NEEM - SITREP no. 3, Sunday May 11, 2008.

This SITREP covers the period May 5 - 11, 2008 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

May 5: Gaël Durand (F), Thomas Overly (US), Sverrir Hilmarsson (IS), and Jørgen Peder Steffensen (DK) from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.

May 7: Gaël Durand (F), Jim Hedfors (S), Thomas Overly (US), Sverrir Hilmarsson (IS), and Jørgen Peder Steffensen (DK) from SFJ to NEEM by 109th LC-130.

May 10: Claus Bang (DK) from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.

Movement of Cargo:

May 6: 5 kg (1 colli); Expedition equipment from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.

May 7: 4,181 kg; K-tracks, ski-way flags, skidoo from SFJ to NEEM by 109th LC-130.

May 8: 4,863 kg; K-tracks, garage frame, cargo rollers from SFJ to NEEM by 109th LC-130

May 8: 1,092 kg (3 colli); Hazmat cargo from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.

May 8: 6 colli; Cargo from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.

Activities

After an attempt to fly into NEEM on Tuesday which was abandoned due to weather at NEEM, the flight to NEEM Wednesday was successful with a very experienced 109th crew, almost the same crew from the NGRIP 2007 put-in.

The plane landed at 11:22 L and left again 11:52 first attempt with ATOs. The camp structures from last year were covered by snowdrifts. Only the top of the four heavy sledges and the vehicles left on the surface last year were visible. The hill on which we built the kitchen weather port last year was gone, and the northern side of the kitchen was covered by heavy snow drifts. All pallets of cargo left last year were completely buried. The kitchen weather port was undamaged. The 5kW diesel generator at was started 13.30 to power the kitchen for melting snow and for heating. Digging went on all day until midnight. One tracked vehicle and the snow blower were up and running by 17:00. All snowmobiles were in good condition. The roof of the snowmobile cave was under 35 cm snow, which is a good indication of the snow accumulation since August last year.

Second mission to NEEM was Thursday. The skier landed in the camp with more construction material and left the again on first attempt using ATOs.

The second diesel generator is now running and the camp has now 10 kW of power. Due to frost condensation it took a couple of days before it was safe to run pc and communication equipment in the kitchen tent.

On the third day at NEEM, maintenance checks on the vehicles were carried out and at the end of the day all cargo was accessed and grooming of the skiway could begin. First structure of NEEM camp erected: A 10' x 10' weather port.

At the end of the week, camp layout had been marked, another 12' x 20' weather port had been erected and a new cargo line had been built.

The skiway is now fully flagged and intense grooming started prior to next week's five missions to the camp.

The camp BGAN system is now up and running. For urgent messages use e-mail: neem-camp@gfy.ku.dk. Please avoid attachments. For personal messages, use name in subject field. If in doubt, contact camp via the FOM office: e-mail: neem-fom@gfy.ku.dk or phone +299 84 11 51. Direct telephone to NEEM camp: +870 772 210 501.

Weather all week mostly: Blue sky, -30° C to -19° C, winds at 5 – 8 m/s.

Camp population: 5.

In Kangerlussuaq, the NEEM office is busy building pallets for five LC-130 loads next week with help from the 109th Aerial Port support.

NEEM Field operations office,

Sebastian Bjerregaard Simonsen, Lars Berg Larsen