R.C.A.S (RESCUE COMMUNICATION AT SEA)

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SSRS CONSISTS OF 2000 VOLUNTEERS THAT HAS GIVEN AWAY A BIG PART OF THEIR SPARE TIME TO HELP OTHERS. WE HAD A CHANCE TO MEET A FEW OF THOSE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN. OUR QUESTION TO THEM WAS: ”HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?”

The Swedish Sea Rescue Society are today responsible for 70% of the rescue work on Swedish water and is thereby the largest actor when it comes to swedish coast rescue. They are a non profit, ideological organisation that are financed by donations and membership fees from their approximately 9500 members. Some of that money goes to developing new equipment that makes it more efficient for them to fulfill their main goal: Saving lives.

Their fleet consists out of 9 different boat models including 2 hovercrafts and one specially developed jet-ski, called ”Rescuerunner”. On the bigger boats they have a very advanced radio system that allows them to have a efficient communication internally, with other rescue units (Police, Coastguards etc.) as well as other boats in the area.

Driving the ”Rescuerunner”, being out on the deck in rough weather, saving marooned refugees on sharp rocks are all examples of tough situations where the volunteers have to leave their secure motherships. These situations require special equipment.
Today this equipment consists of a helmet, a headset, 2 different com-radios and one ”push to talk button” all connected with entangled waterproof wires. Along with this comes a heavy drysuit, lifewest and bulky gloves that makes it close to impossible handling the tiny buttons on the com-radios.

During 3.5 months we have worked hard to design a tailor made communication system for these situations.

The result is R.C.A.S (Rescue Communication At Sea). R.C.A.S consists of a Helmet with detachable, noise canceling headset and a vhf-comradio that can be easily managed with wet bulky gloves, attached on your chest as well as held in your bare hands.

The helmet is designed to work well with the headset and the com-radio as well as keeping the volunteers safe and comfortable. It has a adjustable visor, MIPS technology minimising damage to the head on impact and a workable size adjustment.

The headset is attached to the helmet like a thread nut. It has one microphone that records the users voice and one that records ambient noise. Together these two can isolate the users voice so that the person on the other end won´t get disturbed by the noise of a jet-ski motor or windy weather conditions.

The VHF-radio is liberated from all excessive functions. It is easy to use with bulky gloves and can be managed without looking. All the buttons are strategically placed not be accidentally pushed but at the same time easy to feel and separate from each other. SSRS mostly communicate on three different vhf channels: 00, 16 and one open channel. Therefor we took away all the excessive channels.

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