

The Statewide Committee for Research honors Alaska's

# Northern Innovators



Right now, there are at least 6,000 planes in the skies above our planet. More than 1 million people are moving a few hundred miles an hour, at heights from a few to 40,000 feet, heading somewhere. The ability to move across the country in less than a day is part of modern life. Volcanic ash is one of the few forces of nature that interferes with it.

In 1989, a 747 landing at Ted Stevens International Airport in Anchorage

remote sensing group at the University of Alaska's Geophysical Institute developed novel tools to predict the drift of volcanic ash and assess its impact on daily operations.

Building on more than 20 years of monitoring volcanoes and improving tools to track