
DRYDEN FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

1
00:00:00,010 --> 00:00:04,000
The DC-8 we're preparing for Operation IceBridge this year.

2
00:00:04,020 --> 00:00:08,030
It's our third year in supporting this campaign. These are ice studies

3
00:00:08,050 --> 00:00:12,060
down in the Antarctic. We fly regularly about 11-hour missions

4
00:00:12,080 --> 00:00:16,080
and for the last three weeks we've been preparing the aircraft for this effort.

5
00:00:16,100 --> 00:00:20,110
So we're excited to get it going and we'll be leaving this Sunday on this trip.

6
00:00:20,130 --> 00:00:24,130
Typically a few weeks before the deployment,

7
00:00:24,150 --> 00:00:28,150
we start installing all the science instruments onto the aircraft

8
00:00:28,170 --> 00:00:32,160
here at Dryden, and then we need to test fly the aircraft before we deploy.

9
00:00:32,180 --> 00:00:36,230
And we have done this this week so we fly typically over

10
00:00:36,250 --> 00:00:40,290
known targets in the Mojave desert here and the

11
00:00:40,310 --> 00:00:44,330
Pacific Ocean and when we are comfortable that

12
00:00:44,350 --> 00:00:48,380
everything works as we expect, we are ready for deployment and then we

13
00:00:48,400 --> 00:00:52,440

will leave on Sunday for Punta Arenas in Chile.

14
00:00:52,460 --> 00:00:56,500
And of course there aren't any airfields down on the Antarctic

15
00:00:56,520 --> 00:01:00,560
continent that we could easily operate out of so we're operating out of

16
00:01:00,580 --> 00:01:04,610
southern Chile -- we're about as far south in South America as you can get

17
00:01:04,630 --> 00:01:08,640
and that gets us as close as you possibly can to the Antarctic. The DC-8 is

18
00:01:08,660 --> 00:01:12,670
well-suited for this kind of work because of the long legs it can fly.

19
00:01:12,690 --> 00:01:16,760
Operation IceBridge is the largest airborne campaign that has ever been

20
00:01:16,780 --> 00:01:20,800
flown of the polar ice sheets so far,

21
00:01:20,820 --> 00:01:24,850
and I'm really excited to be part of it because we fly six different airplanes

22
00:01:24,870 --> 00:01:28,880
this year -- three of them over the Arctic and three of them in the

23
00:01:28,900 --> 00:01:32,910
Antarctic and the DC-8 is the main workhorse

24
00:01:32,930 --> 00:01:36,940
for us to cover a lot of ground over the Antarctic Peninsula

25
00:01:36,960 --> 00:01:41,010
and the many glaciers that flow into the southern ocean.

26
00:01:41,030 --> 00:01:45,020
We are going back every year over the same glacier in Antarctica

27
00:01:45,040 --> 00:01:49,070
and measure with extreme precision how the surface