



1
00:00:00,010 --> 00:00:04,040
You could say Kyle

2
00:00:04,060 --> 00:00:08,080
Krabill is fond of his four-wheeler. But that's not what made him

3
00:00:08,100 --> 00:00:12,140
carefully pack it for travel, outfit it with specialized equipment

4
00:00:12,160 --> 00:00:16,150
like a GPS tracker, and bring it along

5
00:00:16,170 --> 00:00:20,170
on a 10,000 mile trip from his home in Virginia to the frozen

6
00:00:20,190 --> 00:00:24,220
continent of Antarctica.

7
00:00:24,240 --> 00:00:28,240
Twice a year, Kyle takes part in a NASA mission called

8
00:00:28,260 --> 00:00:32,250
Operation IceBridge. He and he colleagues Robbie and John

9
00:00:32,270 --> 00:00:36,320
travel to both poles to measure our planet's changing ice with the use of lasers

10
00:00:36,340 --> 00:00:40,340
mounted on aircraft. But to make sure that data is accurate,

11
00:00:40,360 --> 00:00:44,380
the entire mission relies on precise calibration

12
00:00:44,400 --> 00:00:48,460
basically they need to know exactly where the ground is.

13
00:00:48,480 --> 00:00:52,470

Usually, they both set up ground stations

14

00:00:52,490 --> 00:00:56,510

and also drive around on a level surface, like a runway, to get a reference

15

00:00:56,530 --> 00:01:00,560

map of a known elevation. But for the first time last fall,

16

00:01:00,580 --> 00:01:04,580

IceBridge was flying out of McMurdo Station in Antarctica, a place

17

00:01:04,600 --> 00:01:08,610

with not much bare earth. And the runway? A floating

18

00:01:08,630 --> 00:01:12,670

sheet of ice in McMurdo sound, which moves up and down with the tides

19

00:01:12,690 --> 00:01:16,690

every day. The solution? A trip to nearby

20

00:01:16,710 --> 00:01:20,730

Black Island. Kyle Krabill: The reason it's named Black Island is because the wind blows

21

00:01:20,750 --> 00:01:24,780

so hard, all the time, it blows the snow off. It's good for us because

22

00:01:24,800 --> 00:01:28,800

we want to, measure, the actual dirt, on the island.

23

00:01:28,820 --> 00:01:32,830

The road that goes down it, bad for us because it's a very tough

24

00:01:32,850 --> 00:01:36,850

place to get to and do some work. Narrator: The plan: wait for a

25

00:01:36,870 --> 00:01:40,870

calm enough day for the McMurdo helicopter squad to be able to ferry the

26

00:01:40,890 --> 00:01:44,890

ATV over to the island, followed by Kyle, Robbie, and John.

27

00:01:44,910 --> 00:01:48,950

(music)

28

00:01:48,970 --> 00:01:52,990

On the first attempt,

29

00:01:53,010 --> 00:01:57,060

they only made it halfway there.

30

00:02:05,170 --> 00:02:09,170

But finally, the four-wheeler made the trip,

31

00:02:09,190 --> 00:02:13,210

followed by the crew.

32

00:02:25,300 --> 00:02:17,270

(music)

33

00:02:25,320 --> 00:02:29,350

Kyle Krabill: For this the entire thing was different than we've ever done

34

00:02:29,370 --> 00:02:33,410

It wasn't an easy thing. Any time you

35

00:02:33,430 --> 00:02:37,450

deal with helicopter operations and a place where the wind can blow

36

00:02:37,470 --> 00:02:41,490

up to 160 miles an hour, it's a tough place

37

00:02:41,510 --> 00:02:45,520

to work, it's a tough environment to work in.

38

00:02:45,540 --> 00:02:49,560

(music)

39

00:02:49,580 --> 00:02:53,580

The adventure was really fun. It was something different, and the day ended up

40

00:02:53,600 --> 00:02:57,630

looking really clean, and it worked well.

41

00:02:57,650 --> 00:03:01,670

(music)

42

00:03:01,690 --> 00:03:05,730

Narrator: A job well done, it was time to ferry the ATV back to McMurdo,

43

00:03:05,750 --> 00:03:09,750

and when the campaign was over, return 10,000 miles to the

44

00:03:09,770 --> 00:03:13,790

Eastern Shore of Virginia, where Kyle and his four-wheeler would have quite a story

45

00:03:13,810 --> 00:03:17,840

to tell.

46

00:03:50,160 --> 00:03:21,870

(helicopter sounds)

47

00:03:50,180 --> 00:03:54,240

(faint helicopter sounds)