COVID-19 Impacts on NSF Research & Operations in the Polar Regions

July 30, 2020

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Antarctic Infrastructure & Logistics

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Arctic Sciences

USAP Risk Mitigation

- Minimize the number of deployers
- Implement best available testing and isolation

Credit: Julie Grundberg

Credit: Bob Pharrell

The Upcoming Season for USAP

Credit: Jonathan Hayden

Credit: Mike Lucibella

Credit: Jack Green

Credit: Mike Lucibella
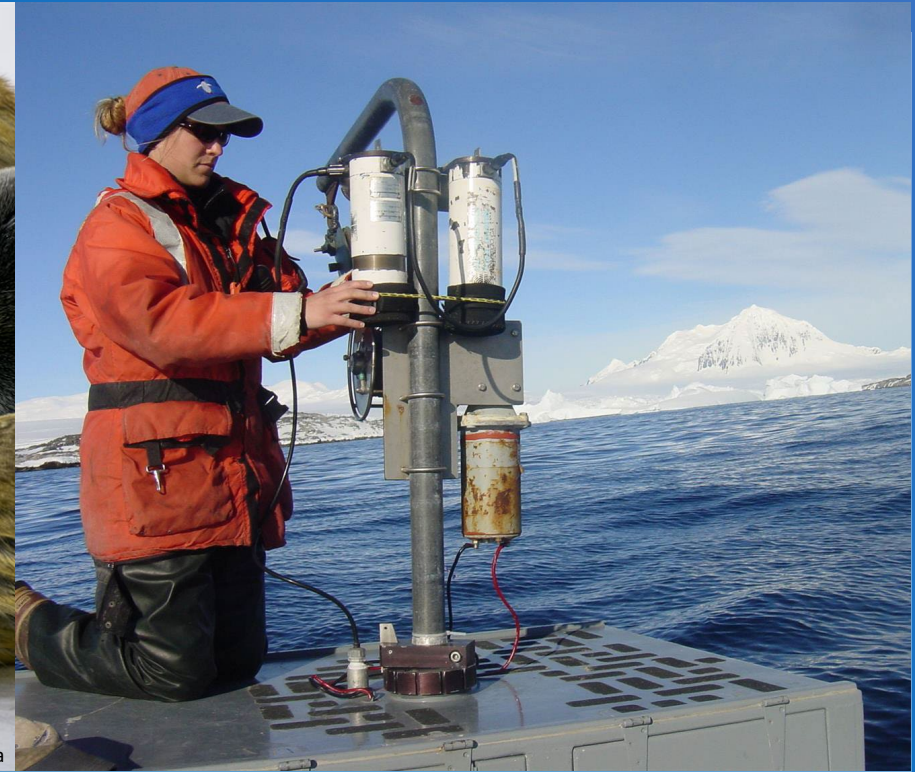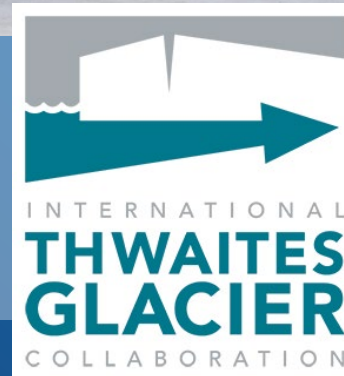
Impacts of COVID-19 on Antarctic Research

Antarctic Field Projects by Year
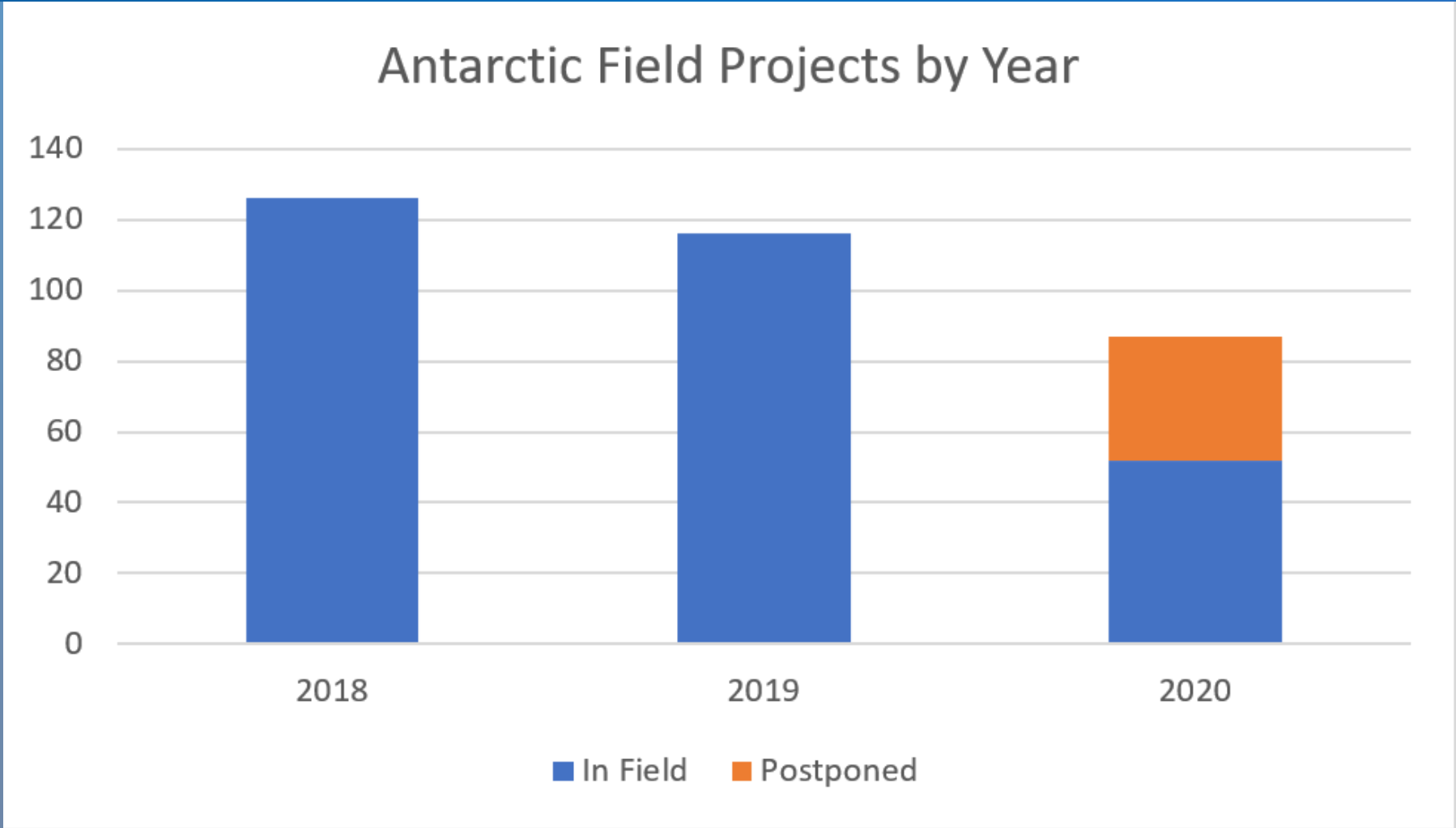
Continued Support to Science

Credit: Dr. Daniel Michalik

Credit: Mike Lucibella

Credit: Jeffrey Kietzmann

AIMS Impacts

Baseline Schedule as of June 30, 2020

VEHICLE EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS CENTER
- Design and Procurement
- Demolition and Site Preparation
- Construction

LODGING
- Design and Procurement
- Demolition and Site Preparation
- Construction

CENTRAL SERVICES
- Design and Procurement
- Demolition and Site Preparation
- Construction

UTILITIES
- Design and Procurement
- Demolition and Site Preparation (Included in construction)
- Construction

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
- Design and Procurement
- Demolition and Site Preparation
- Construction

TRADES
- Design and Procurement
- Demolition and Site Preparation
- Construction

FIELD SICENCE SUPPORT
- Design and Procurement
- Demolition and Site Preparation
- Construction

10/1/2018 10/1/2019 10/1/2020 10/1/2021 10/1/2022 10/1/2023 10/1/2024 10/1/2025 10/1/2026

Overcoming Challenges

Lack of Commercial Transportation
- Airline negotiation
- Charter flights
- Military transport

Infection in a Deployed Cohort
- Additional staffing in reserve
- Testing during isolation
- Conservative approach to gatherings

National Travel Restrictions
- Collaboration with gateways
- Defined plans and protocols
- Communication

Suspected Virus on Station
- Trained COVID response plans
- Clinic equipment and resources
- Testing and treatment options

Managed Isolation Issues
- Recruitment and education
- Code of Conduct annex
- Monitoring and vigilance

Emergency Response Capabilities
- International collaboration
- Tabletop exercises
- On-station testing capabilities

Communication

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Arctic Field Projects by Year
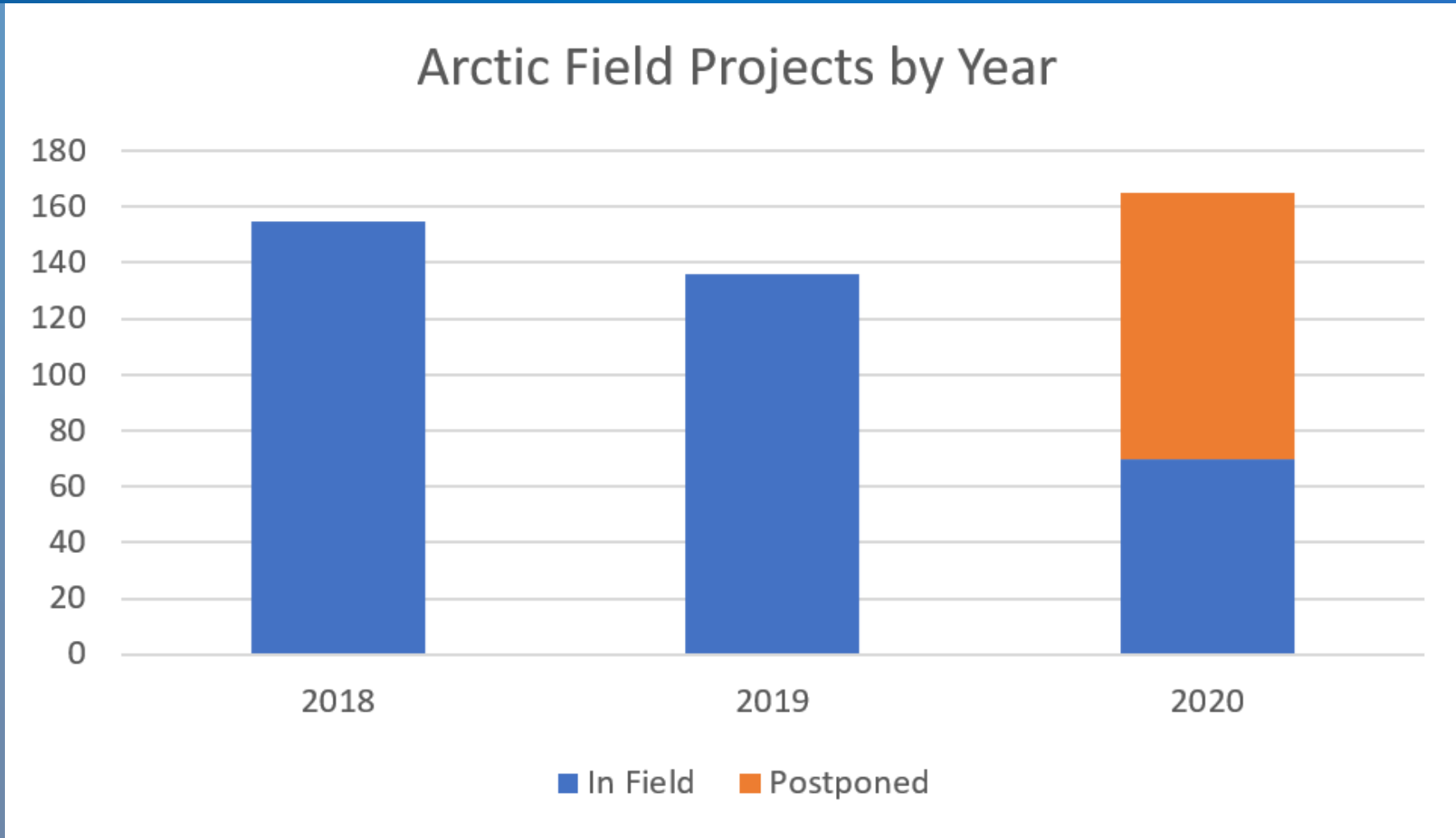
Summit Station & MOSAiC Expedition

Questions?