

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230**The United States Antarctic Program**

Welcome to the United States Antarctic Program.

The *United States Antarctic Program Participant Guide* was completely revised and updated for 2008-10. I think you will find it useful to read the entire publication well in advance of your deployment date. The book provides very practical information on the USAP, preparation for deployment, transport of people and cargo, and living and working in Antarctica. The *Guide* contains answers to the many questions that arise during an initial deployment, and is available online at www.usap.gov. I hope you will complete and return the evaluation card at the back of the book.

The United States Antarctic Program is committed to the safety and health of all participants regardless of affiliation or length of deployment. The harsh conditions in Antarctica represent obvious challenges to safe operations. Some tasks are potentially hazardous. Medical care on the Ice is limited. Reducing the risk of injury and illness depends on a combination of systematic risk assessment, hazard elimination or control, appropriate use of personal protective equipment, and safe work practices. Please pay close attention to the training on living and working safely in Antarctica. Report unsafe conditions promptly.

Your safety and the safety of those around you will depend on your conduct on the Ice. Alcoholic intoxication in the harsh Antarctic environment can be particularly dangerous and cannot be tolerated.

Note as well that you are responsible for full compliance with measures to protect the Antarctic environment. Failure to meet these obligations may result in sanction under US law.

From March 2007 until March 2009, the National Science Foundation will lead US involvement in the International Polar Year (IPY), an international effort to advance scientific research and discovery in both polar regions. The IPY is an exciting opportunity to expand polar scientific activity, train a new generation of polar scientists, educate the public about polar issues, and improve the infrastructure needed to support science. I encourage you to learn more about plans for the US IPY at www.us-ipy.gov.

I wish you a safe and productive deployment to Antarctica.

Karl Erb, Director
Office of Polar Programs
National Science Foundation