Improvements to NPP Operational Forecaster Training
Joey Snarski

Motivation: Thorough training is the foundation for providing the best forecasting services possible, especially for seasonal NPP forecasters who have limited time to become proficient in unique Antarctic forecasting techniques. Training methods and knowledge need to evolve while also incorporating new technology to maintain the required high-level of training. This complete approach to training will enable the forecasting staff to provide accurate weather observations and outlooks critical to safe operations within the United States Antarctic Program.

Updates and Future Plans: Multiple updates to training are already currently being implemented or are being planned for near-term utilization. The improvements to the internal case study program are simultaneously growing NPP Meteorology's knowledge base and also being used to create forecasting scenario training. Several data analyses are being conducted to reveal new ways our current meteorological data can be used for operational forecasting. New technology will provide trainees with a unique view of Antarctic weather for familiarization purposes. Digitization of training records and material will allow for more fluid tracking of training progress and customization depending on trainee needs. Trainees will have an earlier and more in-depth experience with internal systems, programs, and processes through an enhanced ground school, which empowers them to maximize their impact within the forecasting team.

Conclusions: Combining knowledge base improvements, new training methods, and additional training technology, NPP Meteorology will provide top-tier forecaster training to seasoned veterans and new seasonal hires alike.