

U.S. National Ice Center

PRESS RELEASE

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Iceberg A-81 Has Calved from the Brunt Ice Shelf in the Weddell Sea

24JAN2023, SUITLAND, MD — The U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC) has confirmed that iceberg A-81 (figure 1, below) calved from the Brunt Ice Shelf in the Weddell Sea. As of January 24, A-81 was centered at 75°39' South and 26°47' West and measured 28 nautical miles on its longest axis and 25 nautical miles on its widest axis. The initial break was seen in satellite imagery on 24 January.

The new iceberg was first detected on 22 January by the British Antarctic Survey, and confirmed by USNIC Analyst Katherine Quinn using the MODIS image below.

Iceberg names are derived from the Antarctic quadrant in which they were originally sighted. The quadrants are divided counter-clockwise in the following manner:

- A = 0-90W (Bellingshausen/Weddell Sea)
- B = 90W-180 (Amundsen/Eastern Ross Sea)
- C = 180-90E (Western Ross Sea/Wilkesland)
- D = 90E-0 (Amery/Eastern Weddell Sea)

When first sighted, an iceberg's point of origin is documented by USNIC. The letter of the quadrant, along with a sequential number, is assigned to the iceberg. For example, C-19 is sequentially the 19th iceberg tracked by USNIC in Antarctica between 180-90E (Quadrant C). Icebergs with letter suffixes have calved from already named icebergs, where the letters are added in sequential order. For example, C-19D is the 4th iceberg to calve off the original C-19 iceberg.

Iceberg positions are analyzed weekly and are available on the USNIC webpage at:
<https://usicecenter.gov/Products/AntarcIcebergs>

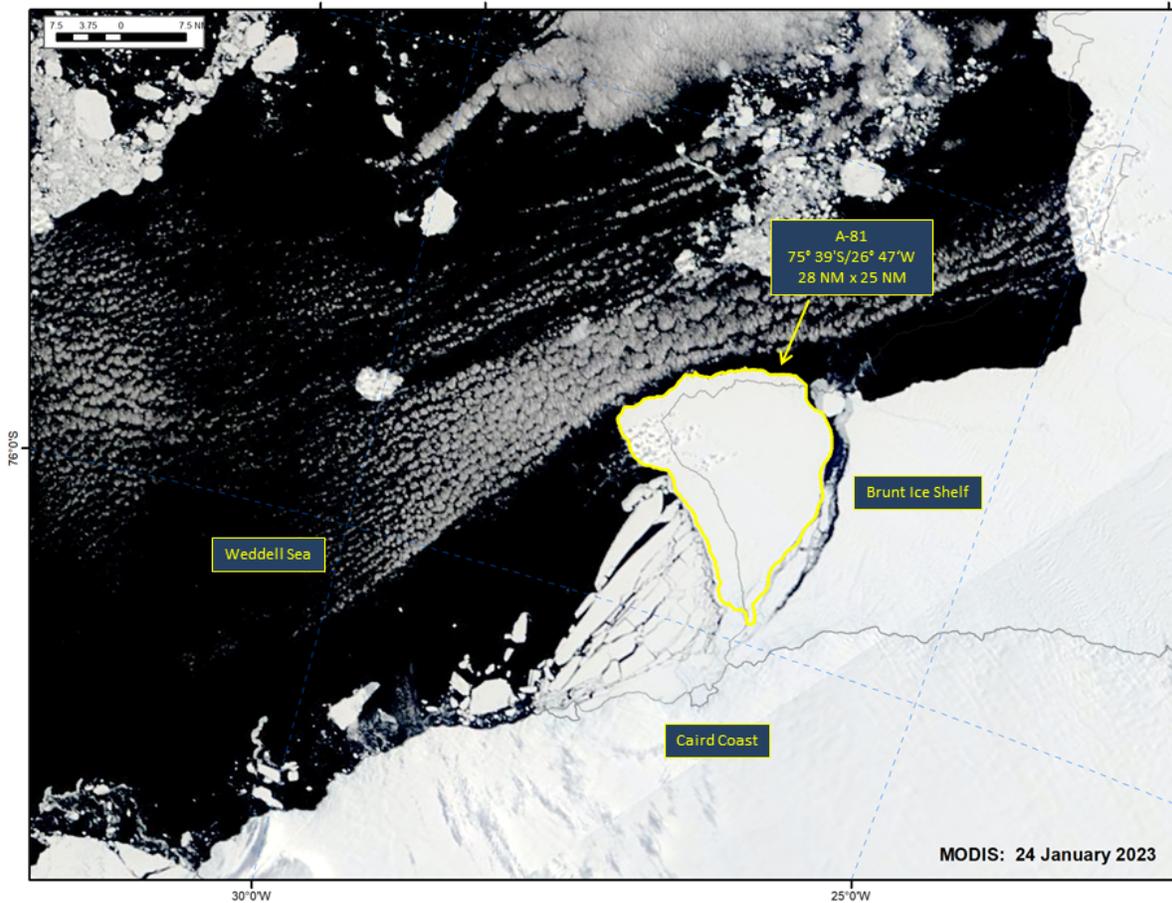


Figure 1: MODIS image of iceberg A-81 from January 24, 2023.

USNIC is a multi-agency center—subordinate to Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command—operated by the U.S. Navy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard and provides global to tactical scale ice and snow products, ice forecasting, and related environmental intelligence services for the United States government.

Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command directs and oversees more than 2,500 globally-distributed military and civilian personnel who collect, process and exploit environmental information to assist Fleet and Joint Commanders in all warfare areas to make better decisions faster than the adversary.

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