

MICHAEL HAMMER

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CHILE



1
00:00:08,070 --> 00:00:04,050

[music]

2
00:00:08,090 --> 00:00:12,120

Narrator: Operation IceBridge is fundamentally about climate research,

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00:00:12,140 --> 00:00:16,180

but it never misses an opportunity to teach. While deployed at the

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00:00:16,200 --> 00:00:20,260

always-windy southernmost tip of Chile, the team hosted

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00:00:20,280 --> 00:00:24,300

the US Ambassador, as well as the space agency's chief scientist.

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00:00:24,320 --> 00:00:28,370

Ambassador: This is very exciting to be part of this NASA IceBridge mission

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00:00:28,390 --> 00:00:32,400

and it shows what good work we do with the State Department and with NASA in promoting science diplomacy

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00:00:32,420 --> 00:00:36,430

in countries like Chile. Narrator: The pair traveled with the research team

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00:00:36,450 --> 00:00:40,500

for an actual mission over Antarctica. There they got a first-hand opportunity

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00:00:40,520 --> 00:00:44,530

to see how the team does the job. Stofan: IceBridge is vital because

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00:00:44,550 --> 00:00:48,620

it's studying our changing Arctic and our changing Antarctic to help understand

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00:00:48,640 --> 00:00:52,650

the real true effects of climate change that are happening in these regions.

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00:00:52,670 --> 00:00:56,690

Narrator: Climate change presents intellectual challenges. It's tough

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00:00:56,710 --> 00:01:00,770

to grasp transformations at the planetary scale when we live our lives

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00:01:00,790 --> 00:01:04,780

at the human scale. But global climate is changing.

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00:01:04,800 --> 00:01:08,810

And because it concerns the whole planet, NASA sends teams around the world

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00:01:08,830 --> 00:01:12,820

to collect essential data. Operation IceBridge is just such a mission.

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00:01:12,840 --> 00:01:16,840

It deploys flying research laboratories like this

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00:01:16,860 --> 00:01:20,860

to repeatedly measure changes in polar ice.

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00:01:20,880 --> 00:01:24,910

That's what brought the team to Punta Arenas at the southern tip of Chile. It's the best location

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00:01:24,930 --> 00:01:28,940

for staging regular missions over Antarctica.

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00:01:28,960 --> 00:01:32,970

It also afforded the US diplomatic mission first-hand experience with something that's

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00:01:32,990 --> 00:01:37,020

ultimately beneficial for broader goals.

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00:01:37,040 --> 00:01:41,070

So the studies that we're doing on climate change are critical to our mission.

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00:01:41,090 --> 00:01:45,090

Ambassador: Our embassy's very supportive of this. It's part of my job, and part of our jobs as ambassadors

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00:01:45,110 --> 00:01:49,130

to promote good relations between countries, and this kind of activity, this kind of mission

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00:01:49,150 --> 00:01:49,160

does exactly that.