
Glossary

62nd Airlift Wing – USAF unit that provides C-17 aircraft support to the USAP.

109th Airlift Wing – Division of the New York Air National Guard that supports the USAP.

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. This is the aircraft payload, based on take-off conditions, landing restrictions, range, weather, and fuel requirements.

AFN – Armed Forces Network; provides television and radio content for McMurdo Station.

AIL – Antarctic Infrastructure and Logistics. NSF/OPP section responsible for material assets and logistics.

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/OPP section that manages 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 – The process whereby passengers are weighed and checked for ECW gear, carry-on bags are approved, and luggage is palletized for transport.

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

BFC – Berg Field Center. The McMurdo building that contains field camp equipment.

Biolab – 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 mechanical problems.

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 in Christchurch, New Zealand

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

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. Work and travel are severely restricted.

Condition Three – Weather condition in which there are no restrictions to work or travel.

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. There are some travel and work restrictions.

Continental Area – The part of Antarctica that includes McMurdo Station, South Pole Station, and many field camps (including deep-field camps). Does not include the Peninsula area.

CONUS – Continental United States.

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

Damco – ASC teammate providing cargo logistics and operational support in Punta Arenas.

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 and equipment issued to USAP participants.

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

FAR – Federal Acquisition Regulations.

Facilities – ASC functional area for facilities maintenance, construction, and professional services.

Gana-A' Yoo (GSC) – ASC teammate providing lodging, recreation, food service, retail service, 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 – Any individual who has received or is supported by a grant from the NSF.

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

Herbie – Term used to describe a storm with fierce winds and/or snow.

HR – Human Resources.

IAC – International Antarctic Center, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Ice – Slang term for Antarctica, as in “I’m going to the Ice.”

IGY – International Geophysical Year, 1957-1958.

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 for New Zealanders.

Land-line – A regular telephone line, as opposed to radio or other wireless communication.

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

Leidos – The prime contractor supporting the USAP; manages the group of companies known as Antarctic Support Contract (ASC).

LMG – Antarctic research and supply vessel ARSV *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 projects coordinator.

MPSM – McMurdo, Palmer, South Pole Modernization.

MSC – Military Sealift Command.

NBP – Research vessel ice breaker RVIB *Nathaniel B. Palmer*.

NGO – Non-governmental organization.

NPQ or NPQ'd – Not physically qualified.

NSF – National Science Foundation, the agency of the U.S. government that manages the USAP.

NYANG – New York Air National Guard.

NZAP – New Zealand Antarctic Programme.

NZDF – New Zealand Defence Force.

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 (PAE NZ) provides Christchurch operations.

Pax – Vernacular for passenger/s.

PESH – Polar Environment, Safety and Health. OPP section responsible for environmental, safety, and health issues.

Peninsula Area – The part of Antarctica that extends up toward South America and includes Palmer Station.

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.

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

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 or PQ'd – Physically Qualified.

PSR – Point of Safe Return.

PTH – Abbreviation for Port Hueneme, CA, the port through which most USAP cargo passes.

Radioisotope – Radioactive material used in research.

Redeployment – Passenger transport from destination to origin.

Retrograde – Describes cargo returned 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 that an item is required to be at a station or on a vessel, 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 the USAF 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 Alexandria, 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 personnel and equipment in Antarctica.

SIP – Support Information Package, a listing of the resources requested by the grantees.

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.

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

USAF – United States Air Force.

USAP – United States Antarctic Program. The U.S. government's program for research and related activities in 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.

UTMB – University of Texas Medical Branch. ASC teammate providing medical qualifications and telemedicine services.

V-event – A visitor, approved by the NSF, for visiting USAP locations.

Vessel – Generally 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 occurs in late August.

Williams Field – A snow skiway airfield located near McMurdo Station.

