

Crisis operations in an extreme environment



Jörgen Modin, inspector, Jämtland County Police



Background

- On **15 March at 13:40 hrs**, the transport aircraft C-130 Hercules called "SIV" departed from Evenes, Norway, in order to carry out a flight to Kiruna, Sweden. The aircraft and its crew were part of the military exercise Cold Response, a Norwegian winter exercise with invited units from 14 nations.
- At **14.56 hrs**, the radar last had contact with the aircraft, when it was situated right to the west of the Kebnekaise massif. The aircraft was reported missing shortly after.
- Rescue operations were initiated, but because of the very rough weather in the area, the aircraft could not be found.
- On **16 March around 16:00 hrs**, a Norwegian P-3 Orion identified a number of orange coloured objects from a high altitude in the Kebnekaise massif. The crash site was thereafter determined.



The site

- Sweden's highest point, 2,102 meters above sea level.
- two peaks, the south and the north peaks
- the crash site is located on the ridge between the two peaks
- free overflight approx. 100 meters up



The aircraft

- C-130J Hercules,
empty weight: 33,000 kg
- maximum take-off weight:
approx. 79,000 kg
- cruising speed: 640 km/h
- approx. 8,000 kg of
aviation fuel
at the moment of the crash
- one of the world's
most secure aircrafts!



The crew

Captain Steinar Utne

Lieutenant Colonel Truls Audun
Örpen

Captain Siw Robertsen

Captain Björn Yngvar Haug

Captain Ståle Garberg



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Images from Kebnekaise

Photo of the midnight sun, the ridge between the south and the north peaks.



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Images from Kebnekaise

Way up
to the south peak.



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Images from Kebnekaise

The most common weather in the area.



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Images from Kebnekaise

The base camp
at Rabots glacier
below the crash site.



Images from Kebnekaise

Photo from
below the crash site.



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Images from Kebnekaise

Photo from
above the base camp.



Images from Kebnekaise

Izor
on the north peak.



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Images from Kebnekaise

It is of great importance that the dog is secured to its handler in a professional way.



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Images from Kebnekaise

Safety rope from the peak
down to the search area.



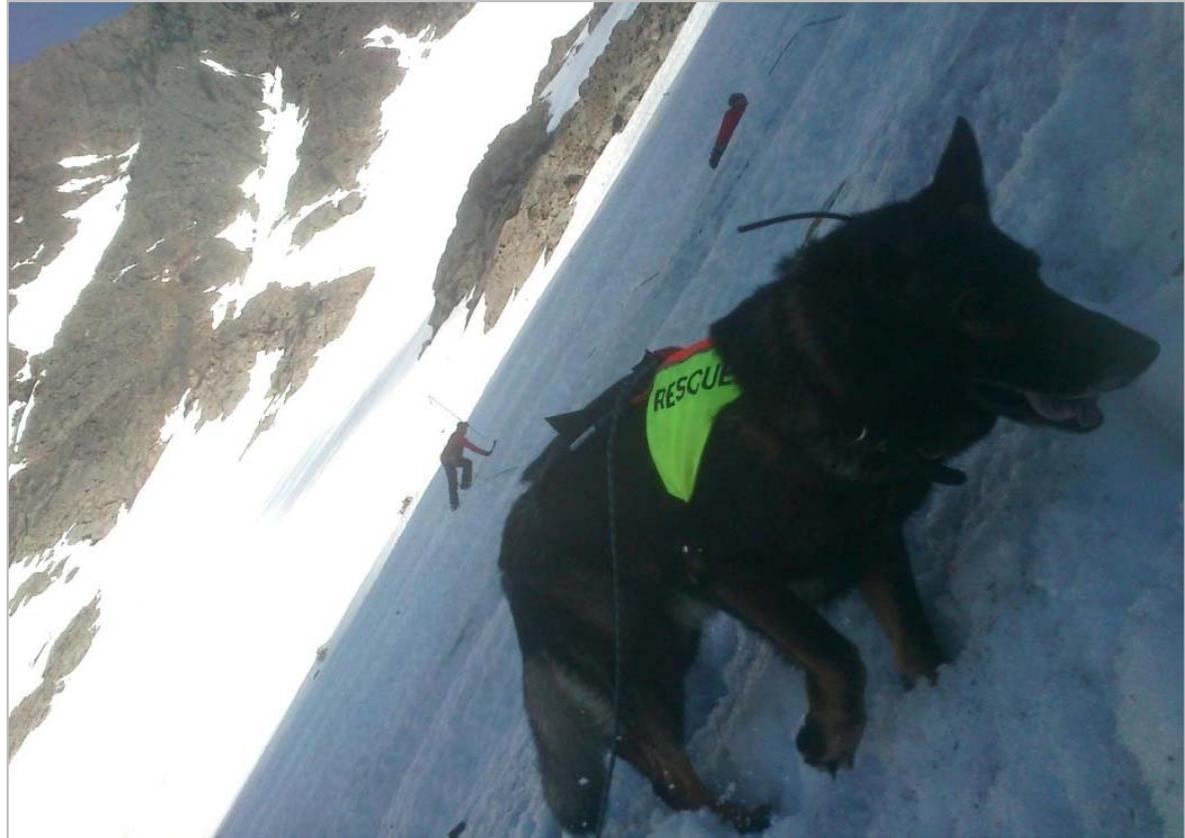
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Images from Kebnekaise

Izor's task was sometimes very difficult and demanding.

The search operations were often carried out on an almost vertical slope.



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Images from Kebnekaise

One difficulty that we had not encountered before was when Izor alerted to something on steep terrain.

At these moments, he had difficulty in holding on to the slopes.



Images from Kebnekaise



Images from Kebnekaise

An incredible number of distorted and sharp wreckage parts were found in the snow.



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Images from Kebnekaise

Resting time
for a tired hero.



Images from Kebnekaise



Images from Kebnekaise

The "usual" weather at the site.



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Images from Kebnekaise



Images from Kebnekaise



Images from Kebnekaise

One of the many glacier crevasses in the search area.

This crevasse was more than seven meters deep.



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Images from Kebnekaise

Safety team



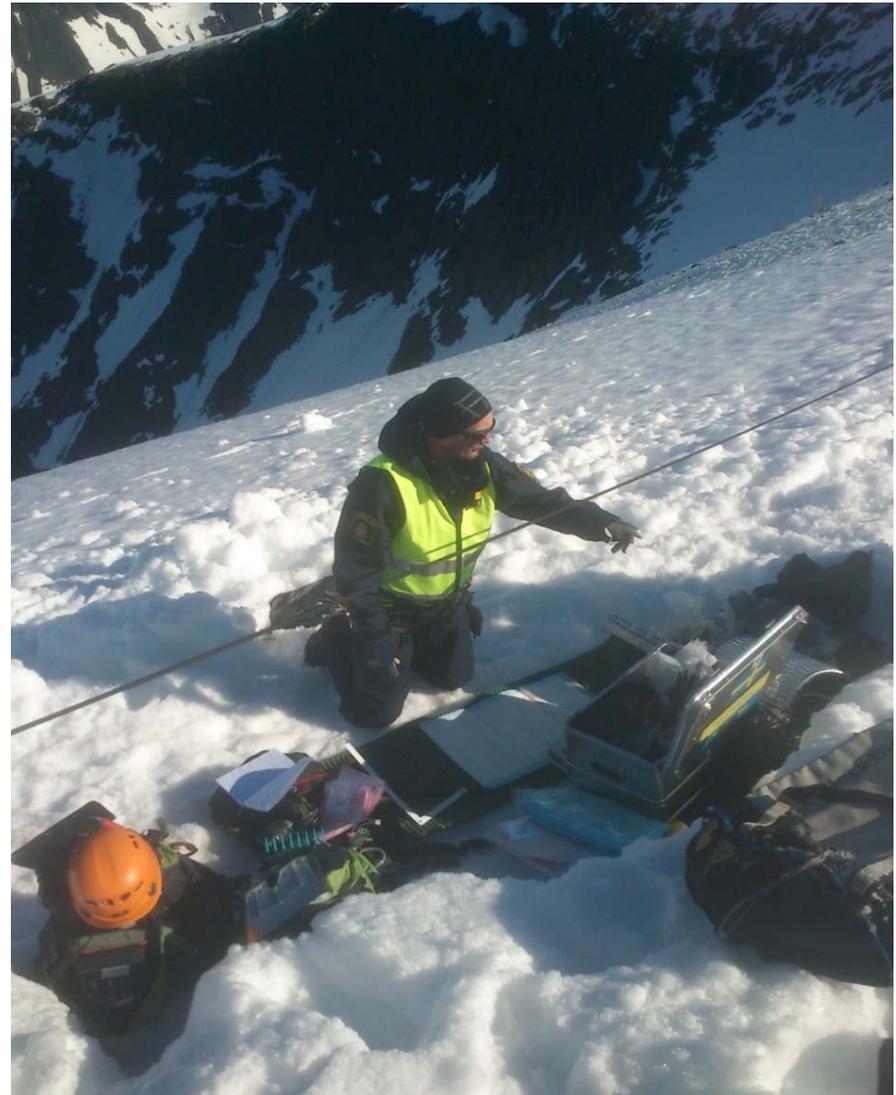
Images from Kebnekaise

A dignified
but difficult
transport of
found remains.



Images from Kebnekaise

Identification of remains
carried out in the field.



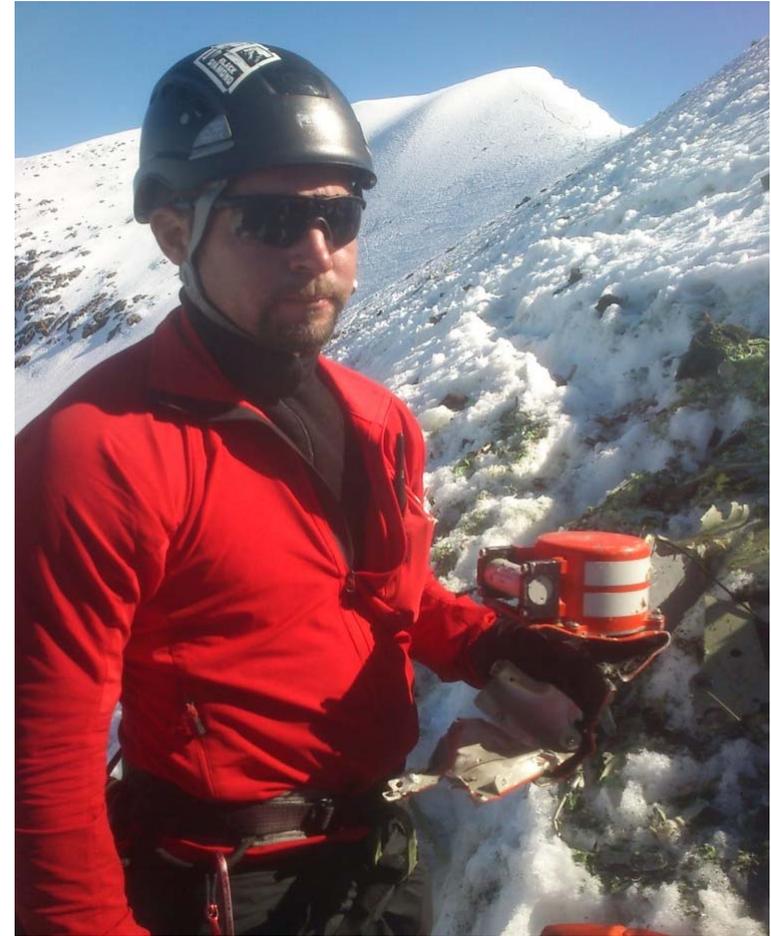
Images from Kebnekaise



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