



1

00:00:00,050 --> 00:00:04,190

Narrator: Every year you start out with zero.

2

00:00:04,210 --> 00:00:08,200

Zero miles flown, zero data collected.

3

00:00:08,220 --> 00:00:12,200

This year, IceBridge started out with yet another big zero

4

00:00:12,220 --> 00:00:15,600

there were no aircraft available for the mission, as NASA's

5

00:00:15,600 --> 00:00:19,780

decades-old P-3 was getting re-winged.

6

00:00:19,780 --> 00:00:24,280

So the team turned to their friends at NOAA for help. And they got ...

7

00:00:24,310 --> 00:00:28,340

Miss Piggy, another P-3 aircraft and a veteran

8

00:00:28,360 --> 00:00:32,450

of 88 hurricane missions from Floyd to Frances to Katrina,

9

00:00:32,470 --> 00:00:36,460

operated by a crack flight crew ready to tackle

10

00:00:36,480 --> 00:00:40,520

the far frozen north for the first time.

11

00:00:40,540 --> 00:00:44,590

After installing IceBridge's many instruments onto the aircraft,

12

00:00:44,610 --> 00:00:48,590

performing needed maintenance, and flying a few test flights

13

00:00:48,610 --> 00:00:53,860

over Tampa Bay, the OIB team was finally ready to go.

14

00:00:53,860 --> 00:00:56,720

The team's first target was to take measurements

15

00:00:56,740 --> 00:01:00,680

measurements of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean, and after a few weeks,

16

00:01:00,680 --> 00:01:04,240

IceBridge had achieved solid coverage of the western Arctic basin,

17

00:01:04,240 --> 00:01:09,060

and on one mission, even grazed the North Pole itself, coming within

18

00:01:09,090 --> 00:01:12,850

200 meters of the top of the world.

19

00:01:12,850 --> 00:01:17,420

From there, the mission changed its focus to northern land ice, and after

20

00:01:17,440 --> 00:01:21,930

waiting days for the fog to lift, finally managed to hit a crucial target –

21

00:01:21,950 --> 00:01:26,370

the Zachariae Isstrom. This massive glacier

22

00:01:26,390 --> 00:01:30,570

drains 5% of the Greenland ice sheet, and in 2012,

23

00:01:30,590 --> 00:01:34,760

entered into a phase of rapid retreat, making repeat measurements

24

00:01:34,780 --> 00:01:38,760

all the more crucial.

25

00:01:38,780 --> 00:01:42,820

Finally, the mission hit a range of classic land ice targets in south and central Greenland,

26

00:01:42,840 --> 00:01:46,890

including the Jakobshavn Glacier in the west and Helheim in the East.

27

00:01:46,910 --> 00:01:50,940

These measurements, taken at the end of the freeze cycle,

28

00:01:50,960 --> 00:01:54,980

will provide a good baseline for IceBridge's next campaign

29

00:01:55,000 --> 00:02:00,080

a high altitude repeat of many of the same flight paths at the end of the melt season.

30

00:02:00,660 --> 00:02:03,100

Comparing the two data sets will reveal