

SITREP 1, December 15, 2014; Day 5 at WAIS Divide
Donald Voigt, I-477, SCO Rep

1. Passenger Movements

- A. Borehole Loggers, I-161 at WSD, Riverman, Muto and Holschuh, arrived 12/11; I-166, I-177, I-475 in McMurdo. Lia-Bun Lok(I-166) arrived WSD 12/14 from Union Gl by Twin Otter.
- B. T-350, in McMurdo
- C. I-477, Voigt and Burkett at WSD, arrived 12/11

2. Cargo Movements

- A. I-161 cargo to WSD. The I-475 Logging Winch at WSD.
- B. No retro cargo from the Arch.

3. Camp Activities

- A. Current Camp Population, 50; G-079, 4; G-099, 6; I-161, 3; I-166, 1; I-477, 2; T-500 (KBA), 6; ASC, 28
- B. Camp is in good condition, no major drifting. The skiway is at full ACL (we arrived with 19.5 klbs).
- C. The Basler is in town supporting the Gimble project (G-099) and the Twin Otter is supporting PoleNet (G-079) and other activities.
- D. Five Carpenters from McMurdo have been working on the Arch (see below)
- E. The Arch had been dug out by the time I arrived. The roof exit had to be excavated before it could be accessed. Snow from two winters made excavation of the ramps difficult as it was quite hard.
- F. High temperature of the season reached yesterday, -13 C.

4. Borehole Logging, Status

- A. I-161 has been drilling shot holes for their Seismic Experiment and are on schedule.

5. Arch Deconstruction, Status

- A. The Carpenter Crew has been working since arriving on 12/11. The Arch is in rough shape. They worked on Sunday and I appreciate their efforts.
- B. Both sides of the Arch interior are free of any drifted snow.
- C. The drill side doors were pushed open by the weight of the snow but fortunately after being buried so there was no drifting. However the end-wall buckled slightly above the doors so that when the doors swing they contact the floor. The flooring had to be completely removed all the way back to the end of the trench. The end-wall has been supported. Work continues.

- D. The gantry rails seem to be in good shape, not canted or warped more than usual and I suspect the gantries will be able to move on the rails. T-350 will have a better read on this though.
- E. Doors on the processing-side were not as bad but the floor has been removed back to the swing of the doors.
- F. The floor on the drill side has buckled so badly it has become difficult to move about easily. The Carpenters will install a false floor over the existing floor the length of the trench. It was discussed whether the floor should be removed, however the safety rails attach to the floor-joists and it would be unacceptable to remove the rails. Some tower parts needed to be moved in order to work on the floor.
- G. The gantry on the processing-side has been removed and is being packaged for retro. That was a big job on this side and it is good to have it done.

6. Other

- A. After having a rough-weather start, and two years of accumulation to deal with, camp is in brilliant condition. A lot of work went into getting camp into shape. Thanks to the Camp Staff and Put-in crew.
- B. The PIG Traverse went to Byrd Surface Camp to pick up fuel and returned with 3 additional snowmobiles. Two of these are being made available for Science as soon as they are serviced.
- C. There have been some flight delays but it's too early to tell how this will affect the schedule.