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Volume 11

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Thule Times Editorial Staff

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Thule Air Base — mysterious and fascinating

Col. Lee-Volker Cox

821st Air Base Group commander

“You’re from the air base at Thule?” is the first question asked by my fellow traveler sitting next to me on the flight from Washington D.C. to Copenhagen. Before I could answer, he continued, “It is a very mysterious place that the Danes are fascinated with.” At that point, I knew this was going to be a very good flight since my favorite topic is Team Thule. However, the flight was only a very small part of a trip to meet senior government, community and military leaders, and Greenlanders to spread the word about Thule Air Base, the role we play in defense and our far-reaching impact on Greenland and the Arctic.

Using planes, trains, automobiles, helicopters and even a Danish Navy Cutter, I visited Colorado Springs, Colo., Washington D.C., Copenhagen, Kangerlussuaq, Narsarsuaq, Groennedal, Nuuk, Ilulissat and several other small villages in Greenland. Everywhere I went, there was a fascination and genuine hunger to discover the mysterious northern base.

So what did I tell the diplomats, generals, ministers from Greenland Home Rule, community leaders and anyone who sat down next to me? Thule Air Base is a fascinating place with extraordinary people doing an amazing mission, having a tremendous impact.

Most people knew about our ‘big radar’ and the missile warning mission. Some were aware of our ability to communicate with satellites, but were surprised to discover we have the Air Force’s largest satellite control network facility. Several even knew about our space situational awareness capabilities. Few understood our impact on international military arctic operations supporting Eureka, Canadian Forces Station Alert, Station Nord, the Sirius Patrols, and Danish Air Force and Navy operations from sovereignty missions to fishing enforcement. However, there was a tremendous void when it came to understanding the non-military impact Team Thule has on Greenland and the entire Arctic region. Our financial impact is considerable. Combine personal and corporate tax dollars, contracts to companies partially owned by Greenland Home Rule (Greenland Contractors, Air Greenland and

See **FASCINATING**, page 3

Open water once again



As temperatures rise and summer nears, the ice on North Star Bay melts, allowing the 24-hour sun to reflect on the open water. The sun rose for the last time April 26 and will remain in the sky until Aug. 20.

Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

First Light Party



Good music



Good food



Good friends



Good dancing



Thule Air Base celebrated the return of the light with its annual sunlight celebration, First Light, April 12.

Sponsored by Greenland Contractors, the party was open to everyone on base, including the Canadian Forces members who were at Thule for the semi-annual Operation BOXTOP, and several local Inuit families who arrived early for Armed Forces Day. Participants celebrated into the wee hours of the morning, enjoying a buffet dinner and dancing along to the Danish band, Skye, sponsored by Air Greenland

FASCINATING from Page 1

Royal Arctic Line) and financial support to various programs, the base is the source of over \$23 million. Furthermore, Thule Air Base is essential to the economic well being and development of Northern Greenland.

We provide logistical support for postal and air transportation services. Air Greenland operates one of their helicopters out of Pituffik (the Greenlandic name for Thule Air Base) providing critical remote transportation capabilities, mail distribution and medevac support.

Similarly, Greenland TelePost has a facility on base integrating a hub and spoke communications and mail distribution system.

The port serves a vital role supporting commerce. Icebreakers conduct crew changeovers here, extending on-station time and keeping the shipping lanes open longer. By leveraging cargo ships bound for the base, the five local Inuit

communities have lower transportation costs.

Finally, Team Thule provides emergency medical support throughout the Arctic region from Eureka to the west, the Arctic Ocean to the north, Station Nord to the east and research facility Summit to the south.

A large number of scientific research programs rely on Thule Air Base as a base of operations, logistics, and relaxation and recreation. The Danish Polar Center, Danish National Space Center, Danish Meteorological Institute and the U.S. National Science Foundation have operations on base. International research facilities on the Polar Ice Cap, Summit and Neem rely heavily on aircraft using our airfield. As I traveled, it became apparent Team Thule's greatest impact on Greenland is our influence on the people. It isn't surprising that when about one percent of Greenland's workforce calls Pituffik home, almost every person I met either worked here or had a family member or close friend

who supported the base at one time. All of them had great stories and memories of their time on Top of the World.

We help develop some of Greenland's future leaders by our daily interactions and leadership opportunities. The U.S. funded Apprenticeship Program enables up to 25 native Greenlanders to develop valuable skills and trades. Of course, I took great pride in espousing Operation Julemand, Northern Greenland's largest fundraising effort, and the tremendous support we provide to the local villages for youth and elderly programs.

After traveling 17,000 miles to 12 locations in 18 days, it felt good to get back. However, I enjoyed spending time with people in Greenland from the Island Commander to Greenland Home Rule officials to the Generation Xers to the children. I learned that the people of Greenland are very open and friendly, and I can confidently tell you they feel good about the mysterious and fascinating place we call Thule Air Base.

Chief's Corner**Chief Master Sgt. Al Herring**

821st Air Base Group superintendent



Summer months in the Air Force have always been a season for high turnover and change; for Thule Air Base, we need to look no further than our number of change of commands in the coming months to see that turbulence.

Arctic Warriors, it is this turbulence that sharpens our leadership skills as Airmen. We always speak about making the place better than we found it and that concept rings true. My challenge to you as we welcome new command leadership to Thule AB is to continue to uphold the standards established by our outgoing commanders ... keep that momentum going and seek ways to create higher levels of excellence. Our incoming commanders deserve it and our Air Force demands it!

There are four factors or indicators of a successful unit: discipline, proficiency, morale and esprit de corps. Let's ensure our incoming commanders see that compass and pulse of our unit from day one. To that end, as we feel that turbulence surround us in the days ahead, just remember, leadership is the art in which we influence others in order to accomplish the mission, goals and commander's intent.

Lastly, it has been a great 30 plus days as your senior enlisted leader and I look forward to our partnership over the next year!

**Getting to know
Chief Master Sgt. Al Herring****What do you claim as your hometown?**

Warsaw, North Carolina

How many years have you been in the Air Force?

24

Where was your last assignment?

Lackland Air Force Base, Texas

What is your favorite leadership principle?

Training your replacements today for tomorrow!

What is your favorite Air Force memory?

There are too many to name ... but making an impact on the lives of young Airmen everyday has to rank right at the top of my list.





Armed Forces Day 2008

April 19



Americans, Danes, Greenlanders and Canadians came together April 19 to participate in the Armed Forces Day activities.

The outdoor events took place on the North Star Bay ice, which measured more than four feet thick. Activities ranged from mukluk hockey to snowmobile rides provided by the Danish Police Inspector, helicopter rides provided by Air Greenland, and a sack race and tug-of-war competition for the children visiting from the area's local villages.

The afternoon culminated with an exciting dog sled race. More than 30 teams competed in the big event — many traveled from their villages more than 3 days across the ice to reach the base and compete.



Photos by Capt. Edward Jackowski, 1st Lt. Nicole Langley, Staff Sgt. Anya Rivera-Lott



The dogsled race was one of the day's top highlights, particularly for the U.S. servicemembers who are stationed at Thule Air Base for just one year.

Hundreds of sled dogs camped on the ice prior to the approximately four-mile race across North Star Bay.



All base members had the opportunity to sign up for a raffle, with a chance of being selected to ride on one of the 32 sleds competing in the race, the largest gathering of Inuit hunters at Thule Air Base on record.

After the conclusion of the outdoor activities, everyone traveled to the Community Center for the sled race award ceremony, opportunities to purchase handmade Greenlandic crafts and enjoy a complimentary dinner.



Above: Markus Hansen from Savissivik, 2nd place racer, and Ole Nielsen, also of Savissivik, 1st place racer, pose for a photo with their prizes.

All of the racers pose for a photo with Col. Lee-Volker Cox, Thule Air Base commander, after receiving pocket knives for competing.



Photos by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley



The cold day of fun and festivities ended with a complimentary, hearty meal provided by Greenland Contractors.

Promotions



Photos by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

First Lieutenant Chirag Bhatt, 12th Space Warning Squadron, was promoted to the rank of captain in a ceremony on the 12th SWS operations floor April 2.



Senior Airman David Izaguirre, 821st Security Forces Squadron, was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant in a ceremony at the Community Center April 30.



Senior Airman Brandon Lenz, 821st Security Forces Squadron, was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant in a ceremony at the Community Center April 30.



Staff Sgt. Derrick Satterfield, 821st Support Squadron, was promoted to the rank of technical sergeant in a ceremony at the Top of the World Club April 30.

Possible Danish-Ukrainian airlift to be staged at Thule Air Base

1st Lt. Nicole Langley

821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

In early April, a Royal Danish Air Force team escorted a Ukrainian Air Force delegation to Thule Air Base, Greenland, as part of a fact-finding mission for a possible future operation.

Denmark has recently reached out to Ukraine through a number of organizations – from the RDAF to the Ministry of Agriculture, as a means of introducing the nation to NATO procedures.

During a recent visit to Kiev, the RDAF Security Corporation proposed a flying mission to Ukraine – one that would provide a Ukrainian aircrew with a prime training opportunity and would also enable Denmark to re-supply Station Nord, the country's northernmost military and scientific research outpost in Greenland, explained Maj. Ove Urup-Madsen, Royal Danish Air Force Tactical Air Command.

Each year Denmark conducts Operation Brilliant Ice, a re-supply operation to Station Nord, which provides the remote station with enough fuel to operate for the coming year. While the mission is normally accomplished in April, this year Denmark plans to conduct it between August and September.

Scientists from all over the world use Nord as a hub for conducting research, and it's expected that there will be increased expeditions to Station Nord in the coming year because of the heightened attention on the Arctic region.

Increased expeditions mean that Denmark will need to boost the amount of fuel airlifted to the station, said Major Urup-Madsen.

With most of Denmark's C-130 fleet currently supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, they would be unable to re-supply Nord without outside assistance.

Home of the world's northernmost deepwater port, Thule Air Base receives Nord's fuel supply by huge tanker ships during the base's short summer port sea-



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

THULE AIR BASE, Greenland -- A delegation of Royal Danish Air Force and Ukrainian Air Force members pause for a photo with Thule Air Base leadership on the steps of the base headquarters building April 9. Denmark has recently reached out to Ukraine as a means of introducing the nation to NATO procedures, and has provided Ukraine with an opportunity to conduct a re-supply operation for Station Nord, Denmark's northernmost military and scientific research outpost in Greenland. The delegation visited Thule as part of a fact-finding mission to aid Ukraine in deciding if they will accept the operation.

son and stores the fuel until the re-supply operation takes place.

Thule is located about 715 miles southwest of Station Nord, and supports the operation and aircrews conducting the mission with everything from airfield support to food, lodging and medical care, if necessary.

By providing this opportunity to Ukraine, we're showing them that we have no problem working with the U.S., explained Major Urup-Madsen. While the primary goal is to move the fuel, we'd like to show them who we are and who the Americans are.

While the Ukrainians have until early May to make their final decision on whether or not they will accept the mission, Capt. Valerii Tarassenko, chief loadmaster for the Ukrainian aircrew, viewed the possible operation optimistically.

"This is a golden hour for us – this mission," said the captain. "We can show that we might bring a new breeze in our relationship with Denmark and the U.S. This is a big step for Ukraine with future relationships."

Thule Air Base already supports a wide range of international Arctic military and scientific research missions.

The operation would bring another nation to the dynamic mix of cultures and countries at Thule Air Base, and is welcomed by Thule Air Base commander, Col. Lee-Volker Cox.

"We view our base as a model for international cooperation in the Arctic. If they decide to accept the mission to support our Danish Allies, it will be a tremendous opportunity to demonstrate how the U.S. and Denmark work together on a daily basis. We look forward to the Ukrainians becoming a part of Team Thule."

Distinguished Visitors

Right: Brig. Gen. Dwight Davies, Canadian Forces Director General Air Force Development for Chief of the Air Staff (left) and Brig. Gen. Eldren Thuen, Deputy Commander Mission Support for Commander, 1 Canadian Air Division (right), pose with Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st ABG commander, during their visit here April 12-14.



Above: Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Cecil Richardson, Air Force Chief of Chaplains, and Chief Master Sgt. Charles Johnson, Chaplain Assistant Career Field Manager, as well as Col. Peter Micale, Air Force Space Command Security Forces director, and Chief Master Sgt. Carl Dickens, AFSPC A7SM, pose for a photo with members of Team Thule during their visit here April 24-25.



Above: Col. Teresa Djuric, 50th Space Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Clarence Moore, 50th SW command chief, as well as Col. Manuel Hidalgo, 21st Space Wing Mission Support Group commander, pose for a photo with members of Team Thule during their visit here April 16-18.



Left: Naimangitsoq Petersen, Pualuna Kivioq and Ferdinand Mage, members of the Qaanaaq City Council, visiting Thule Air Base for Armed Forces Day, pose for a photo with Colonel Cox and Lt. Col. John Blagreen, Danish Liaison Officer.

Distinguished Visitors

Twenty six defense attachés from around the world, accredited to Denmark visited Thule Air Base April 21-22. The attachés received the base’s mission brief and tours of various facilities on base. Countries represented on the tour included:

China, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, India, Switzerland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, United Kingdom, U.S.A.



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

NATIONAL PRAYER LUNCHEON



Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) Cecil Richardson, Air Force Chief of Chaplains, was the guest speaker for the National Prayer Luncheon April 24 at the Top of the World Club. More than 80 Team Thule members attended the annual event. In addition to Chaplain Richardson’s message, Thule AB Chapel attendees participated in the event by reading Biblical passages and performing musical selections.



Photos by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

First Quarter Award Winners



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

The First Quarter award winners pose for a photo at a luncheon in their honor April 8 at the Top of the World Club. Positioned between Col. Lee-Volker Cox, 821st Air Base Group commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Nathalie Swisher, 821st ABG superintendent are: Chaplain (Capt.) Martin Adamson, 821st Air Base Group, Company Grade Officer of the quarter; Master Sgt. Mike Hall, 821st Support Squadron, Senior NCO and Team Thule NCO of the quarter, 21st Space Wing Senior NCO of the quarter; Tech. Sgt. Keith Munroe, 821st ABG, NCO of the quarter, 21st SW NCO of the quarter; Senior Airman Patrick Housman, 821st ABG, Airman of the quarter; and Capt. Nia Bluford, 12th Space Warning Squadron, Team Thule CGO of the quarter

Highlights of award recipients' outstanding achievements:

Chaplain Adamson: He coordinated and supported the visit of a Catholic priest for Easter; 7 services, 77 attendees -- great success; he created an in-depth suicide prevention training --12 people equipped to intervene to keep themselves and others safe in an isolated environment; and he led the Airmen's Center Game Night, which 20+ percent of available active duty members on base attend weekly, providing an alternative to drinking alcohol.

Captain Bluford: She stood-up the Upgraded Early Warning Radar Transition Flight and fused a multi-agency team, which set the path for the 21st SW commander's top 2008 focus area; she planned the African American Heritage banquet, authored the script and served as emcee; and she is rapidly pursuing her Master's degree and is now 50 percent complete.

Sergeant Hall: He oversaw arctic snow removal operations with 40 miles of road and 92 acres of airfield cleared -- the base mission was unhindered despite the climate; he mentored 16 NCOs and 11 Airmen at the base NCO Professional Development Seminar and First Term Airman's Course -- surveys repeatedly say "best motivator"; and he wrote the script and emceed the Team Thule annual awards dinner -- more than 100 attended .

Sergeant Munroe: He initiated a 100 percent pay audit of 140 Airmen and discovered 35 errors in owed entitlements -- \$47,000 was reimbursed; he completed six credit hours towards his B.A. degree and has 80 percent of his degree completed with a perfect 4.0 GPA; and he was the ABG staff POC for the Air Force Assistance Fund, raising \$1,100 and exceeding the goal by 300 percent.

Airman Housman: He tracked 92 travel vouchers after DFAS centralized migration and reduced filing to cash-in-hand time by 57 percent; he completed Iraq/Afghanistan Familiarization computer based training and is ready for Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom taskings; and he chaired the annual awards dinner committee -- more than 100 attended the event where 14 nominees were recognized.

821st SFS sponsors National Police Week at Thule AB

Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Bartells

821st Security Forces Squadron

May 15 has been designated as National Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week containing May 15 has been National Police Week since President John F. Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726 on Oct. 1, 1962.

Public Law 87-726 was amended by the 103rd Congress as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. President William Clinton signed Public Law 103-322, which directs that the U.S. flag be displayed at half-staff on all government buildings on May 15.

The 821st Security Forces Squadron planned several events to highlight this important week. There were many topics addressed throughout the week including domestic violence awareness; tactics, tools and techniques of Security Forces, and a Military Working Dog team demonstration. The week's events culminated with a Jail-n-Bail and a formal retreat ceremony. At the retreat, Chief Master Sgt. Alfred Herring, 821st Air Base Group superintendent addressed the Thule defenders with a message from Brig. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, AF/A7S.

The 821st SFS would like to pass on their sincere appreciation to all the individuals and organizations on base that helped support National Police Week 2008.

A message from General Hertog

To our Defenders at Thule--

Let me just thank you for what you do every day, far from the comforts of home and family. This is a special week for those that wear the badge and blue beret. We have a rich history and proud tradition that spans many wars and conflicts and you are part of that heritage. The expectation is that those that enforce the law epitomize the Air Force Core Values--Integrity First, Excellence in All We Do, and especially Service Before Self. The benefits of freedom and peace demand much from our Defenders and on occasion our Defenders pay the ultimate price and lay down their lives while protecting the public and country they serve. As you celebrate Police Week please think about your fellow Defenders, the men and women who have paid that ultimate sacrifice at home station and while deployed. I ask that you remember a quote that is engraved on the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington D.C., which states: It's not how these officers died that made them heroes, it's how they lived.

Never forget who we are and what we stand for--we are Airmen, we are Security Forces, serving this country we have sworn to protect and defend. Thank you again for the job you do every single day--God Bless You and God Bless America.



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley



Photos by Staff Sgt. David Izaguirre



Photos by Staff Sgt. David Izaguirre

Thule Spotlight

Combined Federal Campaign Award



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

A base can receive Combined Federal Campaign awards in two areas: amount of average contribution and participation rate. Thule Air Base received a 'gold' award in both areas with a 62 percent participation rate and an average contribution of \$146. Gold is the third highest of four levels of awards. Team Thule had the highest participation rate for a base in U.S. European Command and Air Force Space Command.

If you would like to submit something for publication in the Thule Times, please send it to the 821st Air Base Group Public Affairs Office at 821abg.pa@thule.af.mil. All members of Team Thule are welcome and encouraged to submit items.



Above left: Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Bartells, 821st SFS, instructs Thule AB leadership prior to their initial Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 orientation April 30.

Virtual range arrives at Thule, provides unprecedented training capability

Staff Sgt. Stephen Strouse
821st Security Forces Squadron

The 821st Security Forces Squadron recently received a virtual firing range that will enable the squadron to train in various aspects of marksmanship fundamentals, using a variety of weapons in the Security Forces arsenal.

The Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 machine was installed in early April and will provide Airmen here the ability to refine their shooting skills using the M4 carbine, M9 pistol, M-16/A2 rifle and M-203 grenade launcher.

"The virtual range at Thule represents a sound investment in combat capability," said Col. Pete Micale, Air Force Space Command director of Security Forces. "The most important thing we do to make sure our people are ready for the challenges they face in the Global War on Terrorism is to ensure they have the opportunity to stay proficient on their weapons."

With no live fire weapons range, this virtual range provides the base and Security Forces Airmen in particular with an invaluable capability.

The EST 2000 was unveiled at a demonstration for Thule AB leadership and also demonstrated for Colonel Micale during a visit here April 24.

"The leadership at Thule has done a great thing in setting up a virtual range that gives troops the chance to practice marksmanship," said Colonel Micale.



Left: Staff Sgt. Stephen Strouse, 821st SFS, briefs the base leadership about the capabilities of the EST 2000 virtual firing range.

Photos by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

Do you know ...



Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

How well do you know Thule Air Base? Do you know what this is a photo of? If you do, email the 821st Air Base Group Public Affairs Office at 821abg.pa@thule.af.mil with the correct answer. The first person to correctly identify the photo will receive \$5 in TOW Club Bucks.

Congratulations to Chief Petty Officer Lars Iverson, Danish Liaison Office, and Master Sgt. Scott Baber, 821st Support Squadron, for correctly identifying the 'Do you know' photo in the last edition of the Thule Times. The correct answer was a Danish GPS receiver near North Star Bay.

Organization focus: Greenland Contractors

1st Lt. Nicole Langley

821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

Providing everything needed to maintain a military installation more than 750 miles inside the Arctic Circle is a big task. However, one contracting company has taken that challenge head on.

Greenland Contractors is the largest contractor at Thule Air Base, and is responsible for the daily operations and maintenance of the base. The company is responsible for providing everything needed to ensure that the base can carry out its space superiority mission.

The only operators at Thule are those who run the 12th Space Warning Squadron's Ballistic Missile Early Warning System and those who keep the antennas communicating with hundreds of satellites at the 22nd Space Operations Squadron's Detachment 3. That means that the remainder of the functions and services on base are carried out by GC employees.

A large number of the approximately 140 active-duty Air Force members stationed at the DoD's northernmost military

installation are quality assurance evaluators.

QAEs are responsible for ensuring that the GC employees are fulfilling their responsibilities as outlined in the base's contract with the company.



GREENLAND CONTRACTORS

"The Air Force couldn't have asked for a better mission partner," said Col. Lee-Volker Cox, Thule Air Base commander. "Every person in GC understands the important role they play in ensuring US and NATO space superiority. What's even better, they always do it with a smile and positive attitude."

GC is responsible for providing all things needed to make everyday life possible for the military members assigned to the base as well as other U.S.

contractors on base, and of course all of the GC employees.

"Without GC, there would be no mission ops here," said Colonel Cox. "We can't do our job if there is no power, heat, serviceable roads, phones, fire protection, meals, medical or livable facilities."

The services provided by the company include the base's airport, fire department, fitness center, hotel, dining facility, community center, along with many others.

A Danish company, one third of GC is owned by Greenland Home Rule.

"Since we are 700 miles inside the Arctic Circle and the nearest hardware or grocery store is 2,600 miles away, we wouldn't survive without air and seaport operators," the colonel said. "I'm proud to call the valuable members of GC part of the Thule Family."

Some information for this article was collected from the Greenland Contractors Web site.



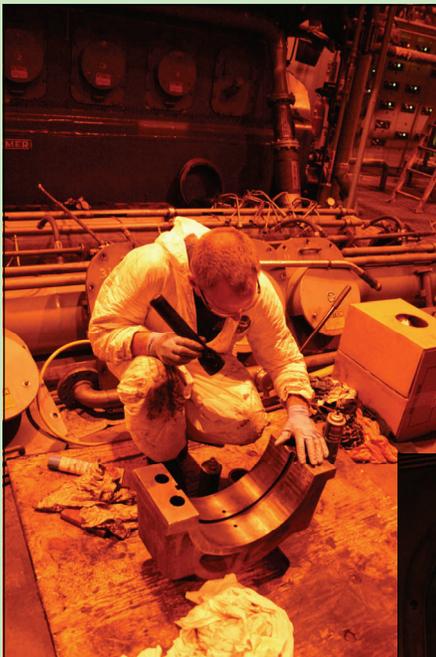
Spring projects at Thule Air Base



Since all outdoor construction and demolition projects must occur during the months when the sun is shining and warmer temperatures are present at Thule Air Base, spring marks the beginning of a very busy period of time for projects.

Left: Demolition at the unleaded fuel tank above the tug boat pier is partially complete. At one time, Thule AB had 36 fuel tanks holding over 75 million gallons.

Photos by Col. Lee-Volker



After 30 years and over 100,000 hours of use, one of the base's diesel engines in Thule's main power plant is being overhauled. It has been taken apart by visiting NRG specialists for overhaul in Pennsylvania and is expected to be rebuilt by late July. Below: One of the specialists works inside the actual engine.



Construction at the Community Center nears completion



Left: Construction continues on the area adjacent to the recently completed cinema. The area will become a book café and reading room.



Above and left: Construction has come to an end on the new Creativity Center located in the Community Center. The Creativity Center will contain a portrait studio, photo printing station, lapidary and other materials and equipment for Team Thule members to use to express their creative sides while living at the Top of the World.

Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Langley

Do you know where this is?



Do you know where the item in this photo is? Can you be the first one on base to locate it? The first person to retrieve the 'I love Greenland' patch located between the rocks and return it to the 821st Air Base Group Public Affairs office in Building 461 will receive \$20 in TOW Club Bucks.

Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox



ANG C-5 delivers supplies for NSF

A C-5 Galaxy from Stewart Air National Guard Station, N.Y., arrived at Thule Air Base April 29 with equipment and materials for the National Science Foundation. The NSF has begun a traverse over the Polar Ice Cap to create a route from Thule AB to research stations Summit and Neem, which will eliminate the need for C-130 aircraft to resupply the remote stations.

Right: Only the C-5's 65-foot tall tail can be seen as the aircraft disappears at the end of the taxiway here. The extreme downgrade of the runway challenges even the most experienced pilots during snow, ice and windy conditions. Thule AB will begin a \$5 million project to fix the taxiway later this year.



Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

Media visit at Thule Air Base



Scott Gourley, Military Logistics International, North American Editor; Jane's Defence Weekly, America's Correspondent; and International Defence Review, Contributing Editor, visited Thule AB in order to see the base's unique mission firsthand and write articles that would accurately tell the story of Thule's past/present mission. A primary focus of his trip was to learn about the base logistics.

He conducted approximately 20 one-on-one interviews, plus numerous informal interviews with the U.S. military and contractor population, as well as Danish, Greenlandic and Canadians on base. Several of his Thule-related articles have appeared in MLI, JDW and IDR.

101 Critical Days of Summer reminds Airmen to play it safe

821st Air Base Group Safety Office

Each year, the Air Force recognizes the days between the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends as a special time to focus on safety.

The 101 Critical Days of Summer 2008 campaign began at 4 p.m. on May 23 and ends at 7 a.m. on Sept. 2.

This Air Force-wide campaign has been in effect each year since the late 1960s and was developed to counter the traditional increase in AF mishaps and fatalities that occur during the summer months.

Campaign efforts attempt to increase personal awareness of risk and

thereby reduce the number of summer mishaps and fatalities. Traditional efforts include: messages by senior leadership, mass briefings by commanders, weekly supervisory briefings, pre-trip/travel/departure briefings, etc.

Each installation targets their efforts based upon their local hazards and needs.

Here at Thule, hiking, mountain climbing and trips to several different off-base recreational locations have a potential for mishaps to occur.

During last year's campaign, the Air Force experienced 19 fatalities compared to 17 during fiscal year 2006. As

in past years, motor vehicle fatalities accounted for most of the service's losses – eight involved privately owned motor vehicles with four wheels and another six involved privately owned motor vehicles with two wheels.

Some of the factors in these mishaps included speeding and not using seatbelts or helmets. Alcohol was a factor in two of the motor vehicle mishaps.

Summertime is meant to be enjoyed, but enjoy it much more by playing safe and not taking unnecessary risks. Take extra precautions whether here at Thule or home on leave. Play it safe!

Remote U.S. base supports other, more remote stations

Bi-annual Operation BOXTOP staged at Thule Air Base comes to close after nearly three weeks of round-the-clock missions

1st Lt. Nicole Langley

821st Air Base Group Public Affairs

With approximately 200 Canadian Forces servicemembers involved in this multi-national operation, BOXTOP I came to a close near the end of April.

BOXTOP is Canada's largest re-supply operation and occurs each spring and fall. The spring operation is dubbed BOXTOP I, with BOXTOP II occurring in the fall. In the spring, it is a 'wet' operation, meaning that the primary mission is to transport fuel.

While Thule Air Base may be the DoD's northernmost installation and an extremely remote base, it plays a huge role in ensuring that two much smaller, remote CF stations get the necessary supplies to continue their missions.

CFS Alert is located approximately 420 miles north-northeast of Thule AB and has about 70 Canadians assigned there. It is the northernmost permanently inhabited settlement in the world. Eureka, located about 340 miles north-northwest of Thule, only has about 17 Canadian servicemembers assigned



Photo by Col. Lee-Volker Cox

Canadian Forces C-130s sit on the flightline here during Operation BOXTOP April 12-26. During the bi-annual multi-national operation, more than 370,000 gallons of fuel was delivered to Eureka and Canadian Forces Stations Alert.

While the CF conducted direct operations, Thule's BOXTOP team consisted of individuals from airfield operations, logistics and communications. Additionally, the base supported the Canadians with lodging, access to the dining facility, morale, welfare and recreation services, medical and security forces support. Thule AB has been providing support for these re-supply operations since the early 1950s.

While the Canadians did face some challenges during the beginning of the operation, primarily due to aircraft serviceability, the operation concluded as a 100 percent success.

The Canadian Forces benefit from Thule's support, but the U.S. Air Base also benefits from the additional training and interaction with the CF members.

See **BOXTOP**, page 20

Community Center Activities



Hello Summer Party — May 25



April Poker Tournament

May Poker Tournament



1st place — Scott McCurry
2nd place — Steve Tribble
3rd place — Mike Ravn



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2nd place — Mike Ravn
3rd place — Jonas Søndergaard

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Scenes from BOXTOP I 2008



Above: A CF C-130 sits in front of one of the hangars at Thule AB.

Above right: C-130 crew members inspect an aircraft prior to flight.

Right: A CF C-130 taxis down the landing strip at Station Alert.

Below: An aerial view of Eureka.



Photos by Col. Lee-Volker Cox



Left: Hundreds of CF servicemembers were transported to Thule by an Airbus A310 aircraft.

Above: To combat the brutally cold temperatures, the CF members working on and around the flight-line kept themselves covered from head to toe in Arctic gear at all times.





Boxtop Olympics

Each BOXTOP operation wouldn't be complete without the traditional Boxtop Olympics — a competition of international proportion that occurs during each biannual resupply mission. Canadian Forces members from Alert and Team Thule compete for the coveted traveling trophy.

This year the competition began at Thule, with the teams battling it out at bowling, volleyball, mukluk hockey and an obstacle course. The second half of the games continued after the two teams traveled to Station Alert, where they challenged each other at floor hockey, soccer and dodgeball. At the end of the fierce competition, Alert claimed victory, beating Thule by just one event.



Submitted photos