

USCG 'copters, crews head for Antarctica

Two helicopters and crews with Coast Guard Aviation Detachment 130 are scheduled to leave Mobile at 9 a.m. Saturday to rendezvous with an icebreaker off the Pacific Coast, bound for an Antarctic mission.

A Coast Guard public affairs spokesman said the two helicopters and a combined total of six crew members are to leave the Coast Guard Aviation Training Center, Bates Field, Saturday as part of "Deep Freeze 1993."

The spokesman said eight other support personnel will leave Mobile via commercial airline to board the icebreaker at Seattle, Wash.

During the six-month deployment, the spokesman said, the members of Detachment 130 will proceed to the Ross Sea "in the annual break out and resupply of both U.S. and New Zealand stations."

The spokesman said, "The detachment will also be working with scientists from the universities of Alaska and Wisconsin in the servicing and installation of new automated weather stations (in the Antarctic). Further studies include the collection of core samples of the ice and ocean floors. The detachment will be on board the Coast Guard icebreaker Polar Star."