



HISTORY OF SIGNALLING IN 100 OBJECTS MANPACK SATCOM PSC 506

The PSC 504 was used by 264 Signal Sqn in the Falklands war in 1982. It was from this set that Thales developed the UK/PSC 506 that is shown in the main photo being operated by Gurkha Signals. The British Army used it from the late 1980s to 2012 when it was finally taken out of service and replaced. It was deployed in the Balkans, Sierra Leone, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The set was used to provide secure point to point telephony, data transfer and formal messaging at Formation level

HQ using the HQ Terminal (HQT) which was man-portable in 3 transit cases. On a tactical level the smaller patrol terminal (PT) carried in a satchel/Bergen providing the same functionality to Commanders from individual patrols up to and including Battle Group HQ.

It should be noted that the PSC 504 and the PSC 506 were not the first man-pack satcom developed for the British Army. SRDE (Later RSRE) in Christchurch manufactured a trials model shown in the two photos below. This equipment is now on display in the Royal Signals Museum.



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SRDE team, led by then Lt Col Maurice Davies Royal Signals, demonstrated the value of Satcom to GOC Berlin & his staff with this set in 1979. It worked from the Olympic stadium back to Christchurch; the quality of speech and set up time was excellent. Not only the Berlin Bde now had to have satellite comms, but the pattern had been set for every out of area operation to have satcom and the smaller the terminal the better and the PSC 506 succeeded in meeting this requirement for many key deployments.

