

December 26, 2003

<P>At approximately 13:04:10 UT on December 16, 2003 (8:04:10 AM local time) the Terra spacecraft transitioned to Earth-pointing Safehold. The Fault Detection, Isolation and Recovery (FDIR) software triggered the transition to Earth-pointing Safehold based on Out-of-Limit values on yaw rates on the Inertial Reference Units.</P>

<P>There was no Health or Safety impact to the spacecraft or instruments. However, no science data were collected from December 16 since the transition to Earth-pointing Safehold includes termination of science data collection and safeing of the instruments.</P>

<P>As of December 26, 2003, CERES, MODIS and MISR instruments have all been restored to normal science operations. As of 2 p.m. EST on Friday December 26, 2003, MOPITT commanding had been completed to conduct an outgassing/decontamination sequence ahead of the planned date in early January 2004 to take advantage of the instrument already being in standby mode as a result of the safehold condition. MOPITT will be restored to science operations early next week. ASTER commanding is also being conducted today and the instrument is expected to be fully operational beginning with observations scheduled in the next Absolute Time Command load which will commence operating at 2000 UTC tomorrow (3 p.m. EST on Saturday, December 27, 2003).</P>