2011 Calendar

Alaska Satellite Facility

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The Alaska Satellite Facility (ASF) is comprised of a Distributed Active Archive Center, a ground station that is part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Near-Earth Network, the GeoData Center, and an Enterprise focused on remote-sensing data products. ASF is an integral part of the Geophysical Institute (GI) at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and will be celebrating 20 years of service in 2011. The first downlink in 1991 was synthetic aperture radar (SAR) data from the European Space Agency’s European Remote-Sensing Satellite (ERS-1). ASF has added capabilities along with missions over the years, increasing the speed and the volume of both processing and delivery. In addition, technology infusion and advanced sustaining-engineering practices executed on existing systems has increased efficiency and reduced the cost per product. ASF staff look forward to providing continued excellent service to the science community for many years.
ALOS-PALSAR images from 06 December 2006 and 14 December 2009, were used to create this Interferometric SAR (InSAR) image that illustrates the extent and magnitude of land subsidence caused by seasonal, high-demand groundwater use in southeastern Arizona. The InSAR image identifies the land subsidence over the 3-year period to be 40 centimeters. This InSAR image is courtesy of Brian Conway, Arizona Department of Water Resources. Original ALOS-PALSAR data are copyrighted by JAXA/Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).
This image of the Trident Glacier in Alaska was acquired in 1979 by the Alaska High-Altitude Photography Mission collection available from ASF’s GeoData Center (GDC). Vegetation is shown in reddish brown. Persistent snowfields can be seen in the mountains surrounding the glacier. The Trident glacier forms in the Alaska Range as three separate glaciers that merge to form the main section of the glacier that flows north from the Alaska Range into the interior of the state.
This photograph of ASF’s 11-meter antenna was taken on 24 October 2006, from the top of the UAF Elvey building at 08:24 am, Alaska Standard Time. The sky is starting to lighten in preparation for sunrise and the floodlights highlight the antenna.