



## HISTORY OF SIGNALLING IN 100 OBJECTS THE TSC 501

Rear links working from overseas and the flanks of NATO back to UK had, since WW2, relied on HF radio links working into DCN. HF links provided secure telegraph but no secure voice. The Royal Signals & Radar Establishment (RSRE - formally SRDE) was working on a tri-service initiative to provide satellite rear link communications. In the late 1970s RSRE had built two capability stations, one of which is shown here. These were deployed in 1979 to support Op AGILA in Zimbabwe and proved a success in providing both secure voice and secure telegraph links. This led to further developments - the boxed Satcom station (RACAL TSC 502) and a vehicle borne set that was called the TSC 501 made by Marconi, who named it Marmoset. This set is shown in the other two pictures.

Both of these stations were manned by a 30 Signal Regiment team that worked closely with RSRE, which were based then at Christchurch.



The TSC 501 and the TSC 502 equipments were deployed to Saudi Arabia to demonstrate both sets to the National Guard with a view to improving UK defence sales.

The Landrover based TSC 501 is shown on display on 30 Signal Regiment square with S/Sgt (Fof S) Dave Ellis describing the station to HRH Princess Anne on one of her visits to Blandford Camp. Subsequently Dave Ellis took these sets to Saudi Arabia over Christmas 1979. This was the last 30 Signal Regiment saw of these equipments until the crisis in the Falklands started to develop at the end of 1981. The TSC 502 went to the Falklands in 1982 and the TSC 501 later provided rear link to BAOR and the flanks of NATO forces when deployed.