

NEEM - SITREP no. 4, Sunday 16 May 2010

This SITREP covers the period May 10 - 16, 2010 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

May 10: Maibritt W. Sørensen(DK), Marie Kjærgaard(DK), Martin Leonhardt(D), Christian Panton(DK), Adrian Schildt(CH), Jack Triest(UK), Vasileios Gkinis(GR), Bo Vinther(DK), Christopher Stowasser(D), Kumiko Azuma(J), Peter Köhler(D), Joe McConnell(US), Motoyuki Sato(J), Simon Schüpbach(CH), Daiana Leuenberger(CH), Robert Mulvaney(UK), Ernesto Kettner(D), Birthe Twarloh(D), Thomas Blunier(CH), Remi Dallmayr(F), Hans-Christian Steen-Larsen(DK), Jocelyne Bourgeois(CAN) and Anne Wang Petersen(DK) from CPH to Kangerlussuaq/SFJ by Air Greenland.

Zoe Courville(US) from Schenectady to SFJ by 109'Th

May 11 Lone Holm Hansen(DK) from SFJ to CPH by Air Greenland

May 14: Maibritt W. Sørensen(DK), Marie Kjærgaard(DK), Martin Leonhardt(D), Christian Panton(DK), Adrian Schildt(CH), Jack Triest(UK), Vasileios Gkinis(GR), Bo Vinther(DK), Christopher Stowasser(D), Kumiko Azuma(J), Peter Köhler(D), Joe McConnel(US), Motoyuki Sato(J), Simon Schüpbach(CH), Daiana Leuenberger(CH), Robert Mulvaney(UK), Ernesto Kettner(D), Birthe Twarloh(D), Thomas Blunier(CH), Remi Dallmayr(F), Hans-Christian Steen-Larsen(DK), Jocelyne Bourgeois(CAN), Anne Wang Petersen(DK), Zoe Courville(US), Jørn Leslie Faurkov(DK), Robert Zola Christensen(DK) and Romain Duphil(F) from SFJ to NEEM by 109'th.

Hans Christian Florian(GL), Jeffrey Severinghaus(US), Simon Sheldon(UK), Robert Zola Christensen(DK), Jørn Leslie Faurkov(DK), Jim Lever(US-GRIT), Aaron Doering(US-GoNorth), Brant Miller(US-GoNorth) and Andrea Verdegan(US-GoNorth) from NEEM to SFJ by 109'th.

Movement of Cargo:

May 10 400 kg Food/Freshies/Resupply/Canadian Science from Schenectady to SFj by 109'Th.

May 14 AWB 108 2015 5601, 150 kg French Science from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.
AWB 117 2518 8225, 225 kg Swiss Science from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.
4700 Science equipment and food from SFJ to NEEM by 109'Th.
1400 kg Garbage/GRIT equipment/Go-North equipment from NEEM to SFJ by 109'Th

Activities:

The camp has prepared to receive the 27 people scheduled to arrive on the Tuesday flight.

Unfortunately the weather closed in with snow, blowing snow and whiteout and the flight was cancelled.

The poor weather condition in camp caused another cancellation on Wednesday.

In the meantime the camp could welcome first the GRIT traverse going from Thule to Summit with a Stop-over and crew exchange at NEEM. Half an hour after arrival of GRIT another 26 individuals (22 sledge dogs and 4 drivers) arrived from the GoNorth Greenland outreach expedition.

Again Thursday the plane to NEEM was cancelled, this time due to unusual weather conditions in Kangerlussuaq, however the conditions at NEEM turned out not be good for flying the camp got hit by a blizzard in the evening.

Finally the plane made it to NEEM on Friday. All the new people started right away to work on their tasks, soon the camp wireless internet was up and running and the new warm laboratory was installed in

the Science trench.

Around camp cleanup and moving snow after 4 days with snow and stormy weather was done during the weekend.

Skiway:

It was not a good week for the NEEM skiway. Since the Put-in April 28 the conditions has not been very good to prepare the Skiway. Though it has be groomed numerous times the last four days prior to the arrival of next plane the site had snow and blowing snow from all directions causing severe drifts on the landing and loading area. Due to the short time from the blizzard ended and to the plane arrived only a couple of tracks was done primary to increase the contrast of the landing area. This resulted in no upgrade of the payload but it got certified to minimum weather conditions. It also hampered skiway preparation that the Pistenbully was out of action, because of a faulty steering transducer. The Friday plane brought the spare part, and the Pistenbully is in action again.

Drill trench:

The drillers did several cleaning runs of the borehole and a total of 226 kg chips have been retrieved. The new installed linear motor to tilt the drilling tower is so strong that further installations was needed to secure the drilltower.

On Saturday ice core drilling started and a nice 1.11 m long core was drilled. It was not a complete run and The antitorque and tower needed adjustment. It was followed by a 3.45 m core.

After this two drill teams was formed and training started.

Science trench:

Work setting up the CFA laboratory continued throughout the week.

After receiving more science equipment and people more instruments was added. But due to science Equipment still waiting in Kangerlussuaq the science trench is still incomplete. A new storage cave was excavated and an additional cooling system was installed in the new core box cave and insulated ventilation was made on new and existing warm labs to keep the trench cool later the season.

Associated programs:

Temperature logging of shallow hole 2009-S2 was successfully done by Jeff Severinghaus.

NEEM Camp Population: Reduced to 35 (+22 dogs) as the GRIT traverse left with four people on Sunday on route to Summit.

NEEM iridium numbers:

Primary no.: +8816 224 34860

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Weather at NEEM:

Temperatures between -29 C and -18 C, wind; calm to 26 knots, snow showers and bad weather in the beginning of the week. Thursday evening within 5 minutes the wind turned 180 deg and picked up to 25 knots. In the weekend the weather cleared up with blue sky.

Kangerlussuaq activities:

Lots of people were waiting in Kangerlussuaq this week. Due to the bad weather at NEEM everybody was ready every morning but on hold until the afternoon where the flight was cancelled because of no improvement in weather.

People used the afternoons to do trips to the ice, hiking and biking around the area but also preparing cargo and food for NEEM.

Weather in Kangerlussuaq/SFJ: Very nice weather when people arrived, sunny, no wind temperature around 18 C Wednesday afternoon temperature dropped below freezing and we had snow during the night and the following Thursday morning. This created an unusually situation here in Kangerlussuaq. First the Airplanes could not take off due to the snow. When it cleared, de-icing of the airplanes was required. However due to holiday in Greenland it was not possible and when the sun later melted the snow the crew ran out of flight time and the NEEM flight was cancelled. Anyway the weather at NEEM was bad as well. In the weekend temperature around 6 C, windy with blowing sand.

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