

DEFENSIE
LA DÉFENSE



VOORRANG AAN VREDE
PRIORITE À LA PAIX

BELARE : Belgian Antarctic
Research Expedition

CE CDO / TrgC Cdo

2009-2010



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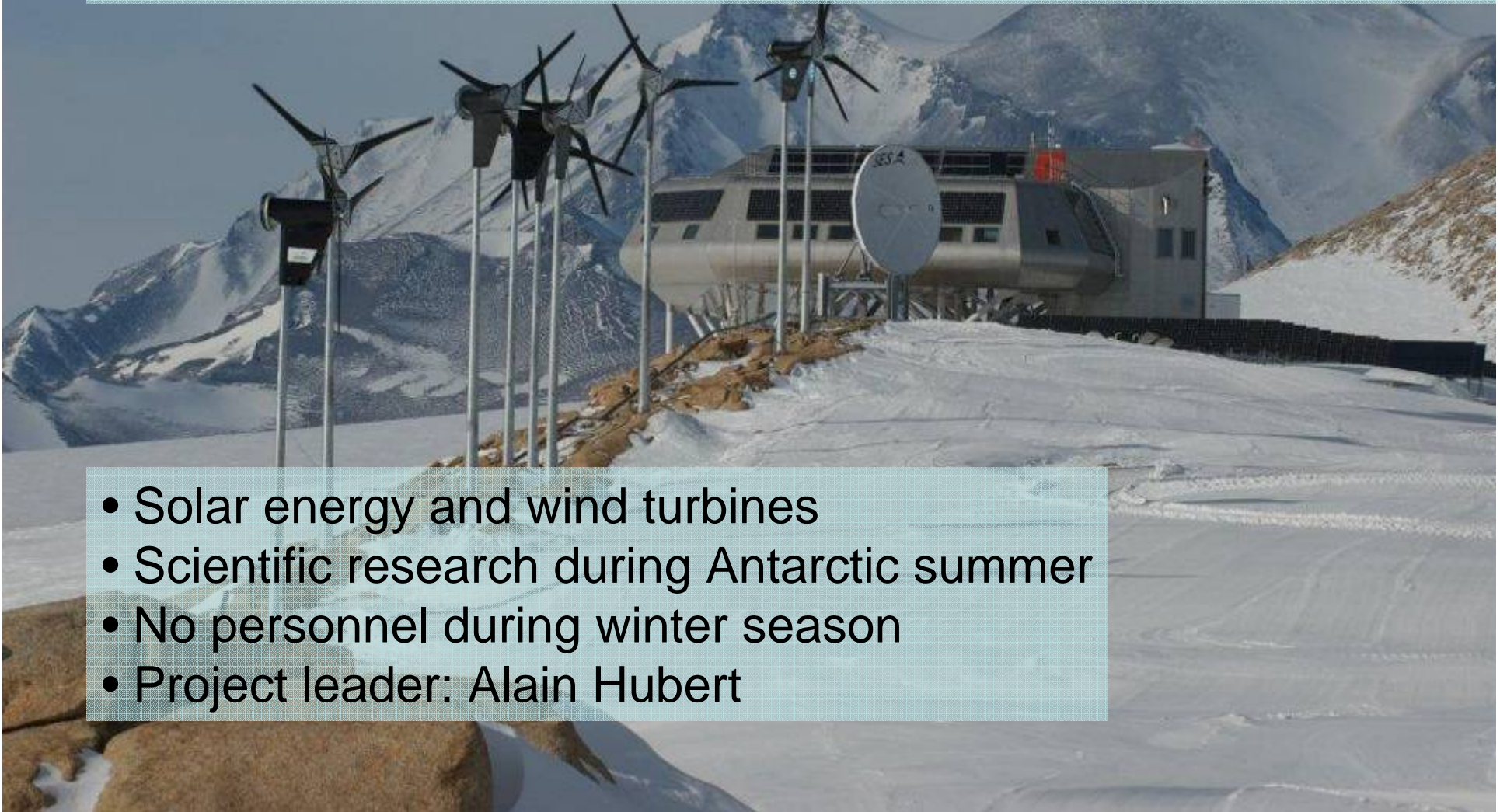
Mission BELARE

1. General Situation
2. Military coöperation
3. Field Guide missions
4. Climbs and ski descents
5. Pictures



1. General Situation

- Construction of scientific base in the Sor Rondane mountains
- Princess Elisabeth Station inaugurated in February 2009
- Zero emission, remote controlled



- Solar energy and wind turbines
- Scientific research during Antarctic summer
- No personnel during winter season
- Project leader: Alain Hubert

2. Military cooperation

1. Mechanics:

- 3 Paps
- Specialised in maintenance of Prinoth snow tractors and Bombardier snow scooters
- Preparative course in Norway and Svalbard
- General work at base and field mechanic during traverses
- Full season November to March



2. Field Guides:

- 1SM BOSTEELS Sanne
- 1CC TRULLEMANS Alain

3. Field guide missions

- Preparative training in Belgium for all participants
- Field training for scientists after arrival on Antarctica
 - Glacier travel, rope techniques, using crampons...
 - Communications and safety procedures, GPS operation
 - Bivy and living in the field, “how to shit on Antarctica”
 - Skidoo driving
- Accompanying coastal traverse convoys
- Organising and leading of scientific expeditions
 - Autonomy
 - Multiple days or weeks
 - Often mountainous areas

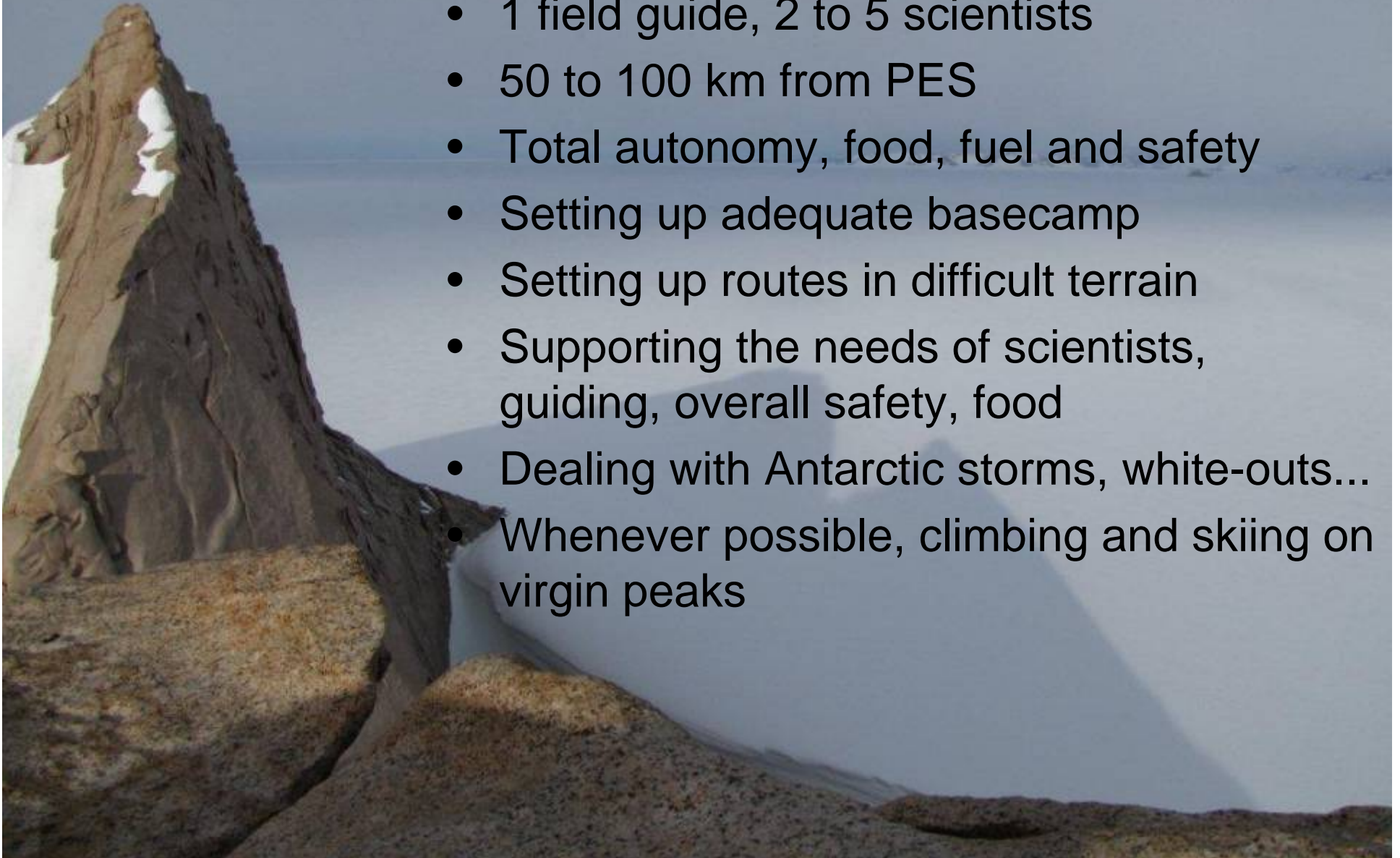
Coastal traverse



- 200km, 24 hours driving, 1300Hm, 500l diesel/100km
- Unloading resupply containers, loading of waste containers
- Many large crevasses and various sea-ice conditions
- Reconnaissance and flagging of snow tractor routes
- Operate heavy machinery

Remote scientific expeditions:

- 1 field guide, 2 to 5 scientists
- 50 to 100 km from PES
- Total autonomy, food, fuel and safety
- Setting up adequate basecamp
- Setting up routes in difficult terrain
- Supporting the needs of scientists, guiding, overall safety, food
- Dealing with Antarctic storms, white-outs...
- Whenever possible, climbing and skiing on virgin peaks



4. First ascents and ski-descents

- Sor Rondane mountains about the size of the Alps, 1000m-4000m altitude
- Many granite spires, but extremely cold
- Fresh snowfall very rare, but large transport due to wind
- Many skiable slopes, steep, exposed and prone to avalanches
- Many possibilities for classic alpine climbs, mixed terrain
- Stay safe, no mountain rescue or hospitals
- Ski touring main transport beyond skidoo possibilities
- During scientific expeditions, climbing for aerial reconnaissance

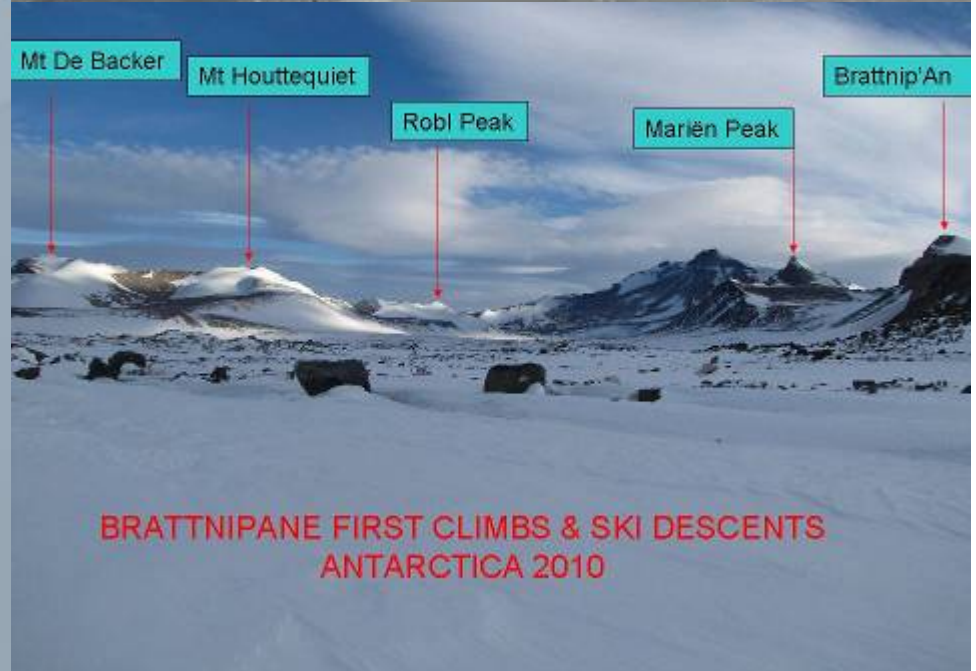
Common dangers

- Crevasses, sometimes very large
- Variable sea-ice conditions
- Extreme weather conditions
- Avalanches
- Malfunctioning vehicles and gear
- Unaware scientists, skidoo accidents
- White-outs, when GPS becomes a lifesaver
- Many near accidents with heavy machinery









BRATTNIPANE FIRST CLIMBS & SKI DESCENTS
ANTARCTICA 2010



