Glossary

62nd Airlift Wing Provides C-17 aircraft support to the U.S. Antarctic Program; headquartered at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

109th Airlift Wing Division of the New York Air National Guard that supports the U.S. Antarctic Program.

139th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron (EAS) Designation of the 109th Airlift Wing when deployed.

304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron (EAS) Designation of the 62nd Airlift Wing when deployed.

500th Air Expeditionary Group (500 EAG) Commands all LC-130 and C-17 activities and personnel in New Zealand and Antarctica.

ACA Antarctic Conservation Act.

ACL Allowable Cabin Load. Payload of aircraft. Calculations based upon take-off, landing restrictions, range, weather, fuel requirements, etc.

AFRTS American Forces Radio and Television Service.

AIL Antarctic Infrastructure and Logistics. NSF Division of Polar Programs functional work group.

AIMS Antarctic Infrastructure Modernization for Science.

AMC Air Mobility Command, U.S. Air Force.

ANG Air National Guard, U.S. Air Force Reserve Component.

ANT NSF Divison of Polar Programs functional work group managing research grants.

AOD Airport of Departure.


APO Army and Air Force Post Office.

APT Antarctic Passenger Terminal at the International Antarctic Center in Christchurch, New Zealand.

ASC Antarctic Support Contract. The primary logistical support contractor to the USAP, managed by Leidos.

ASMA Antarctic Specially Managed Area.

ASPA Antarctic Specially Protected Area.

ATO Antarctic Terminal Operations. Division of ASC that manages the movement of passengers and cargo.

Bag Drag Similar to check-in with commercial airlines. Passengers are weighed and checked for ECW gear, carry-on bags are approved, and bags are palletized for transport.

BEST Recycling ASC teammate that provides waste and recycling services to the USAP.

BFC Berg Field Center. The McMurdo building contains tents, sleeping bags and other field camp equipment.

Bio Palmer Station building containing the biology laboratory.

BizOps Business Operations. ASC functional work group overseeing finance and budget.

Boomerang A flight that departs and returns to its origin, due to weather or maintenance considerations.

Bumped Refers to cargo or passengers that is/are removed from a flight due to weight restrictions or other considerations.

C-17 A U.S. Air Force aircraft used for transporting cargo and personnel between New Zealand and McMurdo.

CDC Clothing Distribution Center located in Christchurch, N.Z.

Chalet Building that houses NSF and ASC headquarters staff at McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

CHC or CHCH Acronym for Christchurch. Pronounced “cheech.”

Clean Air Sector Area upwind from the South Pole Station that is not contaminated by exhaust fumes from station activity.

COMAIR Commercial airline transport.

COMNAP Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs.

COMSUR Commercial surface vessel transport.

Communications ASC functional work group overseeing publications, media relations, technical editing, education outreach, photo archiving and USAP-related news stories.

Condition One Weather condition when visibility is less than 100 ft., wind is greater than 55 knots, or wind chill is greater than -100°F.

Condition Three Weather condition better than Condition Two.

Condition Two Weather condition when wind speed is between 48-55 knots, or visibility is less than 1/4 mile, but greater than 100 ft., or wind chill is greater than -75°F, but less than -100°F.

Continental Area The part of the U.S. Antarctic Program that includes McMurdo Station, South Pole and field camps (not the Peninsula area).

CONUS Continental United States.

CSEC Crary Science and Engineering
Center. Laboratory at McMurdo Station. Also known as Building One, or Crary Lab.

Damco ASC teammate providing cargo logistics and Punta Arenas operations.

Dark Sector Area near the South Pole Station that is not contaminated by light pollution.

Deployment Initial passenger transport from airport of departure to destination.

DNF Do Not Freeze.

DoD Department of Defense.

DV Distinguished Visitor.

ECO Edison Chouest Offshore LLC. The company that owns and operates the two USAP research vessels.

ECW Extreme Cold Weather. Used in reference to the special clothing/equipment issued to U.S. Antarctic Program participants.

Event Number A number identifying a science group that has received funding from NSF to perform research in Antarctica.

FAR Federal Acquisition Regulations.

FMC Facilities, Maintenance, Construction, ASC functional area.

Gana-A’ Yoo (GSC) ASC teammate providing lodging, recreation, food service, retail and postal service for the USAP.

Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) Any organism in which any of the genes or genetic material has been modified by in vitro techniques.

GHG Corporation ASC teammate providing most of the on-Ice IT and communications support.

Grantee A scientist who has received a grant from the NSF.

GWR Palmer Station building containing the garage, warehouse and recreation.

Herbie Term used to describe a storm with fierce, blowing wind and/or snow.

HR Human Resources.

IAC International Antarctic Center, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Ice Slang term for Antarctica. Usage: “I’m going to the Ice.”


Implementers The people who work most closely with science projects in Antarctica.

IT&C Information Technology and Communications. ASC functional work group overseeing telecommunications and computers.

JSOC Joint Space Operations Center; a building in McMurdo.

KBA Kenn Borek Air, Ltd. The company that provides small fixed-wing aircraft, pilots and support.

Kiwi Nickname that refers to New Zealanders.

Land-line Describes a regular telephone line compared to broadcast radio conversation.

LC-130 A ski-equipped, four-engine Lockheed Hercules turboprop airplane.

Leidos The prime contractor supporting the USAP, managing the group of companies known as Antarctic Support Contract (ASC).

LMG Research support vessel called the Laurence M. Gould.

LTER Long Term Ecological Research.

MPI Ministry of Primary Industries, New Zealand.

Mainbody The period of time between October and February when the majority of USAP activity occurs.

MCC Movement Control Center, McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

MEC Mechanical Equipment Center, McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

Medevac Medical evacuation of a patient.

Milvan Vernacular for cargo containers used for shipping and storing supplies.

MOGAS Motor automotive gasoline.

MPC Marine project coordinator.

MPSM McMurdo, Palmer, South Pole Modernization.

MSC Military Sealift Command.

NPQ Not physically qualified.

NSF National Science Foundation, the agency of the U.S. government that manages the U.S. Antarctic Program.

NYANG New York Air National Guard.

NZAP New Zealand Antarctic Programme.

NZDF New Zealand Defence Force.

OAE Old Antarctic Explorer. A reference to an experienced Antarctic program participant.

Operations ASC functional work group overseeing vehicle fleet maintenance and operation, fuels, fire department, station services, and recycling.

PA Abbreviation for Punta Arenas, Chile; a staging area for Peninsula operations.

PAE ASC teammate providing infrastructure, operations, transportation and logistical support for the USAP.

PAE New Zealand ASC teammate providing Christchurch operations.

Pax Vernacular for passenger/s.

Pegasus A runway on permanent ice near McMurdo Station that accommodates wheeled airplanes.

PESH Polar Environment, Safety and Health. A group within the NSF Division of Polar
Programs responsible for environmental, safety and health issues.

**Peninsula Area** The part of the U.S. Antarctic Program that includes Palmer Station, R/V Laurence M. Gould, and other operations in the Antarctic Peninsula area.

**PHI** The company providing helicopters, pilots and helicopter support.

**Phoenix** A runway on compressed snow near McMurdo Station that accommodates wheeled airplanes.

**PI** Principal Investigator: Team leader or scientist in charge of a funded research project.

**Planning and Controls** ASC functional work group overseeing cost and labor scheduling.

**PMO** Program Management Office, ASC functional group that oversees the prime contract.

**Professional Services** Professional Services, an ASC functional work group that provides engineering oversight.

**POC** Point of contact.

**POLAR ICE** Participant On-Line Antarctic Resource Information Coordination Environment. A web-based data collection and dissemination system designed to capture and administer all relevant support requirements for scientific research in Antarctica.

**PQ'd or PQ** Physically Qualified.

**PSR** Point of Safe Return.

**PtH** Abbreviation for Port Hueneme, CA, the port through which most USAP cargo passes.

**Radioisotopes** A radioactive isotope used by scientists.

**Redeployment** Passenger transport from destination to origin.

**Retrograde** To return cargo from the field to McMurdo Station, or from McMurdo to destinations north. Usually in the reverse order of its initial deployment.

**RNZAF** Royal New Zealand Air Force.

**ROS** Required on site date, usually expressed as a Julian calendar date.

**RSP** Research Support Plan. The planned support to be provided for a science project.

**SAAM** Special Assignment Airlift Mission, a mission supported by U.S. Antarctic Program AMC at the request of the NSF.

**SAR** Search and Rescue.

**SCAR** Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, of the International Council of Scientific Unions, a nongovernmental organization.

**Science Planners** ASC personnel in Arlington, VA, who work with science groups to plan their research season.

**S&TPS** Science and Technical Project Services. ASC functional work group that works with scientists to ensure their research requirements are met.

**SFA** Support Forces Antarctica. The tactical operational name given to U.S. military activities in Antarctica.

**SIP** Support Information Package, a listing of the resources requested by the grantees to complete their research.

**SOPP** SPAWAR Office of Polar Programs. Agency that provides weather forecasting and air traffic control services for the USAP.

**SPoT** South Pole Traverse.

**SSC** Science Support Center, a building in McMurdo containing the MEC and field safety instructors.

**SUREPA** Senior U.S. Representative, Antarctica, appointed by the director of NSF to oversee U.S. government activities in Antarctica.

**T&L** Transportation and Logistics, an ASC functional work group overseeing cargo and passenger transport, and inventory management.

**USAF** United States Air Force.

**U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP)** United States Antarctic Program, the U.S. government’s program, administered by the National Science Foundation, for research and related activities regarding Antarctica.

**USAP Airlift** Refers to the scheduled movement of cargo and passengers from Christchurch to McMurdo.

**USCG** United States Coast Guard.

**USGS** United States Geological Survey.

**University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB)** ASC teammate providing medical qualifications and telemedicine services.

**V-event** A visitor, approved by the NSF, for visiting U.S. Antarctic Program locations.

**Vessel** A ship. Often refers to the annual resupply ship or to research vessels.

**VHF** Very high frequency: VHF radios are used locally around stations and ships.

**VMF** Acronym for the Vehicle Maintenance Facility, also known as the heavy shop.

**Winfly** Vernacular for “winter fly-in.” Usually occurring in late August.

**Williams Field Skiway** A snow skiway airport located near McMurdo Station.

**Winter** Verb to winter: to spend the austral winter season at a U.S. Antarctic Program station.