

SET 7NM (Oct/Nov 2002)

- Dates at Nauru: 22Oct to 25Oct, 2002
- Dates at Brisbane: 25Oct to 27Oct
- Dates at POM: 27Oct to 31Oct
- Dates at Manus: 31Oct to 03Nov
- Dates at SPREP: 03Nov to 05Nov

SET-7 Team

- Larry Jones, TWP Site Manager
- Kim Nitschke, SPREP Project Manager
- Pete Ayala, BUS Contracts Specialist (Nauru, Brisbane, Port Moresby only)

Trip Activities:

19Oct(Saturday)

- Traveled to Los Angeles and on to Fiji
- Met in Los Angeles (during layover) with the TWP shipping agent, Mae Chu of Interconnex. Had dinner and discussed foreign shipping issues.

20Oct

- Lost day to International date line

21Oct

- Arrived Nadi, Fiji

Nauru

22Oct(Tue)

- Arrived Nauru and went to ARCS-2 site and did quick walk through with OIC Nicholas Duburiya.
- Met with TWP Admin Coordinator, Andrew Kaierua, and Project Manager Tyrone Deiye of DED (Department for Environment and Development) to set up contract meetings and address ARCS personnel discussions.

23Oct(Wed)

- Pete Ayala, Kim Nitschke, and I met with DED director Joe Cain and DED Project Manager Tyrone Deiye on several issues.
 - Personnel issues – Megan Aliklik Observer status, Robroy Whippy Observer status, overtime excesses and tracking, lack of fortnight rosters.
 - Personnel not getting paid by government – can affect operations.
 - Cain wants to upgrade the observers' employment from the current "casual" status that has minimal benefits to "Permanent/temporary" status (I know, I know it sounds like a contradiction) that has better long-term benefits but will not increase TWPO contract costs.
 - Nauru NWS status – still up to the parliament as to whether the new Nauru NWS should be under DED or the Nauru CAA (Civil Aviation Authority).

- Ayala, Nitschke and I met with Joe Cain and Nauru Justice Minister Denzel Senevirane to review and negotiate the new Nauru/TWPO contract. It turned out that Senevirane did not have the most recent version of the contract and he understandably insisted on time to review it before he could discuss it.
- Ayala, Nitschke, and I met with Deiye, Duburiya, and Kaierua on ARCS Operations issues.
 - Kaierua indicated the NIES site 6-month extension is all cleared with the landowners and the Menen hotel.
 - Since the fortnightly rosters and overtime estimates are not being prepared, I indicated we would not approve any more overtime until prior or at least post written justification is provided.
 - VSAT and AWS license – license for both is approved, but fees (\$1000, and \$200, respectively) just for the remainder of the year seems excessive, so we asked for a review for possible pro-rating of the annual fee. But, the CAA rejected the operation of the AWIB feature of the AWS, as its weather information may not be indicative of the airport area. We agreed.
 - We discussed the land phone line and tried to determine why the progress was stalled. Evidently the Taiwanese are proposing a new landline on the island twice as big as ours, but they want to use our hardware with the promise of including us. But there is no guarantee when they will really start. Our line will benefit the fisheries, the hospital, and the schools so we have a pretty good case. The Telkom workers will not finish the project because they don't think they are mandated to work on ours. Telkom when corporate lately. Cridden Appi, the former Telkom head is now the Naurutel head that is to be the cell phone company. We decided to try to meet with the communications minister, Remy Namaduk, who is currently the Acting President of Nauru.
 - On a side note, Nauru Telkom has not yet been able to fix the tape reader that enables them to determine the phone billings for the last few years.
 - Kaierua gave me the latest petty cash receipts for me to take back to TWPO.
 - Ayala, Nitschke, and I hosted an Observers working dinner at the ARCS-2 site. All the Observers and Joe Cain attended.

24Oct(Thu)

- Ayala, Nitschke, and I met with Senevirane, Cain and Deiye on the new Nauru Government/TWPO contract. Senevirane had several issues with the contract including the funded amount, government furnished equipment clarification, the local taxes exemption clause, abandoned equipment disposal charges, and termination of contract only after final payments have been made. Ayala and Senevirane worked out all of the issues and Nitschke revised the electronic copy of the contract for initialing by both parties.

- I took the new Observer Robroy Whippy, and stand-in temporary Observer Equina Penani through the standard Observer training course. The training included TWP's place in the overall ARM Program, what the goals of the ARM program are, a study of the function of each ARCS-2 instrument, safety at the site, communication with TWPO, working to procedures, among other thing. They took the training seriously and did well.
- The Observers watched two safety videos, one on electrical safety and another on safety attitudes. We had a safety discussion afterwards. We then did a safety inspection of the site. I found the SMET tower counterweight setup not to be a hazard and therefore does not need a counterweight clamp. I demonstrated to the Observers how to use the newly acquired ARCS-2 "Defibulator." A separate safety inspection report will be filed later with more detail.
- I replaced the site safety plan with a newly revised plan that eliminates much redundancy and duplication to encourage quick reading by visitors. I also instituted a new sign-in sheet that will make all three ARCS sites uniform in their approach to ESH briefings and sign in.
- I went over the tasking list assigned to Duburiya as a result of the last safety inspection of the site led by Monte Brandner of ARM.
- Nitschke and Deiye met with President Namaduk on the VSAT license and the lack of progress on the landline project as a result of the conflict mentioned in the meetings of the previous day. President Namaduk pledged his support to enable work to start on the landline project once again.
- I delivered petty cash (\$A2000) to Deiye to cover the labor costs of placing the VSAT and AWS concrete foundation (he was acting TWPO admin for Kaierua who left the island. I also handed off the Satellite phone listings for Deiye to examine for non-TWP Operations calls to be billed to the appropriate Nauru government agencies.
- I verified that there was a first aid kit in the NIES control room 201. I put a new binder with the NIES site procedures in room 201, purchased a flashlight for the room, and posted emergency numbers on the door.

25Oct(Fri)

- Communicated with TWPO to discuss any possible urgent issues.
- Ayala picked up the initialed final draft from DED of the Nauru/TWPO contract.
- Cleaned out old manuals from E-Van.
- Nitschke worked over the phone with Rex Pearson of the Australian BOM to perform a miracle repair on D-Van after it wouldn't power up when the grid power went back on and the generator shut off.

Brisbane:

26Oct(Sat)

- Arrived Brisbane and met with Tony Baldwin of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).

- Discussed:
 - Personnel issues
 - Need for invoicing timeliness
 - AWS install progress and AWIB issue at Nauru (that is not approved).
 - Contract currency exchange rate for next year as of 01Nov2002 rate.

Port Moresby:

27Oct(Sun)

- Arrived at Port Moresby, PNG.

28Oct(Mon)

- Ayala, Nitschke, and I met with PNG NWS personnel, Kevin Luana (NWS Director), Sam Maiha, and Justina Kameata to review the new contract extension.
 - We reaffirmed our commitment to reimburse for the salaries for two observers as all other sites (without an ARCS – there are 12 others) operate with only two observers. We use four observers at Manus.
 - We reiterated the benefits the ARCS site has for PNG – Sonde launching material support, backup power generation, training, reimbursement of portion of NWS director salary, AWS, education outreach program, Sonde data to the WMO, local employment for security personnel at Momote, etc.
 - Kameata asked if we could use TWP funds to fund other sites as it was causing a personnel problem with the other sites. We indicated we could not.
 - We did discuss the possibility of supporting the rotation of Observers from other sites to Manus on a yearly cycle and committed 10,000 Kina to help with the transport each year.
 - We indicated we would support one person to go to WMO training annually, but it was pointed out we have already said we would support that.
 - PNG communicated their problem with funds in that since the reimbursement funds go directly to their parent organization the PNG Civil Aviation Authority, they do not see the funds. They feel that people whose salary was reimbursed would be paid anyway and wanted the funds to go directly to support to the NWS in other ways. We countered that if the reimbursements went away, someone would probably be cut from the PNG NWS staff and therefore there was no other way we could handle that.
 - No changes in the contract were made and a 9:30 meeting was scheduled for Tuesday morning with the Deputy State Solicitor for International Law.
- Luana and I met with Pangtel and they indicated the VSAT license for Manus was essentially approved and they were just waiting for a letter of

support from PNG Telkom to accompany the licensee processing. The license fee was already paid by arrangements by Kevin Luana.

- Luana and I met with William Yurus of the PNG Telkom and he stated that they already sent the letter of support and Pangtel lost it. He said for us to install our VSAT and they would straighten things out between their two offices.

29Oct(Tue)

- Ayala, Nitschke and I met with Luana and Deputy State Solicitor for International Law, Masio Nidung in her office (ph (675) 301-2871/72, (675) 301-2915, fax (675) 323-0241, justice@daltron.com.pg). Nidung had not been able to review the contract adequately and requested that we return on Wednesday. We changed our flights to stay an additional day in PNG.
- Held working meal at which time we presented Kevin Luana with the TWP Outstanding Performance Award for 2002.

30 Oct (Wed)

- Ayala, Nitschke and I met again with Luana and Deputy State Solicitor for International Law, Masio Nidung in her office. Went over several contract issues and came to agreement. Since power was out at the Justice building we returned to the hotel to print out the corrected document. We then had Luana and then later Nidung initial approval for the final draft.

Manus:

31Oct(Thu)

- Arrived at Manus.
- Nitschke worked with Robert Thompson of the PNG NWS to coordinate an overlap of the manual PNG NWS observations and the new AWS for comparison purposes.
- Nitschke, Kameata, Tau Gabi, and I met with the PNG Department of Public Works Plant & Transport Bureau, Ricky Moyap (470-9341/9662) to discuss the status of a vehicle for the NWS Observers. He brought up past problems with Observers abusing the government vehicles. He said we could continue the hire if he could get some assurance that the abuse would be addressed.
- I met with Dick Pearse to discuss shipping issues.

01Nov(Fri)

- I met with Observers to discuss vehicle abuse and operations in general.
- I met contractor Alan Pomat. He did the concrete work for the Manus VSAT and AWS foundations. I approved for Alan to hook up the new water tank and the associated gutters and piping to supplement the water catchment for the Electrolyser and emergency shower. I have asked for proposals from Alan to remove all piled up coral debris from around the site, construct Skyrad handrails, and construct the WSI light pollution screen.
- I contacted the Paul Johnston of NOAA to discuss the Manus NOAA equipment in the ISS Van. He directed that we shut everything off and he

- will be coming through in the January/February to sort out what needs to be sent back. In the meantime Eagan, Reed, Culgan, and Glowacki took down the old NOAA met tower. All data collection and shipments will cease. The old ISS transportainer will be turned into a 4 star hotel on site.
- I led an Observers safety training session using videos on electrical safety and safety attitude.
 - Did site walk around and safety inspection.
 - Thompson met with Ricky Moyap of the PTB to arrange for the Observers vehicle.
 - We visited the Observers houses.
 - We visited the Naringale Primary School near the site.
 - Held Observers working dinner with Observers and RESET team.

02Nov(Sat)

- Thompson continued to work with Moyap on PTB vehicle hire.
- Nitschke caught up on reporting and final meetings with Observers and RESET teams.

03Nov(Sun)

- Travel to Brisbane.

Samoa – SPREP:

04Nov(Mon)

- Arrived Apia, Samoa.

05Nov(Tue)

- Toured the SPREP offices and met with Kim Nitschke and his co-workers.
- Met with South Pacific Region Environment Program (SPREP) director Tamari'i Tutungatta, Business manager, Piama leilua-Lie Sam, and Program Delivery Manager, I'o A. Tuakeu-Lindsay to review the status of the LANL (TWP)/SPREP contract.
 - Director Tutungatta felt the SOW of the contract should be more specific with expectations to reflect the current status of ARM. The current contract was written with the prospect of up to 5 ARCS sites were to be deployed in the Pacific Island region.
 - He also suggested that the TWP director and the SPREP director meet annually to review the contract performance and set expectations for the next year.
 - We agreed that the quarterly financial reports to TWP also include a short summary of the activities for that quarter.
 - I expressed the concern that we were not getting the full services of Nitschke. I also asked that Nitschke be given more flexibility in areas of financial transactions and travel arrangements to meet the real time needs of TWP.
 - Tam asked that I look at the future, post 2004 period when the current contract expires to determine if I feel a different arrangement, association with SPREP should be used so there is real value to both parties.

- Tam also pointed out that his term of duty is ending and a new director will be on board soon.

06Nov(Wed)

- Start travel home, depart Samoa.

07Nov(Thu)

- Arrive Auckland en-route to home.