

Early Career Perspective on Antarctic Operations

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NIWC LANT Polar Programs delivers crucial operational meteorology support to the U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP), enabling both flight travel and scientific field research throughout Antarctica. The complexities of Antarctic flight operations present significant challenges, even for seasoned department leaders. Navigating interagency dynamics while managing daily tasking and meteorological training highlighted both the adaptability and resilience needed for a successful mission. Discussion of lessons learned during the 2024-25 Antarctic field season from the perspective of an early career meteorologist following a first trip to the ice.