

00:00:00:00

Hi, I am Clive Davis. I was a Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer at the Department of Public Works and responsible for the design of the electrical and electronic systems of the Sanae 4 base. In 1993 I went down to supervise and help with the installation off the new base. This is my video of the trip.

00:00:21:15

This is the Russian ship Akademik Federov which was contracted to help with the transportation of the materials required for the new base.

00:00:44:24

The gangplank.

00:00:47:17

Some of the Russian sailors.

00:01:05:05

On the stern is the ship's name Akedemik Federov and registered in Saint Petersburg.

00:01:26:21

She ship pushes away from the wharf using side-thrusters. The Federov was about 3 times the size of the SA Agulhas and about 5 times more powerful.

00:02:27:23

Heading out to sea at 23 knots.

00:03:13:24

A view over the stern, looking where we have been.

00:03:56:18

Russian women cleaning our cabins. This was a novelty for us because on the Agulhas, we had to do it ourselves.

00:04:13:15

It is snowing on the deck.

00:04:38:08

Note the blade of the ship's spare propeller.

00:04:43:19

A growler. This is an iceberg that has melted till all that remains is just below the surface. They are a hazard to shipping because they don't show up on the radar.

00:04:54:14

Sea birds, Albatrosses and Antarctic Terns.

00:06:12:07

We approach the pack ice on 31 December.

00:06:27:22

The helicopter.

00:06:38:18

One of the crew takes a stroll around the deck.

00:07:00:12

The ship pushed into the pack ice with ease.

00:09:34:15

A pair of seals disturbed by our passage..

00:10:17:14

The ship arrives at the ice shelf.

00:10:21:07

The ramp Down from the top.

00:10:30:10

Views along the edge.

00:11:13:02

The ship pulls back.

There is no bay ice, but the ramp is low enough to be reached. Unfortunately, the Federov's crane was not mounted in a suitable position to offload.

They then had to go out to the Agulhas and offload a part of the cargo onto its deck. The Agulhas then put its bow into the ice shelf and offloaded on to the ramp. This process had to be repeated many times before all the cargo was offloaded.

00:11:57:05

The Agulhas approaches.

00:12:06:13

We were to be taken to the Agulhas by Russian helicopter, but it was realized that it was too big to fit on the Agulhas' helipad. The Agulhas would then send one of their Puma helicopters to fetch us off, but the Russian helicopter had to first move out of the way.

00:14:02:10

The Puma arrives.

00:14:46:10

Take off from the Federov

00:15:07:19

and landing on the Agulhas.

00:15:25:24

The Federov as seen from the Agulhas

00:15:29:10

I was needed on site and was flown off again almost immediately.

00:16:02:12

The ice shelf.

00:17:05:09

We stopped at Sanae3 E-base to pick up some construction team members who were brought to the dentist and were now returning.

00:17:15:00

The stop at E-base

00:17:20:13

Coming in to land at Vesleskarvet, the site of the Sanae4 base about 180km from the ice shelf.

00:17:29:05

A view of the top of the mountain.

00:17:40:01

The construction base where we were accommodated during the construction period.

00:17:48:22

A view of the mountain top from the construction base. The mountain slopes up gently from this side, the east, but there is a 200m drop down the far side.

00:18:38:21

On the top of the hill one can see the 3 drilling rigs and workshop.

00:18:43:23

A skidoo pulling a sled. These sleds were not designed for people to ride on. We sat between each others' legs and lay back. There was no suspension and the sled would rise up over a mound of snow and slam down the far side. We designed a new personnel sled for following trips.

00:19:36:05

The skidoo winds up the ice road to the construction site.

00:19:58:24

Having a braai. We are the only country that is allowed to as it is traditional.

00:20:40:04

The arrival of the Russian vehicles bought to transport the materials. These were ex-missile carriers and could to the 180km trip from the ice shelf in 10 hours.

00:21:38:20

The view from the bottom of the cliff.

00:21:51:12

The the 2 lobes of the mountain and the wind-scoop caused by the wind blowing around the sides of it.

00:22:06:23

Sliding down the slope on Teflon boards on our day off.

00:22:13:17

One of the 2 drilling rigs drilling holes in the rock for the foundations.

00:22:43:13

The small drilling rig drilled holes for the support stays.

00:22:59:18

Two completed foundation assemblies can be seen in the foreground

00:23:13:01

The surveyor setting up his theodolite. It was tricky to keep the instrument level because the tripod legs kept sinking into the snow.

00:23:26:10

After the holes had been drilled they had to be cleared of all snow before inserting the foundation pole.

00:23:35:16

Welding the braces on to the foundation plate.

00:23:57:03

A view of the construction base from the site.

00:24:22:05

The line of parked skidoos. A strong wind is blowing, moving the surface snow.

00:24:31:10

Riding the sled behind a skidoo. The camera shows it did not react well to the bumps.

00:24:55:24

A pan of the surroundings from the helipad.

00:24:59:07

Looking North, the opposite mountain lobe.

00:25:30:06

West, the edge of the cliff.

00:26:04:04

South, the frames of A-Block, Lorenzenpiggen mountain in the near distance.

00:26:37:14

East, the construction base.

00:26:44:10

The edge of the cliff with icicles hanging over.

There is a railing to prevent one getting too close to the edge or wandering over it in a storm.

00:27:04:20

The cliff and wind scoop.

00:27:25:14

Panning across the site from the frames of the base to the helipad, as seen from the edge of the cliff.

00:27:48:20

The construction base at night. Brief night periods start occurring during February.

00:27:55:22

Back at the ice shelf equipment to be returned to SA are being loaded.

00:28:02:09

Some drums of sewage fell out of the cargo net into the sea and are being retrieved by boat.

00:28:10:02

The helicopter brings in a tool sled.

00:28:54:07

On the return voyage, the ship's boat retrieves an oceanic buoy. The sea is rough and the boat is having difficulties with its motor.

00:29:27:11

The helicopters in the hangar.

00:29:42:03

The ship's galley.

00:30:02:17

The ship's lounge.

00:30:07:24

Our cabin.

00:30:20:19

The shower and toilet.

00:30:28:23

The bunks.

00:30:38:18

Back in Cape Town, the helicopters leave for Ysterplaat AFB.

00:31:59:24

The pilot boat accompanies the ship in and pushes it into its berth.

00:32:15:07

Some seals in the harbour.

00:32:41:14

A box of snow kept in the ship's cold room and ready to pelt the spectators with.

00:33:17:09

The mooring ropes are pulled out.

00:34:08:22

The trip is at an end.

