

# SITREP 9, January 15, 2012, Day 54 at WSD

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Written at WAIS Divide

## I. Passenger movements

### A. SCO

1. The borehole logging team departed on D021, 9 Jan; Anandakrishnan, Peters, Waddington, Kluskiewicz, Bay, Greschke, along with Severinghaus.

### B. IDDO

1. Mortensen arrived on D021, 9 Jan.; Hansen arrived on D022, 10 Jan. Dahnert and Sendelbach departed on D021

## II. Cargo Movements

### A. Cargo arriving from CONUS

1. N/A

### B. Cargo retro to McMurdo

1. Assorted office supplies, steel tables (to NICL), rubber mats (to Science Construction), cargo for borehole logging events. Other items are being staged for retro.

## III. Camp Activities

- A. Current camp population, 33, 8 T-350, 4 I-477, 1 I-168, 16 RPSC, 4 NANA; All is well.

- B. With the borehole logging evolution completed, the loggers departed after several weather delays.

- C. The Pisten Bully is up and working again.

- D. Missed in last week's report; Voigt, Morton, Wong and Mitchell (all Wilderness First Responders) attended a half-day emergency services training session held by the camp's NP. We discussed the Emergency Medical Services response at WSD and our role in it, refreshed on C-collar and spine stabilization, looked at available EMS equipment and its location and took part in a training drill.

- E. A second EMS drill was held on 1/12. Participants included camp staff NP, EMTs, WFRs plus Wong, Voigt, and Mitchell. These exercises have helped us gel as an EMS team and pointed out weaknesses and strengths in our ability to respond to a medical incident. In previous years one mass-casualty was held and there was no prior preparation or followup. This season is a good model for how camp staff and science event members can work towards providing a well trained and competent Emergency Medical Services response team.

- F. The processing-side freezer units are ops-normal.
- G. Due to the failure of one generator the date of our cold deck was advanced in order to assure the safety of the ice core.
- H. John Fegyveresi and Gifford Wong presented a talk at our Monday Night Science Series.
- I. Dean returned from McMurdo with the plan for camp closure and pull-out.
- J. Deborah Roth, our RPSC POC for the drilling project, came out to spend a few days observing the operation at WSD. She was able to tour the arch and town and spend time talking to camp staff, IDDO and SCO personnel. Deb was scheduled to return on the cold deck. She will be spending the weekend at WSD.
- K. Dawn Needham, Field Camp Operations Supervisor, arrived on the outbound cold deck to visit camp and observe operations.
- L. A SAR (missing person) exercise was held by camp personnel on 1/14. I observed and was victim in an added on medical scenario. Camp response to both parts of the drill were excellent and the effort was well worth the time spent.

#### IV. Drill Depth and Time

- A. Work has begun to configure the replicate coring drill. No core was obtained.

#### V. Status of Borehole Logging

- A. Borehole logging is on standby until the deviation has been started.

#### VI. Cold Deck

- A. Our cold deck was pushed up because of the failure of one generator and the concern for the safety of the ice if the second generator failed. The flight was scheduled for 2300 on 1/12 and arrived at 2255
- B. Weather forecast for McMurdo was checked at 2230 and indicated conditions improving by 0300 for the return flight.
- C. Weather at WSD was perfect for a cold deck, -22°C at 2200, -19°C during the loading evolution, overcast with light winds.
- D. Cabin temperatures were 24°F at 7 feet, 21°F at the floor at 2230.
- E. The first AFP left the arch at 2210, the second at 2230.
- F. The first AFP was loaded at 2300, the second at 2310.

- G. Our returning pax was not permitted to board. The reason given was that there were no aisle on the pallets. We configured the ice core skids in the same orientation as last season when this loading plan permitted pax to fly with ice core. Fixed Wing and the ANG knew we were planning to send a passenger back on this flight ahead of time and the decision seemed arbitrary. As there is no requirement for the core to be accompanied, it was hard to argue that a person was “required” to travel with the core.
- H. The flight held at WSD because of a new TAF (forecast) showing deteriorating conditions at McMurdo around their time of arrival. Consideration was given to pulling the AFPs off the Herc and returning them to the Arch. Cabin temperatures were monitored and observed to be holding at the values reported on approach (the ramp was kept open and outside air temp was -21°C at 0015). The pilots determined that return to McMurdo was probable and the flight was off deck at 0030 arriving McMurdo at 0350.
- I. Transportation of the ice was prearranged with Science Cargo and they completed the evolution around 0630 on 1/13
- J. The decision to send the core is never straight forward. Factors other than those discussed in the “Temperature Specifications for Air Transport of Ice Cores” document often come into play. If we had two working generators and the weather had been warm and sunny I probably would have returned the core to the Arch and tried another day. How to evaluate the probability of a return to McMurdo should be clear cut, but without pre-established lines of communication to the flight crew it is hard to know what they are thinking. Shortly after a radio call to the aircraft asking their intentions, and during our evaluation of their answer, the engines were reved up and it was clear the flight crew had decided to depart. There will always be a measure of uncertainty in the decision to send the core. The best we can do is evaluate all of the factors, even those not outlined in the document, and base our decision on that.

## VII. Other

- A. The Science Techs and I completed the second AFP of ice core boxes with an eye towards a cold deck on Thursday.
- B. Wong finished his science project, collecting 9 shallow cores and sampling a snow pit. These samples were included in the cold deck.
- C. Five Arctic oven tents were dried out and repaired in preparation for winter over.

- D. Safety continues to be a primary focus of all residents at WAIS Divide. The medical and SAR drills held this week have heightened camp personnel's situational awareness and our ability to respond to an emergency.
- E. J. Johnson, E. Morton, G. Clow and D. Voigt have continued to inspect the worksites at the Arch and Logging Winch to evaluate progress and assess the work environment. Safety concerns are addressed as necessary.