The Future of the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP)

Dr. Bob McCoy
Director, Geophysical Institute (GI)
University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)

- 62.39 deg (North) lat; 145.15 deg (West) Gakona, AK
- Phased array HF transmitter; 2.8 to 10 MHz; 33 acres; 5 x 3600 hp diesel engines; 3.6 MW; \$290M
- Air Force Research Lab, Space Vehicles Directorate (AFRL/RV) Kirtland AFB, NM





HF Ionospheric Heating



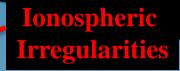
ELF, VLF

Magnetic Field Lines

Ionosphere

90 - 2000 km

HF Energy 2.8-10 MHz**3.6 MW**



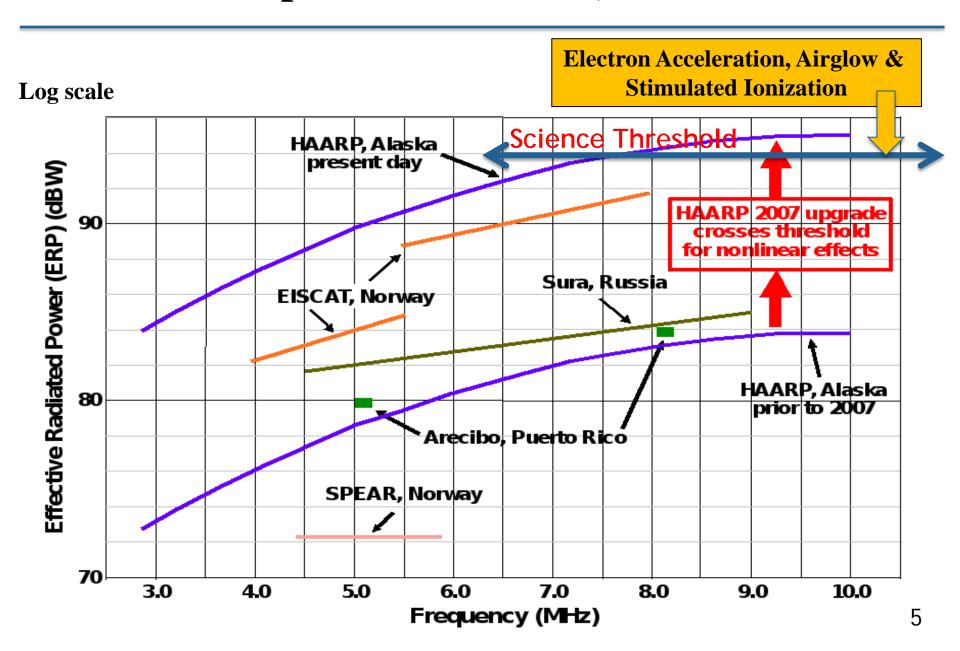
Radiation Belt

Remediation

Submarine Communication



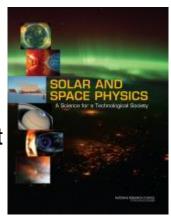
HAARP Compared to EISCAT, Sura & Arecibo



2013: Two National Research Council Studies Involving HAARP

• 2013 Decadal Survey in Solar and Space Physics

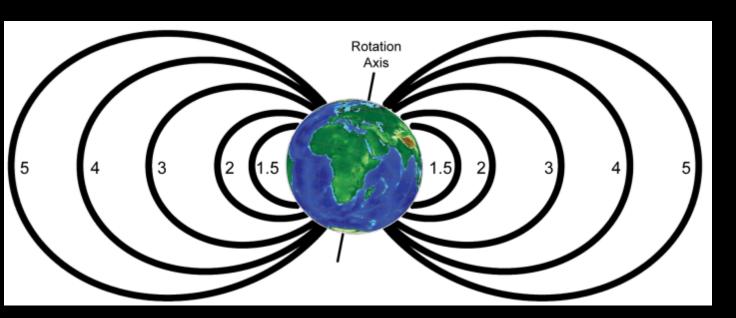
 Priority - Fully realize the potential of ionospheric modification techniques through collocation of modern heating facilities with a full complement of diagnostic instruments including incoherent scatter radars. This effort requires coordination between NSF and DOD agencies in planning and operation of existing and future ionospheric modification facilities.



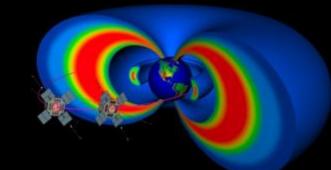
• Mar 2013 - Workshop: Opportunities for High-Power, High-Frequency Transmitters to Advance Ionospheric/Thermospheric Research

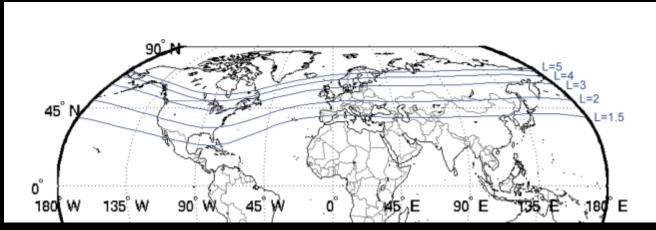
- NRC Workshops do not provide recommendations but report contains 72 pages of HAARP science
- Themes: Geospace and space weather; Stimulated emission and radiation belts; radio science, communications, and radar
- Strong recommendation to co-locate incoherent scatter radar



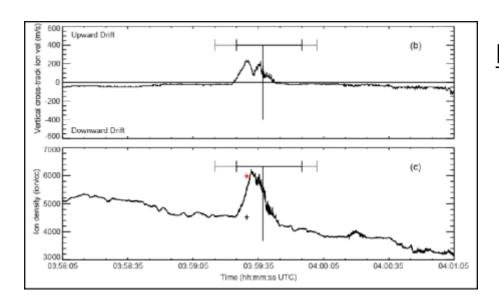


Van Allen Radiation Belts L-Shells NASA Van Allen Probes





New HAAARP Results Related to Radiation belt Remediation and VLF Propagation



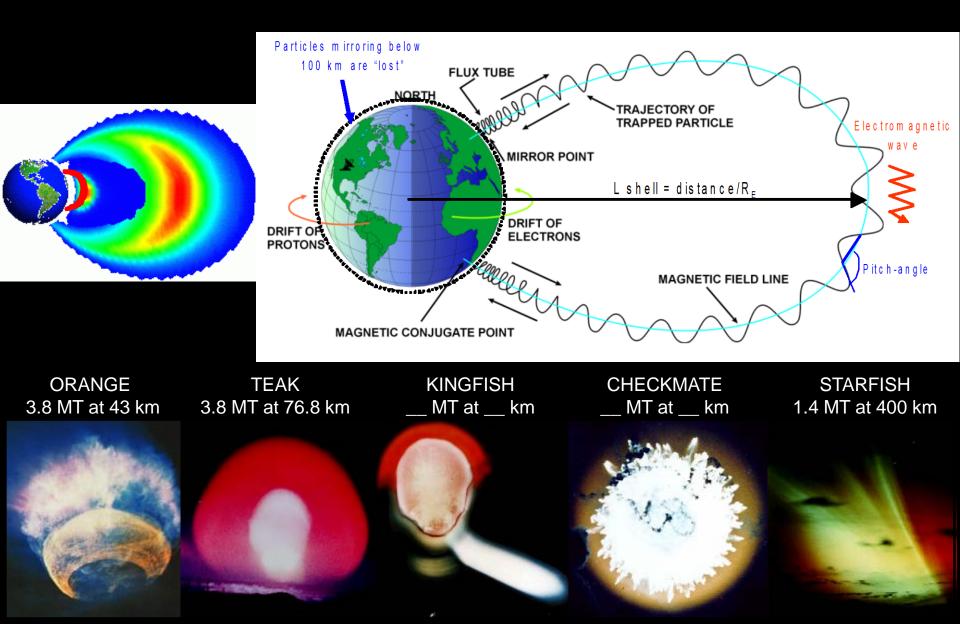
DMSP satellite data over HAARP

During heating experiments observe enhanced upward plasma flux and electron densities

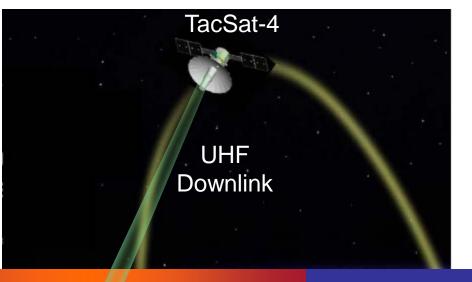
Chris Fallen et al., 2011

- Recent results from DARPA campaigns at HAARP have demonstrated optimum heating techniques to continuously maintain upward field-aligned plasma flux, density and electron temperature enhancements in the topside ionosphere (about 400-800km).
- Structures may act as field-aligned waveguides for ducting VLF waves to the magnetosphere and possibly to the opposite hemisphere.
- VLF waves may be generated by HAARP itself or other ground-based transmitter.
- HAARP can be used to optimize the continuous formation of VLF ducts, and also to simultaneously generate VLF signals.

Radiation Belt Dynamics and Energetics 2007 ONR MURI Topic



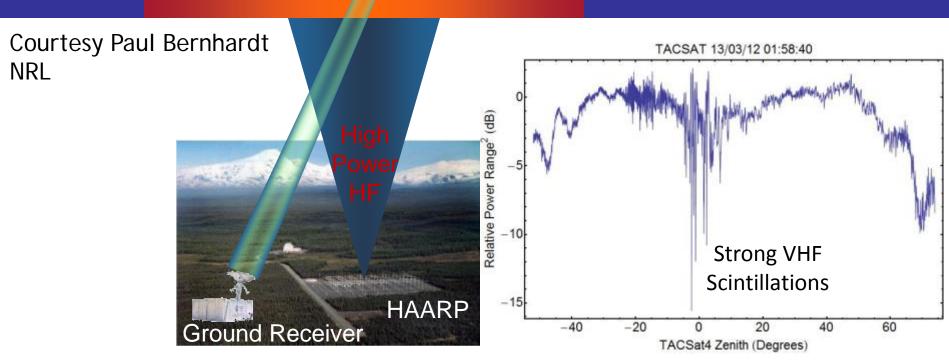
COMMX Working with HAARP

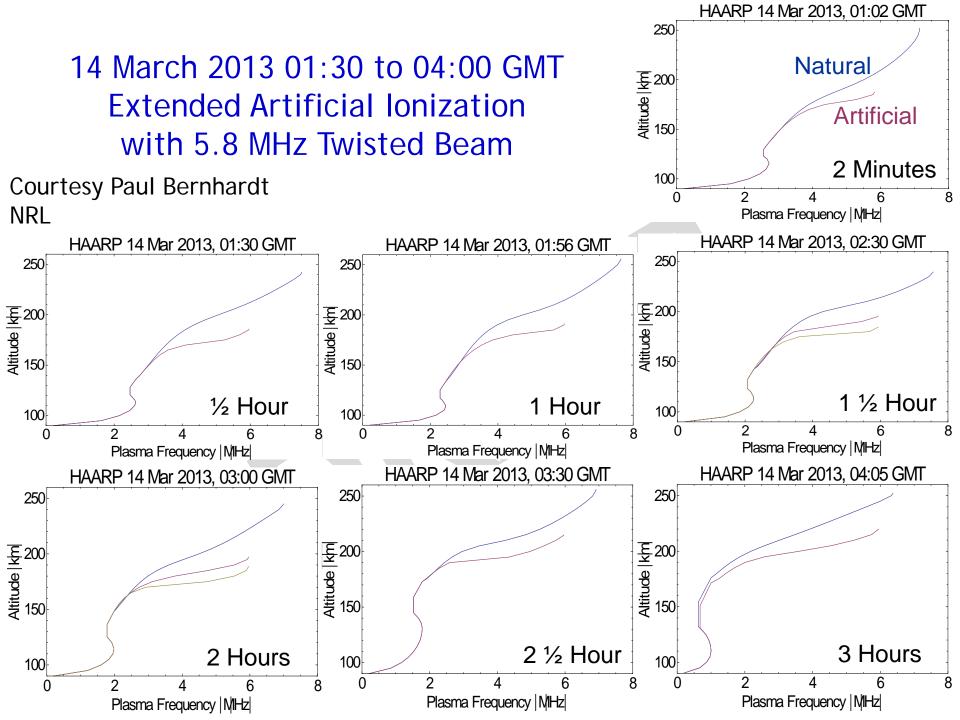


TACSat4
Actively
Pointed to
Ground
Receiver

Modified Region

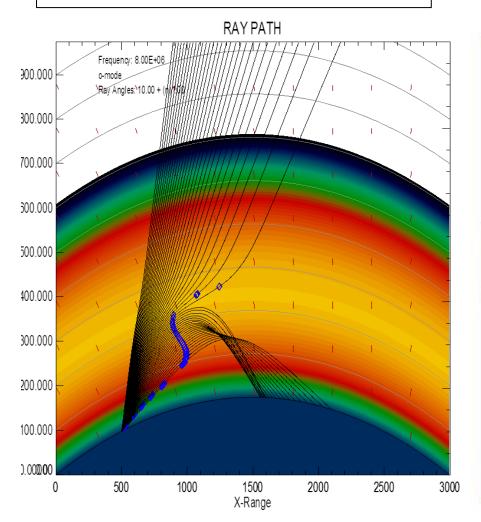
F-Layer Ionosphere



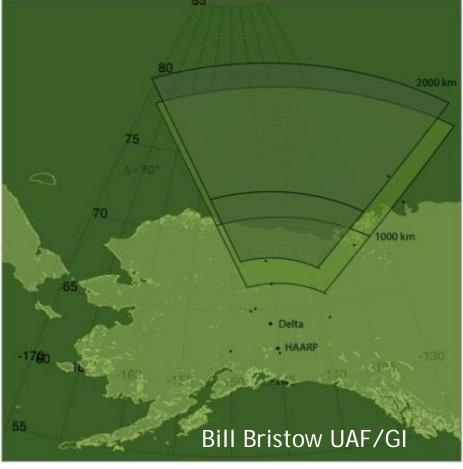


Over the Horizon Radar Experiments

8 MHz; Covers range of ~1100 km to ~1800 km from radar



Offset of transmitter and receiver location; 2000 km range translates to about 80° latitude



Ionospheric Diagnostic Instruments at HAARP

- All sky Riometer
- Imaging riometer 8 X 8 Array
- Fluxgate Magnetometer
- Induction Magnetometer
- **Digisonde**
- Optics All-sky imager **Telescopic imager Photometers** 14 ft Optical Dome
- Tomography Chain (Cordova -> Kaktovik)
- VHF Radar (139 MHz)
- Modular UHF Ionospheric Radar (MUIR)
- Ionospheric Scintillation Receivers

SATSIN (offsite) **GPS-NOVATEL Total Electron Content**

Radio Background Receivers

Broadband ELF / VLF Receiver network.

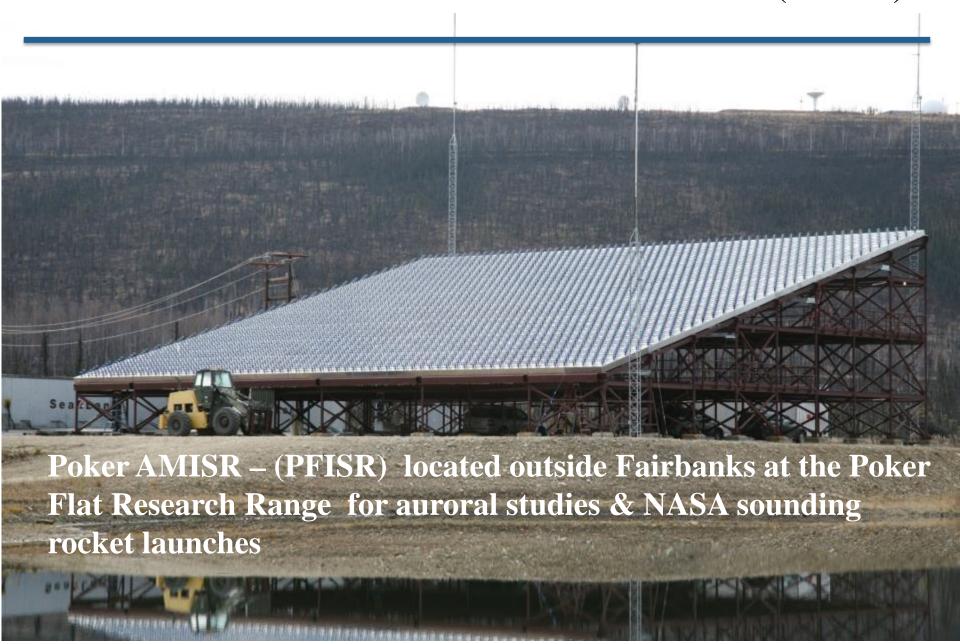
SEE Receiver string.

HF to UHF Spectrum Monitor

- **HF 2-30 MHz High Angle Receiving Antenna**
- **Scanning Doppler Interferometer (SDI)**



NSF Advanced Modular Incoherent Scatter RADAR (AMSIR)



HAARP Status May 2015

- Owned by AFRL Space Vehicles Directorate (AFRL/RV)
- Currently in cold storage (Could be brought on-line in a few weeks)
- UA working with AFRL/RV to create a CRADA (2 years duration)
 - Allow access to HAARP & restore scientific diagnostics to HAARP
 - Plans to transfer equipment, facilities & land to UAF
- UAF-GI Activities:
 - Building Business Plan to operate HAARP
 - Reduce costs (use existing GI scientists & staff)
 - Identifying customers (DOE NNSA, DARPA, NSF, NASA, AFOSR, ONR/NRL, USNORTHCOM, International)
 - Explore new options for over the horizon radar for maritime awareness
 - Using HAARP to test space-to-ground communications create scintillation

