



**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
INDEPENDENT PANEL REVIEWING THE IMPACT OF HURRICANE KATRINA**

**Comment of Globalstar LLC
Public Notice DA 06-57**

January 27, 2006

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Globalstar was one of a very small number of telecommunications companies serving the Gulf Coast region whose services were not disrupted. We are one of only two FCC-licensed companies that provide mobile satellite services (“MSS”) using battery-powered handheld and vehicle-mounted phones. Our MSS phones are “operable” with each other and with any other communications device that is connected to a public switched telephone or wireless network anywhere, including wireline, cellular, and interconnected specialized mobile radio and private systems.¹ As a result, a Globalstar user can communicate via satellite with any other Globalstar user and with anyone on or connected to the worldwide public switched telephone network. Globalstar’s services proved their value to first responders and other public safety entities by operating without interruption throughout the Gulf Coast during the hurricanes and in their aftermath.

In his Written Statement of September 29, 2005, before the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet Committee on energy and Commerce (“September 29 Hearing”), Chairman Kevin Martin noted:

Fortunately, satellite service providers did not experience damage to their infrastructure. They have helped to bridge some of the gaps left by the outages by providing satellite phones and video links to law enforcement officials, medical personnel, emergency relief personnel, and news outlets.

The Chairman’s comment is absolutely true, but it fails to capture the vital role that satellite phones and data terminals played in the days, weeks, and months following Hurricanes Rita and Wilma, as well as Katrina. MSS is not a service that is “nice to have” or a “bridge service” that will make do until terrestrial services are restored. To the contrary, MSS is an increasingly essential service for legions of government and non-government customers who require communications during emergencies or in remote areas or who simply want telecommunications capability that they know will work under virtually all conditions.

We here provide a summary of Globalstar’s response to the Hurricane Katrina emergency.

- In advance of Hurricane Katrina:
 - Prepositioned phone inventory to strategic locations

¹ In his testimony at the September 29 Hearing, Satellite Industry Association chairman Tony Trujillo presented a comprehensive review of the role and importance of the satellite industry to emergency preparedness. We incorporate Mr. Trujillo’s testimony by reference.

- Reallocated coverage footprints of Texas and Florida Gateway earth stations to increase capacity in Gulf region
- Trained network operations team to monitor usage patterns in real time to manage anticipated traffic increase effectively
- Immediately after Hurricane Katrina
 - Donated about 100 phones each to the governors of Louisiana and Mississippi
 - Activated and deployed roughly 10,000 additional phones within one week to FEMA and other state and federal agencies
 - Activated and deployed some 2,000 simplex data terminals so that FEMA and other agencies could reliably track their mobile and fixed assets such as generators and trailers
 - Doubled the capacity for Globalstar calls to landline phones
 - Within 24 hours increased available network access by 60 percent
 - Continuously reallocated gateway capacity and coverage to maintain service quality in Gulf region
 - Developed and deployed four new transportable Globalstar Emergency Communications System “picocells,” which mate GSM cell phones with a Globalstar fixed phone for backhaul to create a small Local Area Network (see attached news release)

We have attached as an Appendix a public version of our principal e-mail reports to the FCC staff between August 30 and September 22, 2005.

Even though Globalstar’s calling increased **566 percent** in the week following Katrina compared with the week preceding Katrina, we were able to maintain our quality of service to ensure that FEMA and other first responders had adequate service. Our efforts were recognized by public officials, including President George Bush and Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, as well as national publications such as the Wall Street Journal (in its edition of November 3, 2005).

The point that must not be lost amid public officials’ concern about the lack of “interoperability” among the heritage private radio systems licensed to police, fire, and other first responders is that MSS systems already provide “operability” for public safety, national security, and disaster management. Globalstar proved this during two consecutive hurricane seasons – 2004 and 2005. The Commission can support the satellite industry and assist its fellow government agencies by helping to increase awareness of the communications capabilities already available via satellite and by encouraging agencies to coordinate among themselves to develop contingency plans using phones and networks that will always work during emergencies.

Respectfully submitted,

GLOBALSTAR LLC

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**SELECTION OF GLOBALSTAR STATUS REPORTS TO FCC FOLLOWING
HURRICANE KATRINA**

8/31/05

Here is some additional information about Globalstar's response to the hurricane emergency. Per our conversation, our gateway earth stations are not in the hurricane zone, and we have no outages at all on our system. The gateways serving the hurricane area are in Sebring, Florida and Clifton, Texas. I have attached the coverage maps that we submitted with our Sebring license application, which is currently pending. We are operating Sebring under STA granted July 13.

At this time, we are working from California and Canada (unfortunately, our Gulf States distribution manager based in southern Mississippi lost his home and has not been able to "be on the scene" for us), primarily with FEMA and also with Senator Landrieu's office. The emergency escalated so suddenly yesterday that state agencies are still reacting.

Globalstar distributes phones and service through a network of dealers and its own 800 number and Web site. As to phones, in the last 36 hours or so we have shipped 500 phones from our warehouse here in California to FEMA at FEMA's designated location. In addition, dealers and individual customers calling the 800 number have ordered another 1,400 phones. (We normally activate about 2,000 phones in the U.S. in an entire month.) These phones are activated and shipped as ordered from our provisioner, Unigistics. While the vast majority of our U.S. phones are Globalstar/CDMA phones manufactured by QUALCOMM, we also have a supply of Globalstar/GSM phones manufactured by our Italian vendor, Telit, which are distributed primarily in Europe. We have been shipping the latter as well, and we are modifying our network to serve them.

With respect to the network, we have taken the steps necessary to increase capacity to accommodate the much greater than anticipated call volume. Specifically:

1. We will triple the Globalstar/GSM capacity of the Sebring gateway by Friday Sept.2.
2. We will increase the PSTN interconnect capacity at Clifton by 50% by Friday Sept. 2 and again by another 50% (of original capacity) by Sept. 9. This will allow us to avoid blocked calls and busy signals .
3. We will increase Globalstar/GSM capacity of the Clifton Gateway 2.5 times by Friday Sept. 2.
4. We will increase the overall airlink capacity at Clifton by 50% by Sept. 9.
5. We will continue to make adjustments as necessary to meet demand.

[We] will keep you informed about developments in the Globalstar System as they occur. Please do not hesitate to contact [us] by phone or e-mail.

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9/1/05

Further to the information that [we] sent you this morning -

One of the two T1 trunks connecting the Sebring, Florida, and Clifton, Texas, Gateways went down after the Hurricane. Half of our GSM capacity riding on that trunk was lost. Our Operations Department quickly rearranged our U.S./Canada network configuration and freed up some capacity

on the remaining trunk. The arrangement now allows us more GSM call capacity than when we had both trunks up.

As to phone sales, we received orders for another 2,750 phones today. Our provisioning company has added staff to activate phones and will work through the weekend. They can now activate about 1,400 per day (versus a typical 80 per day), which will cause a few days' backlog because of the unprecedented number of orders. We have asked whether they can add additional temporary staff. Our Canadian phone battery supplier has placed orders for battery components and will be significantly increasing its production of batteries. The supplier currently has sufficient inventory for the next couple of weeks.

We have donated 100 phones to the States of Louisiana and Mississippi.

[We] will provide you with an update tomorrow.

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9/2/05

Open Letter From the Desk of Jay Monroe,
Chairman and CEO Globalstar LLC

As the tragedy in the Gulf continues to develop, our thoughts and prayers are with those affected. Beyond our concern we are working to ensure that Globalstar provides needed communications to help save lives and property as the country bands together to help the victims of this unparalleled event.

The physical damage to the region has widely affected land-based communications, resulting in many response organizations turning to Globalstar satellite service. We have planned and trained for this kind of situation, but the magnitude of the crisis is staggering, and many have asked us what we are doing in response. Here are some highlights:

SATELLITE PHONE DELIVERIES

Globalstar is working closely with emergency organizations to get as many units activated and into the hands of these groups so the phones aid recovery teams.

- * Within the first week of this disaster, Globalstar, our dealers and clients have deployed over 10,000 phones to the Gulf coast region.
- * Globalstar has donated the use of 100 phones to the States of Louisiana and Mississippi
- * We continue to work closely with FEMA and the American Red Cross.
- * We are deploying over 15 times the normal volume of equipment, primarily to response agencies, in order to help the region.

NETWORK QUALITY

Globalstar was designed from the start to provide reliable service regardless of events on the ground. Our network team is monitoring usage to ensure that we effectively manage the sudden increase in system usage. Over the past several days, we have:

- * Doubled capacity for Globalstar calls to landline phones

- * Increased active Globalstar spectrum allocation to handle increased volume
- * Re-allocated gateway coverage footprints to increase capacity in the Gulf area
- * Continually monitored usage to accommodate regional usage increases

As with all telecommunications systems there may be instances where calls cannot be completed during periods of intensified usage. These occurrences are being minimized with our initial efforts, and our work is ongoing to ensure maximum network availability during this crisis.

CUSTOMER CARE

Globalstar is providing full support with many employees working well beyond scheduled hours in the United States and Canada. While current wait times and activation times may be longer than normal, every caller who waits will be answered.

CONTACT

If you would like to purchase Globalstar products please call 1-877-728-7466. For existing customers who may have questions, contact Globalstar Customer Care at 1-877- 452-5782. Media inquiries should be directed to John Dark, Senior Marketing Manager, Globalstar at 408-933-4413.

On a personal note, my home is in New Orleans and most of my family lives there. None of us have received a reliable report on the condition of our houses and neighborhoods, and all of us are among the displaced at this time. While it is great solace to know that Globalstar is an important tool in aiding relief workers and individuals in the area, I will share with you my deep anguish over the losses we are all experiencing.

Sincerely,

Jay Monroe
Chairman and CEO Globalstar LLC

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9/8/05

For the last several days Globalstar has been recording more than 20,000 calls and 60,000 minutes per day through our Clifton, TX, Gateway and an additional 2,500 calls and 7,500 minutes through Sebring, FL. We believe that the majority of these are FEMA calls although we cannot be certain.

FEMA has ordered several thousand of our "AXTracker" simplex data modems. The AXTracker is a battery-operated, self-contained telemetry device designed for asset tracking and fleet management in remote regions. We understand that FEMA is using these to keep track of its emergency equipment in the field such as portable generators.

Our network seems to be functioning properly. We had one problem with a two-circuit private line provided by Sprint connecting Sebring and Clifton. One circuit went down at the beginning of last week. We contacted NCS and our Sprint sales rep and got the circuit back up quickly.

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9/20/05

Globalstar has constructed two of its planned four "Globalstar Emergency Communications Systems" (GECS) and hopes to ship the two to FEMA (or other government agencies) by tomorrow. There are two components. (1) A water-resistant crate about 3.5 x 2 x 1.5 feet houses six Globalstar fixed access units (FAUs). The GECS fits in the back of a pickup truck or SUV or in a small boat. The FAUs will be connected by 30-foot cables to their antennas, which can be placed anywhere there is line of sight to the satellites. The user can plug any six telephones into the FAUs through standard RJ11 jacks. The crate must be connected to a 110V power source. (2) A cellular GSM picocell, which is a device about the size of a dinner plate two inches thick. Two picocells can be connected to the FAUs through a small PC not much bigger than a laptop. The PC provides all the functionality of a cellular base station. The picocell is manufactured by Intelcomm. Additional picocells could be added by adding more ports on the PC.

When two picocells are connected to the FAUs through the "base station," the whole unit is capable of processing fifteen simultaneous cellular-to-cellular calls (essentially creating a small local area network) or six simultaneous cellular-to-satellite calls, or a combination. Initially, Globalstar will provide preprogrammed GSM SIM cards with special phone numbers. Eventually, we will work out the network connectivity so that any GSM cell phone can be used with the GECS. All of the GECS equipment can be carried by two people and set up wherever there is a 110V power source.

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9/22/05

As you know, Globalstar's principal US Gateway is in Clifton, Texas, near Waco. Right now, the National Weather Service is showing that Rita will track fairly close to Waco. We do not expect any adverse effects from rain or flooding. Clifton is currently providing the primary coverage in the Katrina area. Our contingency plan provides for expanding the coverage in Sebring, Florida and the two Canada Gateways if we have to shut down Clifton briefly. This will "stretch" the other three Gateway coverage areas, which could result in a reduction in the length of time that any given call can be maintained in the area normally covered by Clifton. However, there will be no total loss of service anywhere. We can execute the contingency plan with about 90 minutes' advance notice. [We] will keep you apprised of developments as they occur.

[We] don't yet have anything specific to report regarding the provision of additional emergency phones to the Texas Gulf coast except that we have our established relationship with FEMA and will continue to work cooperatively.