

II. Expedition Dates

Section II of the 2006-2007 season plan includes information concerning vessel and aircraft operations along with estimated dates of expeditions and other significant events.

Winfly Activities

Annual Augmentation of the U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) begins with austral winter flights (WINFLY), departing Christchurch, New Zealand, and arriving McMurdo Station, Antarctica, about 20 August 2006. The aircraft will carry scientists and support personnel to start early pre-summer projects, to August maintenance personnel, and to prepare skiways and ice runways at McMurdo Station. This will involve 4 U.S. Air Force C-17 flights and (373 personnel expected to deploy at WINFLY with 129 winter over employees redeploying).

Mainbody Activities

Austral summer activities will be initiated on 03 October 2006 with wheeled aircraft operations between Christchurch, New Zealand and the sea-ice runways at McMurdo Station, Antarctica. This will involve approximately 26 C-17 flights of transport aircraft of the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command (AMC), and 14 flights by C-130 transport aircraft of the Royal New Zealand Air Force. The sea-ice runway operations will cease about early December 2006. Williams Field will open for the ski-equipped LC-130 aircrafts and at the same time approximately 2 days pass the Ice Runway closure, Pegasus Blue Ice Runway will be open for wheeled aircraft from Christchurch to McMurdo. From approximately early December to the end of the season 27 USAF C-17 flights will finish out the airlift movement. The 109th ANG Airlift Wing will fly north from McMurdo to Christchurch on Saturdays and south from Christchurch to McMurdo on Sundays from 30 October through 10 February.

The 109th Air Wing of the Air National Guard in Schenectady, New York will provide six LC-130 aircraft and six crews for intra-continental flights from late October 2006 through mid-February 2007 when McMurdo Station closes.

Significant Dates

Other significant dates for the summer season include:

1. 20 August 2006 -Winfly Begins
2. 20 September 2006 -Palmer Station annual relief
3. 03 October 2006 -First C-17 mission to McMurdo Station during Ice Runway period. McMurdo Station commenced summer operations (1 of 21)
4. 05 October 2006 -Copacabana Field Camp opens
5. 06 October 2006 -Black Island opens
6. 07 October 2006 -Marble Point opens
7. 10 October 2006 -Cape Crozier opens
8. 11 October 2006 -New Harbor Camp opens
9. 15 October 2006 -Lower Erebus Hut opens
10. 17 October 2006 -Lake Hoare Camp opens
11. 17 October 2006 -Black Island Camp opens
12. 20 October 2006 -109th AW LC-130's arrive McMurdo Station to start on-continent missions
13. 20 October 2006 -Lake Bonney Camp opens
14. 20 October 2006 -F6 Camp opens
15. 20 October 2006 -Lake Fryxell Camp opens

16. 21 October 2006 -South Pole Station begins summer operations
17. 23 October 2006 -WAIS Divide Camp opens
18. 01 November 2006 -Cape Shirreff Field Station opens
19. 03 November 2006 -Petermann Island Camp opens
20. 15 November 2006 -Cape Royds Camp opens
21. 25 November 2006 -Siple Dome Camp opens
22. 03 December 2006 -Transfer flight operations from Sea Ice Runway to Williams field Skiway and Pegasus Blue Ice Runway
23. 23 January 2007 -MSC Refueling Tanker arrives at McMurdo
24. 04 February 2007 -*M/V American Tern* arrives at McMurdo Station ice pier, cargo offload operation commence
25. 12 February 2007 -Marble Point closes
26. 13 February 2007 -*M/V American Tern* Departs McMurdo Station ice pier, cargo operations completed
27. 13 February 2007 -Black Island closes
28. 24 February 2007 -Winter operations commence at South Pole Station
29. 28 February 2007 -109th AW departs McMurdo Station
30. 28 February 2007 -Winter operations commence at McMurdo Station

Ship Movements

Resupply Vessel

The resupply vessel (*American Tern*) is scheduled to complete one trip to McMurdo this season. The ship will depart Port Hueneme, California, in early January 2007 after on loading cargo and transit directly to Port Lyttelton, New Zealand. The Resupply Vessel will again on load additional cargo and depart New Zealand for McMurdo Station, Antarctica. Cargo will be off-loaded between 4 February – 10 February, after which the ship will depart McMurdo and proceed to Lyttelton, New Zealand to offload cargo destined for New Zealand. It will depart on approximately 17 February for Port Hueneme, CA to off-load waste and recyclable materials from McMurdo Station, approximately 78 March 2007 arrival at Port Hueneme, CA.

R/V Nathaniel B. Palmer

The R/V *Nathaniel B. Palmer* will conduct cruises in the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica. Scientific research conducted onboard will include the following disciplines: Marine Biology, Marine Geology and Geophysics, and Physical and Chemical Oceanography.

The vessel is scheduled for work in the Antarctic polar regions as well as in the mid-latitudes of the Pacific Ocean during the 202006-2007 season, including the Pacific and Southern Oceans and Ross Sea. Ports of call will include: Lyttelton, New Zealand; McMurdo Station, Antarctica; and Punta Arenas, Chile. The NBP will sail in support of approximately nine science cruises during the 202006-2007 season.

R/V Laurence M. Gould

The R/V *Laurence M. Gould* will conduct cruises in the Antarctic Peninsula area of the Southern Ocean and Drake Passage. Research projects supported during the 202006-2007 season will include Marine Biology, Chemical and Physical Oceanography, and Marine Geology and Geophysics. The R/V *Laurence M. Gould* will also provide logistics support to transport scientists, cargo, and personnel to and from Palmer Station from its primary port of Punta Arenas, Chile.

The R/V *Laurence M. Gould* will provide transport as described above and provide oceanographic and field camp research support in and around the Bransfield Strait area of the Antarctic Peninsula. Ports of call will include: Punta Arenas, Chile and Palmer Station, Antarctica. During the 202006-2007 season, the vessel will sail in support of six science cruises, three peninsula research field camp openings and numerous Palmer Station staff and resupply shuttles in the Antarctic Peninsula area.

R/V Yuzhmorgeologiya

The R/V *Yuzhmorgeologiya* is contracted by the Korean Polar Research Institute as a supply ship to service the Korean Antarctic base at King George Island and to conduct research cruises in the Drake Passage and Bransfield strait off of the Antarctic Peninsula.