NEEM - SITREP no. 7, Sunday 7 June 2009.

This SITREP covers the period June 1 - 7, 2009 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

June 1:

Sebastian Bjerregaard Simonsen (DK), Henriette Lerche (DK), Jeppe Jønch Andersen (DK), Susanne Lilja Buchardt (DK), Jørn Ladegaard (DK), Xiao Cunde (CHN), JiWoong Chung (COR), Celia Sapart (NL) and Alex Pyne (NZ) from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.

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

June 2:

Robert Mulvaney (UK), Siwan Manon Richardson (UK) Anders M. Svensson (DK), Ernesto Kettner (DK), Pascal Bohleber (D), Anna Wegner (D) and Susanne Iversen (DK) from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.

Jocelyne Bourgeois (CAN) from SCN to SFJ by the 109th.

June 4:

Sebastian Bjerregaard Simonsen (DK), Henriette Lerche (DK), Jeppe Jønch Andersen (DK), Susanne Lilja Buchardt (DK), Jørn Ladegaard (DK), Xiao Cunde (CHN), JiWoong Chung (COR), Celia Sapart (NL), Alex Pyne (NZ), Robert Mulvaney (UK), Siwan Manon Richardson (UK) Anders M. Svensson (DK), Ernesto Kettner (DK), Pascal Bohleber (D), Anna Wegner (D) and Susanne Iversen (DK and Jocelyne Bourgeois (CAN) from SFJ to NEEM by the 109th.

Christian Panton (DK), Steffen Bo Hansen (DK), Marianne Benn (DK), Kristina Dahnert (US), Cheri Hamilton (US), Olafur Kristinsson (IS), Trevor Popp (DK), Jakob Schwander (CH) and Bruno Stocker (CH) from NEEM to SFJ by 109th.

June 5:

Christian Panton (DK), Steffen Bo Hansen (DK), Marianne Benn (DK), Olafur Kristinsson (IS), Trevor Popp (DK), Jakob Schwander (CH) and Bruno Stocker (CH) from SFJ to CPH by Air Greenland.

June 6: Kristina Dahnert (US) and Cheri Hamilton (US) from SFJ to SCN by the 109th.

Movement of Cargo:

June 4:

7285 kg drill fluid and Mogas from SFJ to NEEM by the 109th.

2720 kg empty pallets two old skidoos from NEEM to SFJ by 109th.

CAMP ACTIVITIES:

Thursday was the first major crew change of people in the camp, 9 people out and 17 in.

The camp had a Blizzard in the beginning of the week then snowfall and drifting snow rest of week which complicated the flying operations. Wednesday's mission was postponed to Thursday due to bad weather. A brief opening in the difficult snow and weather conditions made it possible to land and 9 PAX and 3 retro pallets was bought to Kangerlussuaq.

DRILL:

The new NEEM drill was deployed for the first time this week. Compared to the old NGRIP/EPICA drill, the new drill is outfitted with several new changes which have been developed for the new drilling fluid and should make the drill capable of drilling ice cores of more than 3 m per run. The premier run gave a 3.5 m long ice core came out in a one piece. A speed test was carried out in order to determine travel time down the borehole. Unfortunately this test created a kink on the cable and 90 meters was cut of the cable before drilling could continue. Later speed tests showed, that the travel speed of the drill is not significantly influenced by the viscosity of the fluid. Consequently, the drillers have reduced the diameter of the hole from 134 mm to 132 mm. This reduces the amount of chips produced and reduces the amount of drill fluid needed. The rest of the week has been used to fine tune the new drill in order to find the best configuration for routine drilling.

Driller's depth Sunday: 252.90 m. 61.20 m drilled during the week.

SKIWAY:

Groomed the skiway several times this week due to unusually high snowfall and drifting snow. Skiway maintained after the Thursday flight.

SCIENCE TRENCH:

Logging of ice cores continue. Sunday logging depth: 265.65 m.

Physical property Lab. moved in place and scientific instruments are being installed. The setup of the CFA lab equipment continued all week. The processing line is ready for core processing.

CONSTRUCTION:

Finished installing entrance staircase and elevator and covered afterwards with white weather port. The inclined trench to drill trench is roofed and will be closed. It will be used as cook's freezer.

WEATHER AT NEEM:

Blizzard, snowfall and overcast until Thursday evening. Fine weather Friday to Sunday. Temperatures between -30 C and – 7 C. Wind 5 to 21 knots, mostly from ESE to WSW.

Science activities:

Replaced a bad GPS antenna for the Seismic station. It is now logging data again.

Sampling of air and water vapour continues.

NEEM camp population: 32

Kangerlussuaq Activities: Preparation of one flight mission to NEEM this week and the first crew exchanges this season.

Weather in Kangerlussuaq: Beginning of the week rain, overcast and sunny in between. Temperatures between +18 C and +2 C Mosquitoes

NEEM Field operations office, Lars Berg Larsen Lone Holm Hansen