SITREP 7, December 30, 2012; Day 38 at WAIS Divide

Donald Voigt, SCO Rep., Chief Scientist at WAIS Divide

I. Passenger movements

A. SCO

1. Jihong Cole-Dai (I-476) arrived on D020.

B. IDDO

1. None

II. Cargo Movements

A. No Cargo arrived from McMurdo

B. Retro; footers from construction of the Arch was shipped back to McMurdo on a T2 pallet.

III. Camp Activities

A. Current camp population; 50 total. 10 T-350, 2 I-476, 4 I-477, 10 G-079 (PoleNet), 17 ASC, 7 T-500 (KBA).

B. Saturday Safety meeting; After the camp End-of-week Review we discussed the location and contents of the camp's emergency cache and how it could be made more pertinent.

C. All three access-ways to the Arch remain open.

D. Elizabeth Morton (IDDO Safety Officer) and I continue to inspect the Arch and surroundings for Safety issues.

E. Camp remains in very good condition thanks to continuous grooming and attention by the camp staff.

F. The skiway remains in good condition.

G. The generator #1 was load tested for 24 hours and passed.

H. The correct parts for the generator are still on the way.

I. We continue to retro unneeded supplies, equipment and parts to reduce the number of pallets that need to be stored over the winter.

J. The freezers are running normally and temperature has reached -25°C to -28°C. Trays are emptied every 8 hours.

IV. Status of Drilling

A. First Replicate Core was completed in seven days, on Monday, December 24, 2012 at 2200.

B. Top depth; 3001.55 m, bottom depth 3100.60.

C. The first replicate was 49 runs for 99.05 meters of excellent quality ice.

D. All of the replicate #1 core was processed and packed.

E. Because there is little offset between the CPL depths and the drill depth logged in the Arch, we drilled to a depth of 3100 meters to reach the target goal for the first replicate.

F. From Jay Johnson; “The final logging tool pass test has been completed for the first deviation. The test was run this time with a 29lb (129N) dummy tool attached to the 10m tether below the camera.The tool was lowered through the deviation zone, 2988m to 3001m, at .05 m/s. The total variation in weight on bit (WOB) was 4N. The video also showed that there were no significant notches or ledges in the low side wall that a logging tool could get hung up on. My conclusion is that the dummy logging tool passed the test.” I concur with Jay’s conclusion.

G. Broaching for the second deviation began on Monday at 2315.

H. Problem that stopped broaching at 0600 Wednesday. Screen run was conducted to remove chips in fluid. Broaching continued 1930 Wednesday.

I. First core of second replicate attempted on Friday. At 1000 we pulled up a partial core of one meter that was at too shallow an angle. The mill was then sent back down to reestablish the ledge to try again. See the IDDO report for further details of these attempts.

V. Flights;

Wednesday; D020, Cargo, fuel and Pax
Wednesday; D021, Fuel only
Friday; D022, Pax out, fuel

Friday; Flight returning from PIG stopped to take fuel.

VI. Other

A. John Fegyveresi and Brad Markle have been working on their side projects while we were waiting for core and at opportune moments. Emily Longano and Ross Beaudette have been assisting. On Tuesday the 25th we sampled at Brad's first site 10 km from camp towards the Divide. We used this as an opportunity to shake down the evolution.

B. Christmas was celebrated on Sunday night. I was Santa. Camp had off Monday and Tuesday for their Holiday. We drilled. Polenet flew two missions. Camp didn't get much of a day off. I applaud them for their willingness to be flexible. Camp has gone out of their way to make Science a priority, and the evidence is in how productive we have been, even on Christmas day.