

Appendix H

Glossary Terms and Acronyms

ACL (Allowable Cabin Load)

Payload of aircraft. Calculations based upon take-off (wheels/skis), landing restrictions, range, weather, fuel requirements, etc.

Airdrop

Method of delivering supplies by parachute from an aircraft in flight.

Apple (a.k.a. Tomato or Melon)

Structure or shelter made of red colored fiberglass, helicopter-transportable, segmented, and expandable (longer in length). Manufactured by Igloo Satellite Cabin in Australia.

Bag Drag

In preparation for field deployment, all passengers must weigh in with their baggage to accurately determine aircraft load. Usually held a few hours before the scheduled departure.

Beaker

Vernacular for scientist.

Berg Field Center (BFC)

Building 160 (also known as the Field Party Processing

Center). The central location for issues of field equipment such as tents, sleds, sleeping bags, etc.

Bumped

Referring to cargo or passengers that is/are removed from a flight due to weight restrictions or other considerations.

CDC

Acronym for the “Clothing Distribution Center” in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Chalet

Building 167: the USAP administration and operations center housing the offices of the NSF Representative(s) and ASA Resident Manager, as well as the administrative staff. The central location for referral, information, and assistance to grantees.

CHC

Acronym for “Christchurch,” New Zealand (a.k.a. “Cheech” or “Chi-Chi”).

CONUS

Acronym for the Continental United States.

Crack

A fissure or fracture in the sea ice produced by the stresses of wind, wave, tidal, mechanical, or thermal forces.

Crary Lab

Housed in Building 001, this is the scientific facility

operated by ASA. Also known as CSEC (Crary Science and Engineering Center)

Dive Locker

Located in Building 144. It houses research diving equipment for issue, including an air compressor for filling scuba tanks.

DNF

Acronym for “Do Not Freeze.”

ECW Clothing

Acronym for “Extreme Cold Weather” Clothing.

FAA

Acronym for “First Available Aircraft.”

Field Camps

A fixed location used as a base camp for the pursuit of various scientific endeavors. It often includes such amenities as a toilet, heated shelter, etc.

Field Party

A group of researchers pursuing their scientific interests in the field.

Fish Hut

A temporary movable shelter used on the sea ice.

Fixed-Wing

Describes aircraft such as the LC-130 Hercules or DHC-6/300 Twin-Otter, as opposed to rotary-wing aircraft, which are helicopters.

Flagged Route

A marked route that has been determined safe for vehicle travel by qualified personnel.

FOCC

Acronym for “Field Operation Communications Center” (referred to on the radio as “Mac Ops”).

Freshies

Vernacular for fresh fruit or vegetables.

FSTP (F-Stop)

Acronym for the “Field Safety Training Program,” which is a series of training courses emphasizing survival in the field.

HazMats (Hazardous Materials)

Any and all explosives, flammable liquids and solids, oxidizers, organic peroxides, corrosive materials, compressed gases, poisons, irritating materials, etiologic agents, radioactive materials, and other regulated materials. These items require proper packaging and certification prior to air transport, and may have passenger or other cargo compatibility limitations.

Herbie

Term used to describe a storm with fierce, blowing wind and/or snow, causing outdoor activities to be unpleasant.

Herc or Hercules

Turbo-prop, wheeled cargo aircraft (LC-130), or ski-equipped (LC-130) cargo aircraft.

Hourlies

Pertains to communicating local weather observations every 60 minutes, beginning 6 hours prior to scheduled aircraft departure and recurring “hourly” until after the aircraft lands.

Ice Edge

The boundary between sea ice and open sea at any given time and place.

Jamesway

A portable, rigid-frame, insulated tent similar to a small quonset hut. Can be built to any length, though height and width are fixed.

Jerry Cans

Military 5-gallon containers used to transport liquids such as fuel, oil, or glycol. Jerry cans are not suitable for air transport of flammable liquids.

JP-8

Type of fuel used for aircraft and in diesel applications such as generators, Caterpillar equipment, and Preways. This “single-fuel” replaces JP-4 (for aircraft use only) and DFA (Diesel Fuel, Arctic).

Kilo Air

A method of cargo shipment using surface vessels from Port Hueneme, CA, to New Zealand, then delivered to McMurdo Station by air.

Kovacs Auger

An ice auger used to drill small-diameter holes in the sea ice to determine ice thickness.

Mac Center

Located in Building 165, the air traffic control, flight following, and weather information facility.

Mac Channel

Regularly scheduled trans-Pacific military cargo flights.

Mac Ops

Call sign for the Field Operation Communications Center.

MCC or MCC Central

Acronym for the “Movement Control Center” Terminal Operations cargo facility in McMurdo staffed by ASA and New Zealand Army personnel.

MEC

Acronym for the “Mechanical Equipment Center” in Building 58. The MEC is the issue point for small generators, snowmobiles, batteries, light vehicles, etc. MEC staff prefer to be called MECCA.

Melt Pool

An area on the ice sheet that has sub-surface melting. An ice lens is usually present over the meltwater, giving the impression that it is solid. Many factors, including the amount of wind-borne dust from around McMurdo and ablation of snow cover caused by vehicle traffic, increases the solar absorption on the sea ice in front of McMurdo and immediately north of Hut Point. This area has historically deteriorated first and rapidly. Ice at outlying locations may be substantially better.

Mogas

Acronym for “Motor Automotive Gasoline.”

NSFA

Acronym for “Naval Support Force, Antarctica.”

OAE

Acronym for “Old Antarctic Explorer;” title given to program veterans.

OEA

Acronym for “Oil, Engine, Arctic.” A type of extreme cold weather engine lubricating oil.

Pallet

A portable platform used for handling/moving materials and packages. The pallets used for LC-130’s are made of aluminum and balsa wood, designated by the military as 463L pallets, and lock into place on the cargo deck.

Palletize

To place onto a pallet. Typically, for an LC-130 field operation, all outgoing cargo is palletized. For larger field camps, all camp materials are gathered and staged at a central location, then palletized all at once in a cooperative “palletization party.”

Pax

Vernacular for passengers.

PI

Acronym for the “Principal Investigator.” The senior representative of a science group.

Polarhaven

Tent-type shelter with a framework of aluminum tubing and insulated fabric cover, with either an insulated fabric or wood floor.

Pressure Ridge

Ice broken by pressure and thrust up into a chaotic pattern of elevations and depressions.

Preway

Non-portable type of space heater that uses JP-8 for fuel. Typically used to heat Jamesways and fish huts.

Purging Fuel

Either a diesel or kerosene fuel with a flashpoint above 141° that is used to rinse more flammable fuels out of containers and power equipment.

Recce

Aerial reconnaissance. Performed by LC-130 aircraft when a potential landing site for put-in may be questionable. Some researchers take advantage of the recce flight to view areas of investigation to determine safe traverse routes, and/or to airdrop materials and supplies to reduce the put-in flight's cargo weight.

Recompression Chamber

Housed in Building 85 which adjoins NSFA Medical (Building 142). It houses a chamber for treatment of pressure-related diving accidents and other conditions where hyperbaric oxygen therapy is indicated, such as carbon monoxide poisoning, gas gangrene, etc.

Retrograde

To return cargo from the field to McMurdo Station, or from McMurdo to destinations North. Usually in the reverse order of its initial deployment.

Sastrugi

Hard drifts of wind-carved snow. These drifts can reach 6 feet tall, and accordingly can affect overland travel.

Sea Ice

Ice which forms on the surface of the sea in polar ocean areas.

Shakedown

An overnight trip to test equipment, radios, sleds, snowmobiles, tents, etc. prior to deep-field deployment.

Sipre Auger

An ice-coring auger used to sample sea ice to determine its composition.

Space A

Acronym for “Space Available.” Refers to the program of allowing personnel (equitable between military and civilian) to use available aircraft space for a turn-around flight to South Pole or for a helicopter excursion.

Squirrel

Aerospatiale AS-350B helicopter, this is a sub-contracted helicopter that provides occasional support to the USAP.

Starlifter

Wheeled jet aircraft operated by the U.S. Air Force used for cargo deliveries from Christchurch, N.Z., to McMurdo during early summer operations; usually early October to mid-November, as well as Mac Channel missions. Also known as a C-141.

Tidal Crack

Tidal cracks occur in fast ice when the tidal action lifts the sea ice above or below the level at which it is shorebound.

T-Site

A transmitter facility operated by the Electronics Division. It is located on a hill between McMurdo and Scott Base.

VFR

Acronym for “Visual Flight Rules.” Required for helicopter operations.

WINFLY

Vernacular for the winter fly-in. Early season operations commence in mid-August, primarily to bring in support personnel to the Antarctic in preparation of the coming season.

Winter-Over

Vernacular for the period from late February to early August. It’s characterized by darkness and an absence of flight operations.