



1
00:00:12,500 --> 00:00:04,180

[music]

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00:00:12,520 --> 00:00:16,670

My name is Christy Hansen, and I'm the new project manager on an airborne

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00:00:16,690 --> 00:00:20,840

campaign for Earth science called Operation IceBridge.

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00:00:20,860 --> 00:00:24,910

I've been working at NASA here for almost 11 to 12 years, and my whole career before IceBridge was

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00:00:24,930 --> 00:00:29,090

all space flight related. So I worked Space Shuttle program and space station.

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00:00:29,110 --> 00:00:33,220

And then I was looking around to try something different, and I thought, "airborne

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00:00:33,240 --> 00:00:37,310

campaign?" "What is this, what is this Operation IceBridge?"

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00:00:37,330 --> 00:00:41,380

And then I learned, here at NASA, it's amazing how much work is being done, using aircraft.

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00:00:41,400 --> 00:00:45,430

So essentially what this airborne campaign does, is it flies up to nine

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00:00:45,450 --> 00:00:49,470

different geophysical instruments installed on the aircraft so

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00:00:49,490 --> 00:00:53,520

for part of the year up in the Arctic, up north, between March and May,

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00:00:53,540 --> 00:00:57,690

we fly this airplane over the Greenland ice sheet, collecting data on

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00:00:57,710 --> 00:01:01,880

the changing ice sheets, the sea ice, and the glaciers. And the idea is

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00:01:01,900 --> 00:01:06,060

collecting data and showing over a long time series, how is the ice sheet changing,

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00:01:06,080 --> 00:01:10,240

maybe we can find out why it's changing.

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00:01:10,260 --> 00:01:14,420

IceBridge teams are all over the country. We have scientists, instrument managers,

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00:01:14,440 --> 00:01:18,560

we have a data center, we have aircraft offices all over.

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00:01:18,580 --> 00:01:22,720

So they really needed someone who could kind of bridge the gap between all those communities so,

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00:01:22,740 --> 00:01:26,860

the work was getting done and it's a hugely successful mission, but maybe I can

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00:01:26,880 --> 00:01:30,980

help make things efficient, help with their documentation, and things like that or ...

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00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:35,100

so really, each day, I just I stand back and I look -- where can I help? Because these are super smart people.

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00:01:35,120 --> 00:01:39,210

Where can I help and not get in the way?

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00:01:39,230 --> 00:01:43,300

It's like magic watching the teams work together. We have the aircraft team. They know what

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00:01:43,320 --> 00:01:47,370

to do. They're keeping the plane safe. They make sure everything's configured correctly on the plane.

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00:01:47,390 --> 00:01:51,410

The instrument teams. They're operating their laser altimeters, we have four radar systems.

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00:01:51,430 --> 00:01:55,440

We have a magnetometer and a gravimeter. They know what to do, they're on the plane.

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00:01:55,460 --> 00:01:59,620

So it's like a well-oiled machine, to get out there and think, look at all these teams.

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00:01:59,640 --> 00:02:03,800

How are they working? Are they working together well? Does anyone need anything?

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00:02:03,820 --> 00:02:07,990

And it's all coming together for a common goal of we're going to go out there, we're going to work our butts off,

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00:02:08,010 --> 00:02:12,160

collect this data, publish this data, and ultimately learn more things about the Earth

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00:02:12,180 --> 00:02:16,330

and maybe things we can do to understand, you know, future sea level rise or climate change.

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00:02:16,350 --> 00:02:20,510

Yeah, so it's been pretty like a huge whirlwind

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00:02:20,530 --> 00:02:24,670

because this is only my fifth month on the job and literally a month into it

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00:02:24,690 --> 00:02:28,830

I flew to Greenland and supported the mission there for three weeks.

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00:02:28,850 --> 00:02:32,990

I've never been to Greenland before, and but I've done mountaineering in my past so I've always

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00:02:33,010 --> 00:02:37,110

been interested just from an adventurous side in climbing on the ice.

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00:02:37,130 --> 00:02:41,220

So, when I found out about IceBridge and a way to bring my, you know, science

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00:02:41,240 --> 00:02:45,310

engineering -- and right now it's more project management work -- and mesh that with

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00:02:45,330 --> 00:02:49,400

being on the ice or being around ice, I couldn't even find a better match than IceBridge.

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00:02:49,420 --> 00:02:53,480

Other than work, the coolest thing I did when I was there,

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00:02:53,500 --> 00:02:57,530

one weekend we kinda had off. It's not trivial getting out to the edge of the ice sheet,

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00:02:57,550 --> 00:03:01,570

and then you get there and you see literally, the edge of the Greenland ice sheet.

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00:03:01,590 --> 00:03:05,760

Which I had imagined being just like this flat natural curve-down, but it was literally a huge ice wall.

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00:03:05,780 --> 00:03:09,940

So, they even warn you -- don't step onto the ice sheet 'cause

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00:03:09,960 --> 00:03:14,120

huge pieces of ice could fall on your head. Anyway, we went there and I thought it would be cool to collect

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00:03:14,140 --> 00:03:18,300

"ice samples" for my friends. So I had my mountaineering Nalgene bottles and

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00:03:18,320 --> 00:03:22,470

a little knife and etched off some pieces of it and brought it back to the U.S. so I could give little