

Abstract Submitted
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An engineering array for the High Altitude Water Cherenkov (HAWC) Gamma-Ray Observatory MEGAN LONGO, MIGUEL MOSTAFA, Colorado State University, HAWC COLLABORATION — The High Altitude Water Cherenkov (HAWC) gamma-ray observatory is currently being deployed at 4100 m in Sierra Negra, Mexico. The HAWC observatory will have 300 Water Cherenkov Detectors (WCDs). Each WCD will be instrumented with 4 upward facing baffled photo multiplier tubes (PMTs) anchored to the bottom of a 5 m deep by 7.3 m diameter steel container with a multilayer hermetic plastic bag containing 200,000 liters of purified water. An engineering array of 6 WCDs was deployed in Summer 2011 at the HAWC site and has been operational since then. This array serves to validate the design and construction methods for the HAWC observatory. It has also been collecting data which allows for the development of data collection and analysis tools. Here we will describe the deployment of the engineering array, the lessons learned from this experience and the implications for HAWC, as well as give an introduction into data collection and initial analysis being done, which will be presented jointly.

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