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[54] **RADIO CHANNEL ACCESS CONTROL**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **364/514 C**; 379/59; 455/33.1

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 364/514 C; 455/33.1, 455/26.1, 34.1; 379/59, 62; 340/825.52

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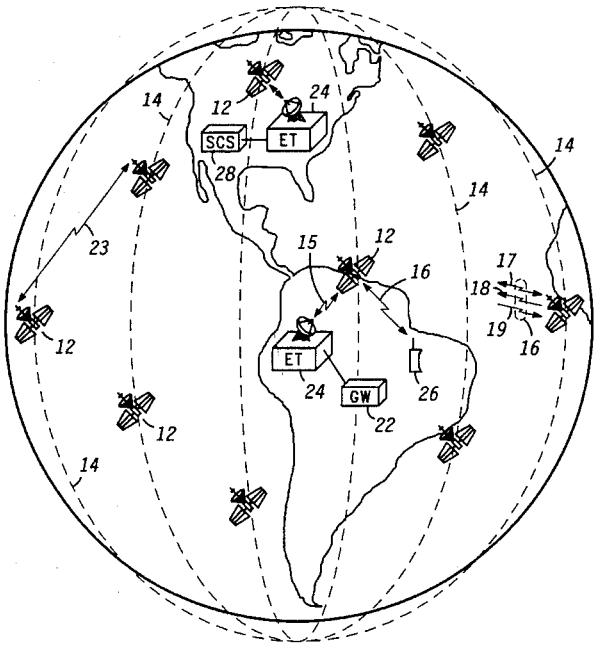
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A cellular telecommunication system comprised of low-Earth orbiting satellites featuring allocation of communication channels among users in cells is disclosed. Each subscriber unit is programmed with an embedded class identifier. During periods when it is desirable to limit acquisition of a satellite to some restricted class or set of classes, such as periods of heavy use, the satellite broadcasts a list of inhibited class identifiers allowing only uninhibited classes access to the communication system. The method reduces thrashing by allowing access to users on a hierarchy class basis. The method uses both real time cell loading data and historical cell loading information based on previous experiences and can be programmed to limit access to emergency services in the case of natural disasters.

23 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



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