly to them. This is a good example of a situation where an individual is personally in distress at sea, beyond the range of normal communications, and the crew correctly goes to the one device aboard that can quickly communicate the emergency to responders and provide precise GPS coordinates for them to follow."

406 MHz EPIRBs (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons) and PLBs (Personal Locator Beacons) transmit signals on internationally recognized distress frequencies. NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) monitors the 406 MHz signal and the Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking System (COSPAS-SARSAT) detects and locates distress signals and forwards the information directly to the Coast Guard. GPS coordinates greatly assist search and rescue crews, and in the event GPS isn't acquired, position can be calculated through Doppler Shift as a reliable backup.

Worldwide, the Cospas-Sarsat system is credited with rescuing more than 28,000 people since the program's inception in 1982. Of that number, more than 6,500 persons were rescued in the U.S.

An EPIRB/PLB is a satellite-signalling device of last resort, for use when all other means of self-rescue have been exhausted and where the situation is deemed to be grave and imminent, and the loss of life, limb, eyesight or valuable property will occur without assistance. All beacons must be registered online at www.beaconregistration.noaa.gov following purchase.

About Cobham

Cobham specializes in meeting the insatiable demand for data, connectivity and bandwidth in defence, security and commercial environments. Offering a technically diverse and innovative range of technologies and services, the Group protects the lives and livelihoods, responding to customer needs with agility that differentiates it. The most important thing we build is trust. Employing more than 11,000 people on five continents, the Group has customers and partners in over 100 countries, with annual revenue of £1.9bn/US\$3 billion.

About Cobham Commercial Systems

Cobham Commercial Systems is a leading provider of integrated avionics systems, emergency locator systems and radar and missile electronics for military and civil customers. Cobham's avionics systems can be offered individually or integrated to provide an entire cockpit. Its synthetic vision Electronic Flight Instrument System (EFIS) revolutionised safety in low-level flight operations and is now approved on more than 700 aircraft and helicopter models. Cobham's new Helicopter Stability Augmentation System (HeliSAS) adds to its extensive range of fixed wing auto-pilot solutions and brings added safety within the reach of a host of operators for whom such systems were previously too expensive and heavy. Cobham Commercial Systems is also an acknowledged expert in Emergency Locator Transmitter and Personal Locator Beacon technologies, from personal units to Original Equipment Manufacturer mounted systems on airliners and helicopters. Its radar and missile RF front end electronics are part of many radars, missiles, and space and commercial radar systems as well as leading edge Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) solutions.

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