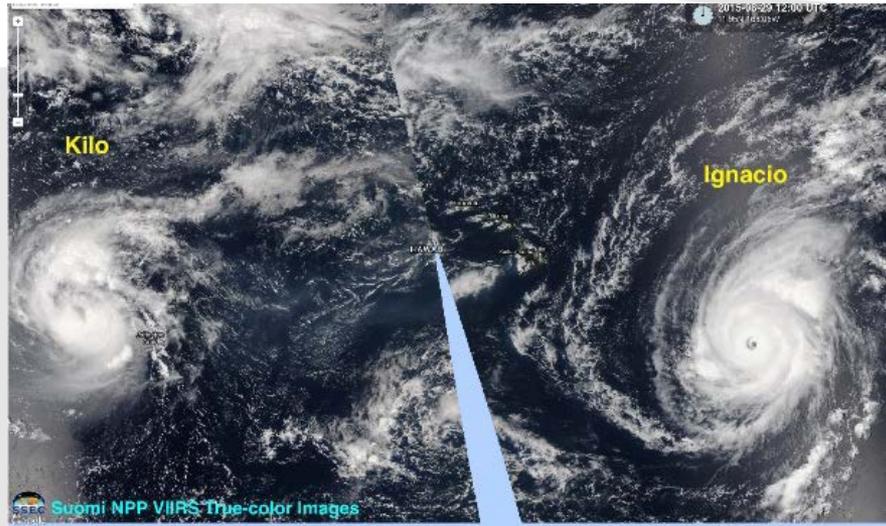




2016 HOPE Selection: East Pacific Origins and Characteristics of Hurricanes (EPOCH)



Over the past five years, tropical activity in the East Pacific has increased, while decreasing in the Atlantic Basin. In addition, during El Niño years, warmer than average sea surface 5 temperatures further increase the likelihood of tropical cyclone formation in the East Pacific.

EPOCH plans to fly the AV-6 GH aircraft with the EXRAD radar, the High Altitude MMIC Sounding Radiometer (HAMSR), and the NOAA AVAPS dropsonde system to investigate genesis and rapid intensification (RI) of an East Pacific hurricane by measuring both the environment and interior structures.

EPOCH will develop the EXRAD radar from a Technical Readiness Level 6, with respect to the Global Hawk, to a Technical Readiness Level 8 at the end of the project with a successful flight of the radar, radiometer, and dropsondes over an East Pacific hurricane.

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