

NEEM - SITREP no. 12, Sunday July 13, 2008.

This SITREP covers the period July 7 – July 13, 2008 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

7th July: Theo Jenk (DK), Thomas Blunier (DK), Christian Morel (F), Chiara Uglietti (CH), Carina v.d.Veen (NL), Bo M. Vinther (DK), Olivier Alemany (F), Christian Panton (DK), H.C. Steen-Larsen (DK), Lars Berg Larsen (DK), Thomas Beck (CH), Thomas R. Pedersen (DK), Simon G. Sheldon (DK), Anders Svensson (DK), Trevor Popp (DK), Jakob Schwander (CH) and Henry Rufli (CH) from CPH to SFJ by SAS/Air Greenland.

Todd Sowers (US) and Vasilii Petrenko (US) from Schenectady to SFJ by 109th.

8th July: Sverrir Hilmarsson (IS) from CPH to SFJ by SAS/Air Greenland

9th July: Thomas Beck (CH), Thomas R. Pedersen (DK), Simon G. Sheldon (DK), Anders Svensson (DK), Jakob Schwander (CH), Henry Rufli (CH), Trevor Popp (DK) and Sverrir Hilmarsson (IS) from SFJ to NEEM by 109th.

Marianne Benn (DK) from NEEM to SFJ by 109th.

10th July: Peter Langen (DK), Fabian Gillet (UK) and Timothy Burton (UK) from NEEM to SFJ by 109th.

Marianne Benn (DK) from SFJ to CPH by SAS/Air Greenland

11th July: Theo Jenk (DK), Thomas Blunier (DK), Christian Morel (F), Chiara Uglietti (CH), Carina v.d.Veen (NL), Bo M. Vinther (DK), Olivier Alemany (F), Christian Panton (DK), H.C. Steen-Larsen (DK), Lars Berg Larsen (DK), Todd Sowers (US), Vasilii Petrenko (US), Henning Thing (DK), Ernesto Kettner (DK) and Vasilis Gnikis (DK) from SFJ to NEEM by 109th.

Claus Bang Jensen (DK), Ernesto Kettner (DK) and Vasilis Gnikis (DK) from NEEM to SFJ by 109th.

Peter Langen (DK) and Claus Bang Jensen (DK) from SFJ to CPH by SAS/Air Greenland.

12th July: Fabian Gillet (UK) and Timothy Burton (UK) from SFJ to CPH by SAS/Air Greenland.

Movement of Cargo:

7th July: 600 kg food and 600 kg science equipment from Schenectady to SFJ by 109th.

9th July: 9085 kg gas science equip., Viessmann panels, day tank from SFJ to NEEM by 109th

1140 kg pallets and garbage from NEEM to SFJ by 109th.

10th July: 9790 kg tank, tank sled, tower, Viessmann from SFJ to NEEM by 109th.

990 kg pallets and radar equipment from NEEM to SFJ by 109th.

11th July: 8932 kg plywood, Viessmann, drill fluid from SFJ to NEEM by 109th.

625 kg pallets from NEEM to SFJ by 109th.

825 kg Kaesbohrer hydraulic oil, Viessmann doors, new drill tube from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.

Due to cargo delays the shipment from CPH on Friday arrived after the departure of the last mission of this period.

Camp Activities:

The three flights this week were all successful. The planes had no trouble taking off on the hard skiway. Because of the high day temperatures (up to -3°C) all missions were carried out as early morning missions with departure from SFJ at 4:30 L. All construction material is now in camp, as well as drilling equipment and science equipment. Camp activities have been focused on making the main dome habitable and on Wednesday the kitchen and dining area and communications were moved to the main dome. The dining area can now contain 32 persons. Friday and Saturday the main generator hut was constructed and just before Saturday night dinner, the main generator was started. The camp has now 110 kW power. Construction inside the main dome continues with installation of showers, wash basins, toilets and kitchen equipment. The laying of main cables began on Sunday. The GRIT traverse arrived Wednesday on their return leg from Summit camp towards Thule, and camp enjoyed their visit. The new air craft fuel pump was tested and we were able to transfer 11,356 liter of fuel from a traverse bladder to one of our fuel tanks in 15 minutes. Also, the fuel pump was tested successfully in a test refuel operation on an LC-130 airplane. The second fuel tank is operational on skies and has been used to transfer fuel from the first tank stationed at the apron to the main generator. The inclined entrance to the drill trench has been smoothed and the temporary roof of the entrance improved. The science trench has been prepared with tables, band saw and ECM for the processing of the firn gas ice cores.

Drilling:

The four step reaming to 222 mm was completed on Sunday, and the new reamer 5 has been modified. At a depth of 38.4 m the reamer 4 was stuck Friday. It was free again after a couple of hours after using glycol to free it. Reaming is soon complete, and this makes the drill available for the two planned shallow drillings for the firn gas sampling program.

Science:

The BAS radar team has returned to Europe after successfully completing their program consisting of stationary radar measurements and high resolution radar measurements along two 10 km lines perpendicular to the ice ridge direction.

The sites for the firn gas samplings programs have been selected 1500 m SW of the NEEM deep hole (US: N77 25.996°, W51 06.161° and European: N77 26.020°, W51 06.072°). Setting up at the sampling sites is in progress and the firn gas pumping will start in the beginning of next week.

Weather:

Weather all week as been mostly fine, with winds at 2 – 9 m/s from SSE and S. Temperatures from -3°C to -16°C.

Camp population: 32

In Kangerlussuaq, weather has been mostly dry and warm up to 20°C. The three FOMs and arriving personnel have been busy building pallets for the flights this week. All scheduled ship cargo has been sent to camp. Mosquitoes are now less aggressive.

NEEM Field operations office,

Jørgen Peder Steffensen