

AIAA Houston Section International Activities Committee (IAC) mirrors the AIAA IAC.

## NASA Science Chief Discusses Plans, Earth Science Mission

AIAA Daily Launch:

*Scientific American* (12/16) reported on an interview with new NASA Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate Thomas Zurbuchen at an American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco, in which Zurbuchen discussed preparation for the incoming presidential administration, the importance of the agency's Earth science mission, and how NASA intends to work with Congress. Zurbuchen said that Earth science "has been part of NASA since the beginning," that "Earth is worthy of being explored like other planets," and that "research on Earth can actually help save lives and make the world better."



## After Outrage, Trump Team Disavows "Enemies List" Questionnaire at Energy Dept.

[Democracy Now news article, December 15, 2016]

## Coup de chaud sur les glaces de l'Arctique ➡

À la mi-novembre, les températures au-dessus du pôle Nord ont dépassé les moyennes de 20 °C, un record très inhabituel.

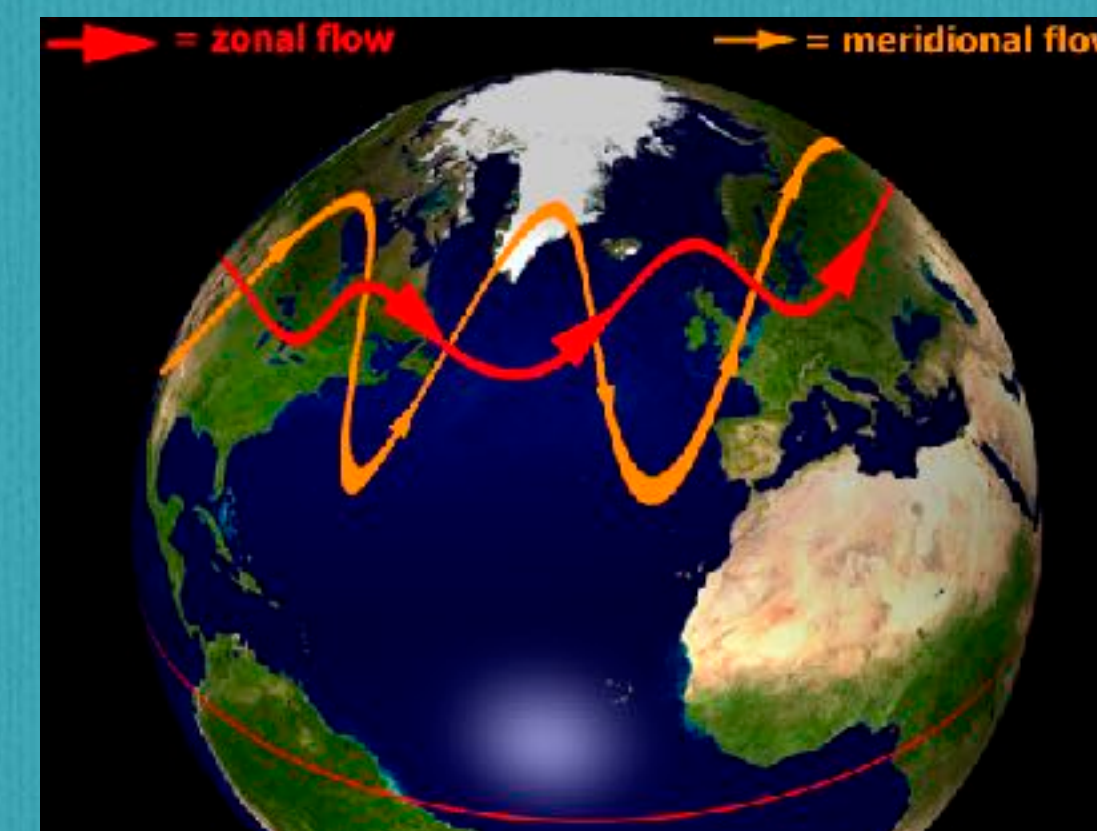
[*Le Figaro*, [lefigaro.fr](http://lefigaro.fr), November 25, 2016.]



Above: NASA HQ photo (Flickr). CYGNSS Briefing (NHQ201611100001). Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate, NASA, introduces the panelists at a briefing on the Cyclone Global Navigation Satellite System (CYGNSS), Thursday, November 10, 2016 at NASA Headquarters in Washington. The CYGNSS mission is scheduled to launch in December 2016 and will use eight micro-satellites to measure wind speeds over Earth's oceans, increasing the ability of scientists to understand and predict hurricanes. Photo Credit: (NASA/Aubrey Gemignani)

## Arctic ice melt 'already affecting weather patterns where you live right now'

[The Guardian, December 19, 2016  
Climate Change  
The Warming Arctic]



Above (from *Skeptical Science*): typical zonal (red) and meridional (orange) jet stream paths superimposed on part of the Northern Hemisphere. Extreme meridionality can bring very cold air flooding a long way south from the Arctic while warm air is able in a different sector to force its way into the far north. The most extreme version of this I have seen was on the morning of November 28th 2010: at 0600, parts of Powys (Mid Wales) were down to -18C, whilst at the same time Kangerlussuaq, within the Arctic Circle in Western Greenland, was at +9C - or 27C warmer!! Graphic: author (John Mason).



Above: Flickr (jidanhaomian). Svalbard Archipelago, Norway --- Polar Bear Mother and Cubs on Sea Ice --- Image by © Jenny E. Ross/Corbis

