

## Weekly Report

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CIRA  
STAR/NESDIS  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

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Submitted by: Maranda Hutson  
Date of Submission: 27 February 2026  
Prepared by: CIRA and STAR contributors

### **Products and Applications**

#### **Publications (Citation: followed by a short Summary: (Why & so what), & detailed summary):**

### **Awards and Recognition**

**James Franklin received the 2026 Richard H. Hagemeyer Award for long-term contributions to the U.S. Hurricane Program:** James Franklin received the Richard H. Hagemeyer award at the 2026 Tropical Cyclone Operations and Research Forum. This award recognizes a distinguished leader for significant and enduring contributions to the U.S. tropical cyclone program. James received the award for more than 40 years of contributions to tropical cyclone research and operations during his time at the NOAA/OAR Hurricane Research Division, serving as a senior hurricane forecaster and Hurricane Specialist Unit Branch Chief at the National Hurricane Center, and as a CIRA Senior Research Associate. (POC: [James.Franklin@colostate.edu](mailto:James.Franklin@colostate.edu), Funding: TROPICS, NWS/STI).

### **Media Interactions and Request**

**Imagery Production Team Content of Blizzard Featured by Media and NOAA:** In mid-February, a powerful blizzard brought heavy snow to the Northeast United States. Satellite visuals created by the Imagery Production Team made available in CIRA's Satellite Library were used by several high-profile media outlets to highlight the storm. More information and links can be found below. (POC: D. Smith, [dakota.smith@colostate.edu](mailto:dakota.smith@colostate.edu) K. Erickson, [kim.erickson@colostate.edu](mailto:kim.erickson@colostate.edu), J. Reiter, [josh.reiter@colostate.edu](mailto:josh.reiter@colostate.edu), CIRA) Funding: GOES-R.

Space.com: “Satellites watch as bomb cyclone hits northeast U.S. with snow and lightning”.  
<https://www.space.com/space-exploration/satellites/satellites-watch-as-bomb-cyclone-hits-northeast-u-s-with-snow-and-lightning>

## Satellites watch as bomb cyclone hits northeast U.S. with snow and lightning

**News** By Monisha Ravisetti published 2 days ago

Hundreds of thousands have lost power and nearly 60 million are under severe weather warnings.



The storm imaged by the GOES East satellite on Feb. 23. (Image credit: CSU/CIRA & NOAA)

The Washington Post: “What the ‘bombogenetic’ blizzard looks like from space”.  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2026/02/23/snow-blizzard-winter-storm-strength-shape-explained/>

The New York Times: “See the Storm’s Shape from Space”.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/23/weather/snowstorm-satellite-explained.html>

The Boston Globe: “Whether in the blizzard... shared yet personal ordeal”  
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2026/02/26/metro/blizzard-2026-noreaster-new-england/>

Fox Weather: “Nor’easter Impacts... Satellite shows the path of the massive snowstorm...”  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2698093893881128>

The National Weather Desk: “Satellite View: The Blizzard of 2026”.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkOnCnelwFs>

The Weather Channel: “Life Cycle of Bomb Cycle Hernando”  
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1419988279581636>

The Weather Channel: “(09:11 a.m. EST) Watch Winter Storm Hernando On Satellite”  
<https://weather.com/news/weather/news/2026-02-23-winter-storm-hernando-bomb->

[cyclone-noreaster-live-blog#:~:text=footage%20captured%20by-,CIRA/CSU,-shows%20Winter%20Storm](#)

Business Insider: “Satellite photos show what the massive blizzard slamming the Northeast looks like from space” . <https://www.businessinsider.com/blizzard-satellite-photos-from-space-2026-2>

Accuweather: “Nor’easter on satellite... most intense winter storm in years.”  
<https://www.instagram.com/reels/DVHEv5MCm3L/>

CNN: “The life cycle of a historic bomb cyclone blizzard” (pulled from Slider)  
<https://www.cnn.com/weather/live-news/blizzard-snow-nyc-storm-forecast-02-22-26#:~:text=conditions%20for%20many.,NOAA%20CIRA%20CSU,-ADVERTISEMENT>

Complex: “All throughout this week the North East... cranking up the thermostat.”  
[https://www.instagram.com/p/DVOGghNDhgq/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/DVOGghNDhgq/?img_index=1)

**National Hurricane Center (NHC) Includes CIRA Imagery in Hurricane Melissa’s Post-Analysis Report:** On February 25, 2026, the NHC published their after-action report for Hurricane Melissa of the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season. Along with confirming Melissa as one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes on record, including tying it for first place (Hurricane Allen, 1980) with the strongest sustained winds of any Atlantic hurricane in history, the NHC featured CIRA imagery at the top of the report document. Along with that, the NHC posted a video on their social media to go along with the announcement of the report. In said video, the NHC featured multiple animations created by the CIRA Imagery Production Team during the Hurricane Melissa event. Links to the post-analysis report and to the NHC social media video are located below. (POC: D. Smith, [dakota.smith@colostate.edu](mailto:dakota.smith@colostate.edu) K. Erickson, [kim.erickson@colostate.edu](mailto:kim.erickson@colostate.edu), J. Reiter, [josh.reiter@colostate.edu](mailto:josh.reiter@colostate.edu), CIRA) Funding: GOES-R.

Hurricane Melissa post-analysis report:

[https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/tcr/AL132025\\_Melissa.pdf](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/tcr/AL132025_Melissa.pdf)

NHC social media video:

- Twitter (X): [https://x.com/NHC\\_Atlantic/status/2026690187632210181?s=20](https://x.com/NHC_Atlantic/status/2026690187632210181?s=20)
- Instagram:  
[https://www.instagram.com/reel/DVL96uGFww8/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igs\\_h=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DVL96uGFww8/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igs_h=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1CTWrE2ygz/>

## **Blog Posts and Social Media**

### **Travel, Workshops, Conferences, and Meeting Reports**

**CIRA participation in the 2026 Tropical Cyclone Operations and Research Forum (TCORF):** A. Brammer, G. Chirokova, M. DeMaria, J. Franklin, J. Martinez and K. Musgrave participated in the virtual TCORF meeting Feb 23-27, 2026. This meeting presents seasonal summaries from the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC), Hurricane Hunter aircraft operations, updates on tropical cyclone products from NESDIS, and promising research on new forecast guidance and observing capabilities. Kate Musgrave gave a presentation describing CIRA's work to evaluate new AI models for tropical cyclone track, intensity and structure as part of the Hurricane and Ocean Testbed. (POC: Kate Musgrave, CIRA, [Kate.Musgrave@colostate.edu](mailto:Kate.Musgrave@colostate.edu); Funding: GOES, JPSS, NWS, NSF)

### **Training and Education Activities**

**GREMLIN Training for South America:** On February 24, Kyle Hilburn presented an overview of GREMLIN (GOES Radar Estimation via Machine Learning to Inform NWP) at the Advanced Workshop on the Prediction of Severe Thunderstorms and Flash Flooding for Paraguay's Dirección de Meteorología e Hidrología (DMH). The talk covered the GREMLIN model architecture, datasets, and loss function; describing what the model learned and the importance of spatial context for this task. The talk also covered available products, validation, and the strengths and weaknesses for severe weather applications, which was informed by forecaster feedback from NOAA's Hazardous Weather Testbed. Kyle presented in English, and Jose Manuel Gálvez translated into Spanish and facilitated Q&A with the in-person audience. (POC: Kyle Hilburn, CIRA, [kyle.hilburn@colostate.edu](mailto:kyle.hilburn@colostate.edu); Funding: GOES-R)

**Satellite Severe Thunderstorm Presentation for South America:** On February 25, Dan Bikos presented at the Advanced Workshop on the Prediction of Severe Thunderstorms and Flash Flooding for Paraguay's Dirección de Meteorología e Hidrología (DMH). The title of the presentation was "Severe Weather Satellite Signatures and Tools". The focus was on GOES ABI imagery in identifying air masses, low-level convergence boundaries and convective updraft trends. Dan presented in English, and Jose Manuel Gálvez translated into Spanish and facilitated Q&A with the in-person audience. (POC: Dan Bikos, CIRA, [Dan.Bikos@colostate.edu](mailto:Dan.Bikos@colostate.edu), Funding: GOES)

### **Future Meetings and Events (dates, meeting/event, location, staff involved)**

### **Other**

**Two CIRA visitors from Taiwan from Feb. 23 to Apr. 10:** Two visiting researchers from Taiwan (Center for Weather and Climate Disaster Research, National Taiwan University), Yu-Yang Kuo and Pei-Shin Liu, are joining us for a research exchange from Feb. 23 through April 10. Their research exchange plans are outlined in the following documents.

- Yu-Yang Kuo's visiting research plan: [LINK](#)  
Yu-Yang will be co-hosted by Michael Bell (ATS) and will collaborate with the CIRA-TC team. He will be based in CIRA's postdoc office.
- Pei-Shin Liu's visiting research plan: [LINK](#)  
Pei-Shin will be co-hosted by Kristen Rasmussen (ATS) and will focus on three-dimensional data application. She will also collaborate with the CIRA ML team and CIRA cloud team. She will be located on the 4th floor of the ATS main building.
- Both visitors have experience and expertise in AI-related research and will also be interacting with members of the CIRA-ML team during their stay.

We encourage CIRA scientists with related interests to reach out to Yu-Yang ([yuyang31027@gmail.com](mailto:yuyang31027@gmail.com)) and Pei-Shin ([w8411181995@gmail.com](mailto:w8411181995@gmail.com)) as soon as possible to collaborate and exchange information with them during their visit. (POC: Hungjui Yu, CIRA, [hungjui@colostate.edu](mailto:hungjui@colostate.edu); Imme Ebert-Uphoff, CIRA, [iebert@colostate.edu](mailto:iebert@colostate.edu). Funding: NTU)