BELARE : Belgian Antarctic Research Expedition
CE CDO / TrgC Cdo
2009–2010
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