

NEEM - SITREP no. 6, Sunday 31 May 2009.

This SITREP covers the period May 25 - 31, 2009 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

May 26: Dorthe Dahl-Jensen (DK) from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.

May 27 Margaretha Hansson (S) from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.

May 29 Cheri Hamilton (US) from KSCH to SFJ by the 109th.

May 31 H.R.H. Crown Prince Frederik (DK), H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria (S), H.R.H. Crown Prince Haakon (N), Morten Roland Hansen (DK), Anders Karlqvist (S), Pål Prestrud (N), Minik Rosing (DK), Marybeth Murray (CAN), David Holland (CAN), Mathez Edmond (US), Christian Puglisi (N), Veronica Melå (N), Mette Mailand (DK), Jan Bacher Dirchsen (DK), Thomas Marott (DK), Anders Löfstedt (DK), Anders Hermansen (DK), Bjarno Sørensen (DK), Jacob Øberg (DK), Trond Øxnevad (N), Pierre Johansson (S), Poul Hawken (US), Steffen Bo Hansen (DK), Kirsten Baltzer Kahr (DK), Henrik Myhr-Nielsen (N), Konrad Steffen (US), Cheri Hamilton (US), Margaretha Hansson (S), Dorthe Dahl-Jensen (DK), Heidi Røsok (N), Jonas Ekströmer (S), Jørgen Chemnitz Narup (GRL), Janus Pavia Maag Eigaard (DK) from SFJ to NEEM by 109th.

Anders Löfstedt (DK), Anders Hermansen (DK), Bjarno Sørensen (DK), Trond Øxnevad (N), Steffen Bo Hansen (DK), Kirsten Baltzer Kahr (DK), Henrik Myhr-Nielsen (N), Heidi Røsok (N), Jonas Ekströmer (S), Jørgen Chemnitz Narup (GRL), Janus Pavia Maag Eigaard (DK), Mette Mailand (DK) from NEEM to Thule Air Base by 109th.

June 1 Anders Löfstedt (DK), Anders Hermansen (DK), Bjarno Sørensen (DK), Trond Øxnevad (N), Steffen Bo Hansen (DK), Kirsten Baltzer Kahr (DK), Henrik Myhr-Nielsen (N), Heidi Røsok (N), Jonas Ekströmer (S), Jørgen Chemnitz Narup (GRL), Janus Pavia Maag Eigaard (DK), Mette Mailand (DK) from Thule Air Base to NEEM by 109th.

H.R.H. Crown Prince Frederik (DK), H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria (S), H.R.H. Crown Prince Haakon (N), Morten Roland Hansen (DK), Anders Karlqvist (S), Pål Prestrud (N), Minik Rosing (DK), Marybeth Murray (CAN), David Holland (CAN), Mathez Edmond (US), Christian Puglisi (N), Veronica Melå (N), Mette Mailand (DK), Jan Bacher Dirchsen (DK), Thomas Marott (DK), Anders Löfstedt (DK), Anders Hermansen (DK), Bjarno Sørensen (DK), Jacob Øberg (DK), Trond Øxnevad (N), Pierre Johansson (S), Poul Hawken (US), Steffen Bo Hansen (DK), Kirsten Baltzer Kahr (DK), Henrik Myhr-Nielsen (N), Konrad Steffen (US), Lone Holm Hansen (DK), Dorthe Dahl-Jensen (DK), Heidi Røsok (N), Jonas Ekströmer (S), Jørgen Chemnitz Narup (GRL), Janus Pavia Maag Eigaard (DK) from NEEM to SFJ by 109th.

Movement of Cargo:

May 30: 2770 kg Science equipment and food from SFJ to NEEM by the 109th.

May 31 8920 Liter (15.925 lbs @ 0,812 kg/l) JP-8 from TAB to NEEM by the 109th.

The following shipments have arrived in SFJ:

13 colli, 293 kg from CPH, AWB: 631-26200300

2 colli, 42 kg from CPH AWB: 631-26296513

6 colli, 340 kg from BAS, Cambridge, AWB 117-19737163

Camp Activities:

DRILLING:

Assembly of the long drill continues and it is required to make more fine adjustment of the hollow shaft to properly mount the pump. In the mean time, drilling went on in a normal mode with the EPICA/NGRIP drill throughout the rest of the week. Both winch control boxes are now mounted along the drill trench wall for easy switch over if a backup is needed. Drillers are happy about the new software that monitors and displays data from the drill, transfers driller commands to the drill down hole and displays cable load and winch speed. During the week there was a very productive collaboration between the drillers and the programmer of the software.

The pump/hollow shaft configuration works well with the new drill fluid as any excess chips in the borehole do not accumulate at the bottom but stay suspended and float to the top of the liquid column. Cleaning of the bore hole fluid can therefore be accomplished by lowering a filter unit into the top of the fluid column to fish out the excess chips.

Speed tests in the fluid show that travel down hole is not significantly slowed by the higher viscosity of the new fluid. Therefore cutter configuration was changed to give a 132 mm diameter borehole rather than the anticipated 134 mm. The advantage of this configuration is that fewer chips are produced in each run and the consumption of drill fluid is reduced.

Driller's depth: 191.70 m.

LOGGING:

The ice core logging has proceeded into the core drilled in fluid. It appears to be relatively easy to wipe the cores clean from drill fluid with paper towels. The cores can be marked by a pencil. The logging software works fine. A preliminary ECM measurement revealed the 1259 AD volcanic eruption in the ice core 182.9 m.

Logged ice cores: depth 200 m.

SCIENCE:

A water vapour isotope and gas sampling site has been setup 50 m S of the drill trench east end. Air sampling is done at different heights using our 13 m high tower. The laser based equipment is setup in a tent and is working fine. The measurements are running satisfactory.

SKIWAY:

Approaches of the old skiway has been taken down. Work was carried out on the approaches, the taxi ways and the apron, which is now extended east to new skiway. Several hundred markers and flags were repaired and bundled and placed on the new airfield which is now fully marked. The length of the skiway is now 12.000 feet with in lead flags in both each 12.000 feet. Total length of whole skiway structure is 36.000

feet. The first plane to land on the new skiway was the DV flight May 30.

SCIENCE TRENCH:

Setting up of CFA equipment in the warm lab. continues. More tables and saws in science trench have been set up and now only a few tables more are needed. Core buffer has been modified and is now able to receive 4 m core troughs.

CONSTRUCTION:

All week an intensive work has been carried out by several people to excavate a very deep shaft at the end of the inclined trench for the new elevator and staircase and to remove the remaining snow wall between the drill trench and the elevator shaft. It was tough to gain the last meters in the bottom of the shaft. All snow had to be cut by chain saw and the blocks removed. This involved a lot of hard lifting and hauling. The elevator was installed in the shaft with the crane and is now ready for use. The Shaft and inclined trench were covered with a roof to give cover for drifting snow.

In the main dome, a door to the shower room has been mounted.

DV-VISIT:

On 30th May camp hosted a DV visit. As many DVs spent the night in camp, camp population rose to 44 on the night between 30th May and 31st May. The visitors were Scandinavian representatives of the International Polar Year (IPY) national committees and a press group. Senior IPY scientists from Norway, Sweden and Denmark accompanied the protectors of IPY: H.R.H. Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden and H.R.H. Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark. The visit went really well, and the Field Leader wishes to express his gratitude to camp staff, who put a lot of effort into the visit and to the New York Air National Guard for flawless flight operations.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Large snow drifts were removed and the central camp area is now flat. Later, it was groomed with beam groomer.

After the plane had arrived on Saturday lots of food was unpacked and distributed into fresh store and freezer – the cooks freezer will be established in the inclined trench which leads down to the new elevator.

Sofas have been assembled and a lounge with sofa group and tables on the 2nd floor is now set up. The Field Leader office was moved to the 3rd floor.

All during the week a lots of preparations for the DV visit at the end of the week was carried out. Camp needed to be cleaned up, flags put up in Main Street and a tour of the camp to show all activities for the visitors was scheduled.

WEATHER AT NEEM:

Beginning of week mainly clear and unrestricted visibility. At end of week overcast, warm and with snow fall reducing visibility down to 400 m. Wind from 3 knots speeding up to 18 knots at the end of the week. Wind direction beginning of week mainly from S turning NE and later on NV via S. End of week SW.

NEEM camp population: 24.

Kangerlussuaq Activities: This week the overall activity was the preparations for the Royal visit. The Kangerlussuaq International Science Support (KISS) building was the turning point for all activities; The accommodation, press conference, science presentations, NEEM/flight briefing etc. The big challenge was to brief and issue 34 people with polar survival gear upon their arrival early morning from Illulisat and have everybody ready in two hours for the departure to NEEM. Thanks to the help of the 109th, CH2MHILL, the Police, GLV and the local people in whole Kangerlussuaq the visit was a great success everybody enjoyed.

Weather in Kangerlussuaq: Very nice weather with sun most of the week. Windy in the afternoons
Temperatures between +18 C and +2 C
No mosquitoes

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