

NEEM - SITREP no. 14, Sunday 31. July 2011

This SITREP covers the period July 25 – July 31, 2011 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

July 25: Dean Childs (US), Lloyd Carothers (US) and Hans Christian Steen-Larsen (US) from SFJ to Schenectady by 109th
Kumiko Azuma (J) and Motohiro Hirabayashi (J) from SFJ to CPH by Air Greenland.

July 31: Svend Steffensen (DK) from SFJ to CPH by Air Greenland.

Movement of cargo:

July 25: 900 kg GLISN cargo from SFJ to Schenectady by 109th

July 28: 415 kg Scientific equipment from SFJ to London by Air Greenland

July 29: 1395 kg Scientific equipment (CFA) from SFJ to Zürich by Air Greenland.

Activities:

The main logistical undertaking has been completion of the dome sled. Last week the ring around all the legs was completed. This week the legs were excavated to allow for slight movement and the hub and cables mounted to the ring. It has been a complicating factor that the legs under the dome have been bent slightly towards the centre because of movement of the snow. Had we waited one more year for this operation, the foundation of the dome might have been too unsafe for construction work. The full base structure was completed by Tuesday. Wednesday the first two skis were placed under the dome. It required a lot of snow removal to make room for the skis. The two last skis were mounted on Thursday and then began the transfer of the weight of the dome from the legs to the skis using air pressure rubber jacks. By 1033 Friday morning the dome was resting on the skis and the last supporting legs were cut. Work on excavating the ramp for pulling up the dome had to be halted during the week-end because of bad weather.

Skiway:

The skiway has received care and maintenance treatment only. Following the snow drift this week-end the skiway will be groomed to accommodate the Kansas UAV.

Drilling:

Deep drilling activities have finished.

Activities in the drill trench have finished for the season.

Science:

The water vapour sampling site has been running and monitored all week.

The Japanese aerosol sampling station has been monitored and maintained.

The AWI shallow test drill has been assembled and a core logging table setup at the drill site behind the sauna garage. After testing, drilling began on Friday.

The AWI radar and DK remote shallow drilling team with the Danish 3 inch drill spent a couple of days preparing and packing. The 30 m ice core for BAS was completed on Tuesday. The drill and radar traverse departed NEEM for B26 some 50 km from NEEM on Thursday, but because of very high temperatures they had to wait until temperatures dropped again. After drilling to 17.5 m a cable broke and the team had to return to NEEM Friday afternoon for repairs. As soon as weather clears, the team will set out again to complete drilling.

The DK GEUS seismic station has been moved and centered.

The Kansas UAV team has done several flights with the smaller aircraft. After mounting and adjustment of the radar on the UAV a sequence of rigorous testing was begun. The key was to be absolutely certain that the transmitter of the radar did not interfere with the on board electronics and remote flight controls. Wednesday and Thursday the UAV was tested on the apron and on the skiway, and some high quality radar data was produced. By Thursday evening the UAV was ready for flying; but the bad weather has delayed the first flight. The crew hopes to fly the UAV on Monday.

Weather at NEEM:

The weather this week began mostly fine but windy (16-20 knots). Thursday the wind turned to WNW and it became cloudy with snow. Saturday and Sunday morning camp was hit by strong winds (20-26 knots from SW). By Sunday evening weather is improving.

Temperatures between -0.3 C (Thursday at 1500L) to -12 C (night) and wind speeds at 2-18 knots, mostly from S and SE.

NEEM camp population: 23

NEEM iridium numbers:

Primary no.: +8816 777 04 766

Tel.: +299 84 11 51

Mobile: +299 52 41 25

Kangerlussuaq/SFJ iridium number: +8816 214 42402

Kangerlussuaq Activities:

Unpacked retro cargo from NEEM and sent some of it off from Greenland. Re-arranged cargo in warehouse and began cleaning up in the NEEM warehouse and in the cargo yard. Made several loads to the local rubbish tip. Unpacked polar equipment and sent many items to the local laundry.

Weather in Kangerlussuaq/SFJ:

Mostly nice weather with E-wind and dust; but a few days with clouds and rain. Sunny with temperatures up to 20 C, but on rainy or cloudy days temperatures at 15C. Mosquitoes are gone. Mushrooms, blueberries and flowers everywhere.

*NEEM Field Operations office,
Jørgen Peder Steffensen*