

USAF flight issues in support of Antarctic Research

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While many nations conduct research in Antarctica, many rely on the USAF for intra-continental airlift between McMurdo and the other outposts. In general, "aviation quality" observations (i.e., obs with reliable ceiling and visibility measurements) are desired for safety of flight for any runway where aircraft take-off and land. In addition, both surface and upper air obs would be useful along the flight paths of transiting aircraft. Unfortunately, very few such obs in Antarctica exist, and those that do are often hard to find and may be untimely. With both safety of flight and improving support to research on the continent as the motivation, this presentation is intended to generate a conversation between the USAF and all nations conducting research in Antarctica on ideas for collaboration towards improving observations in terms of quality, timeliness, dissemination and accessibility.