

Advantages of 406 MHz include:

- **FEWER FALSE ALARMS**—Almost 96 per cent of ELT/EPIRB alarms are false alarms caused by a variety of reasons, including incorrect use. The digital identification code that can be accommodated on the 406 MHz band allows searchers to first check if a plane is, in fact, in the air (or a ship at sea).
- **MORE INFORMATION FOR SEARCHERS**—The digital code can give searchers quite specific information about what they are looking for: size, markings and other important characteristics of a missing aircraft or vessel.
- **GREATER ACCURACY**—The ELT/EPIRB signal can be pinpointed to within five kilometres.
- **WORLD-WIDE COVERAGE**—The information received by a satellite at 406 MHz can be stored in the spacecraft memory. Thus, when the satellite transmits data to Earth, all receiving ground stations can know what has happened throughout the world. (With 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz, ground stations receive only those emergency signals a satellite picks up while it is within their range.)

SARSAT planners hope the 406 MHz frequency will be phased in by the late 1980s.

