



# Leveraging Thousands of Contrail Observations from GLOBE Citizen Scientists



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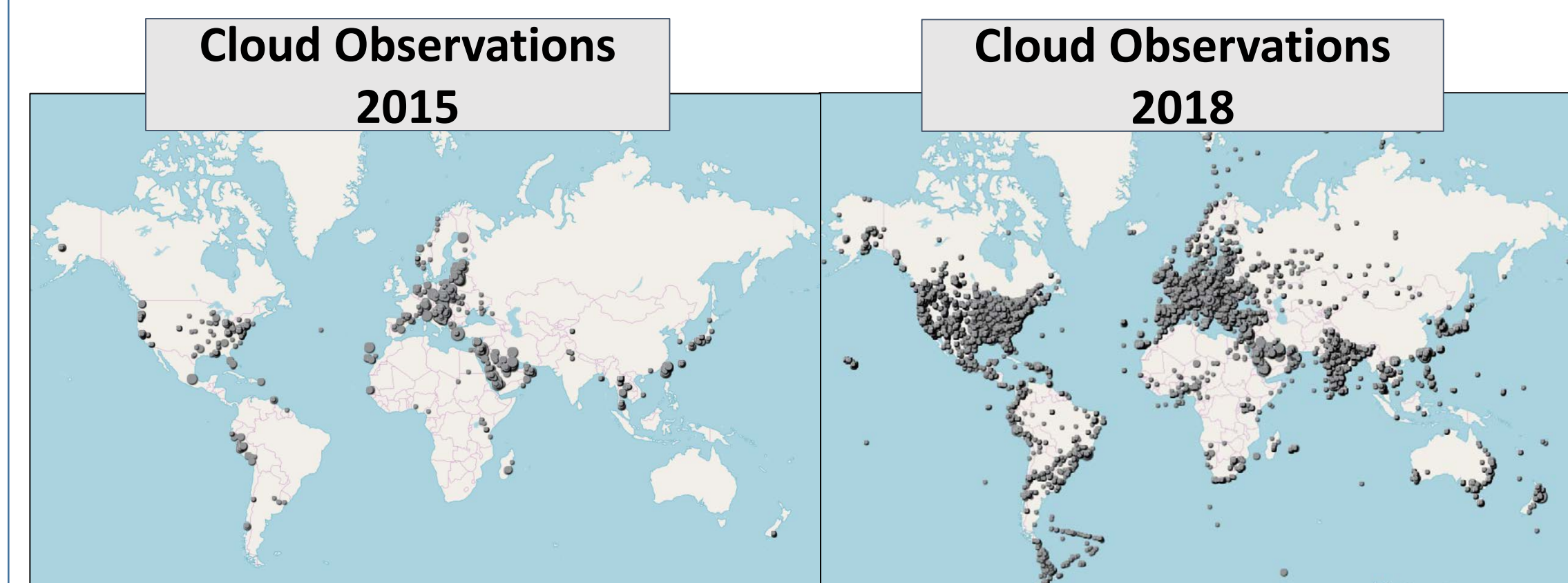
## What is GLOBE?

The GLOBE Program is **NASA's largest and longest lasting citizen science program about the Earth**. The GLOBE Program began on Earth Day 1995 and for nearly 25 years has invited students in countries around the world to collect cloud and other environmental observations. In 2017, the program debuted the GLOBE Observer mobile app to engage the wider public, including GLOBE alumni (adults who previously participated in GLOBE as students), in the collection of data using a mobile device.

GLOBE Program is composed of:

- 123 countries
- 34,000 schools
- 142,000 citizen scientists
- 400+ publications

The GLOBE Program: Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment



Impact of data density from the release of the GLOBE Observer mobile app.

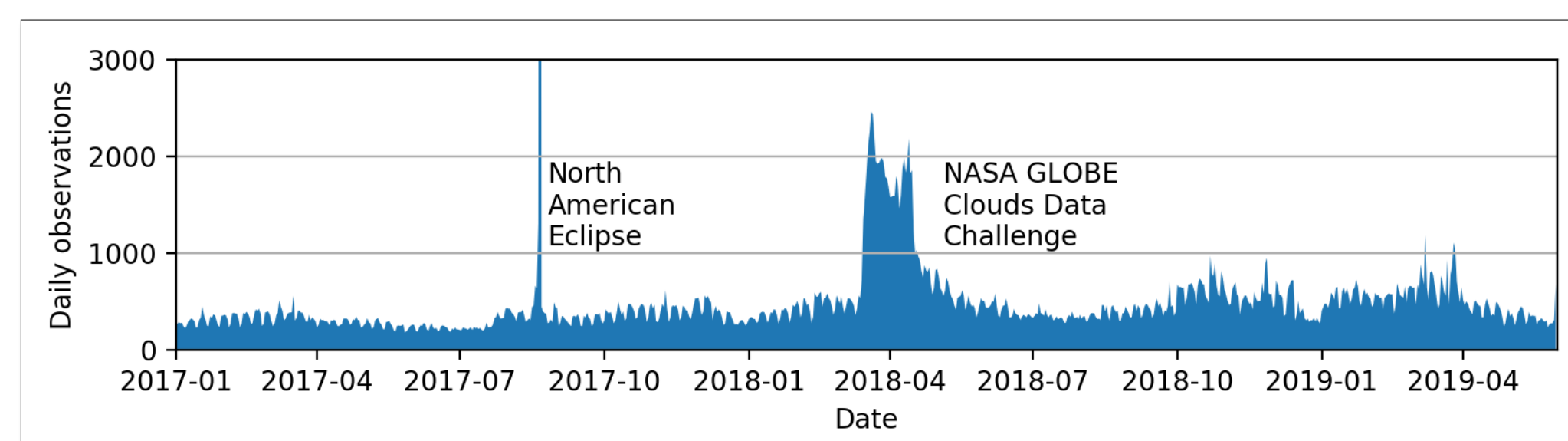
## GLOBE Cloud Observations

Observations are collocated with satellite data from the CERES instrument onboard Terra and Aqua, or to Geostationary satellites, or to CALIPSO



**Total Cloud Observations since 2017: 500,000+**  
**Total Satellite Matched Observations: 300,000+ (60%)**  
**Total Contrail Observations: 147,000+**

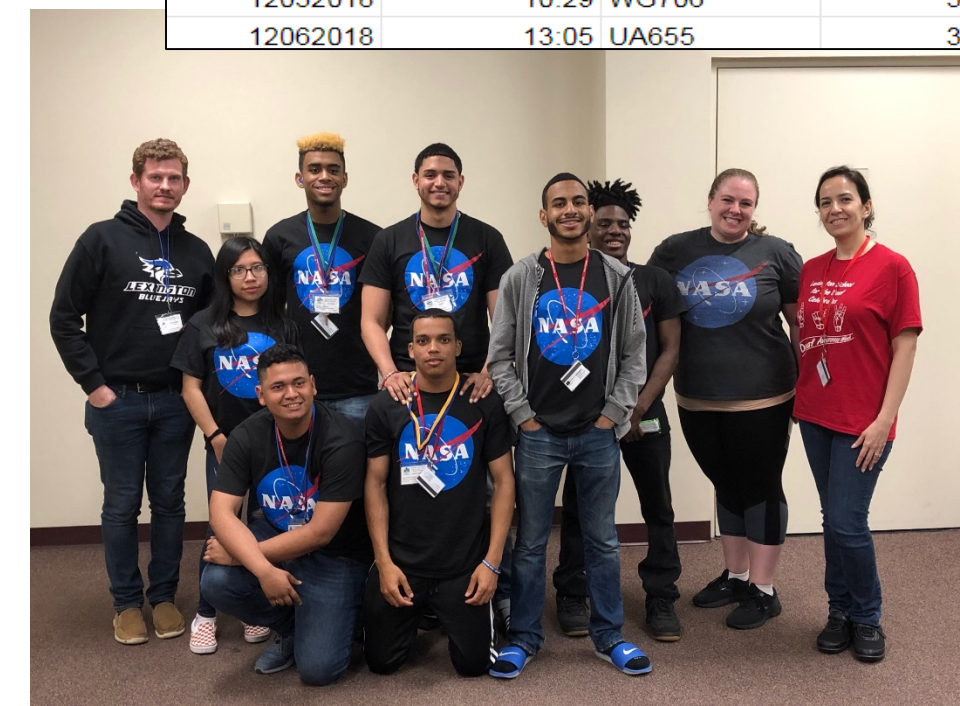
- Short Lived: 38,067
- Persistent, non-spreading: 70,313
- Persistent, spreading: 39,272



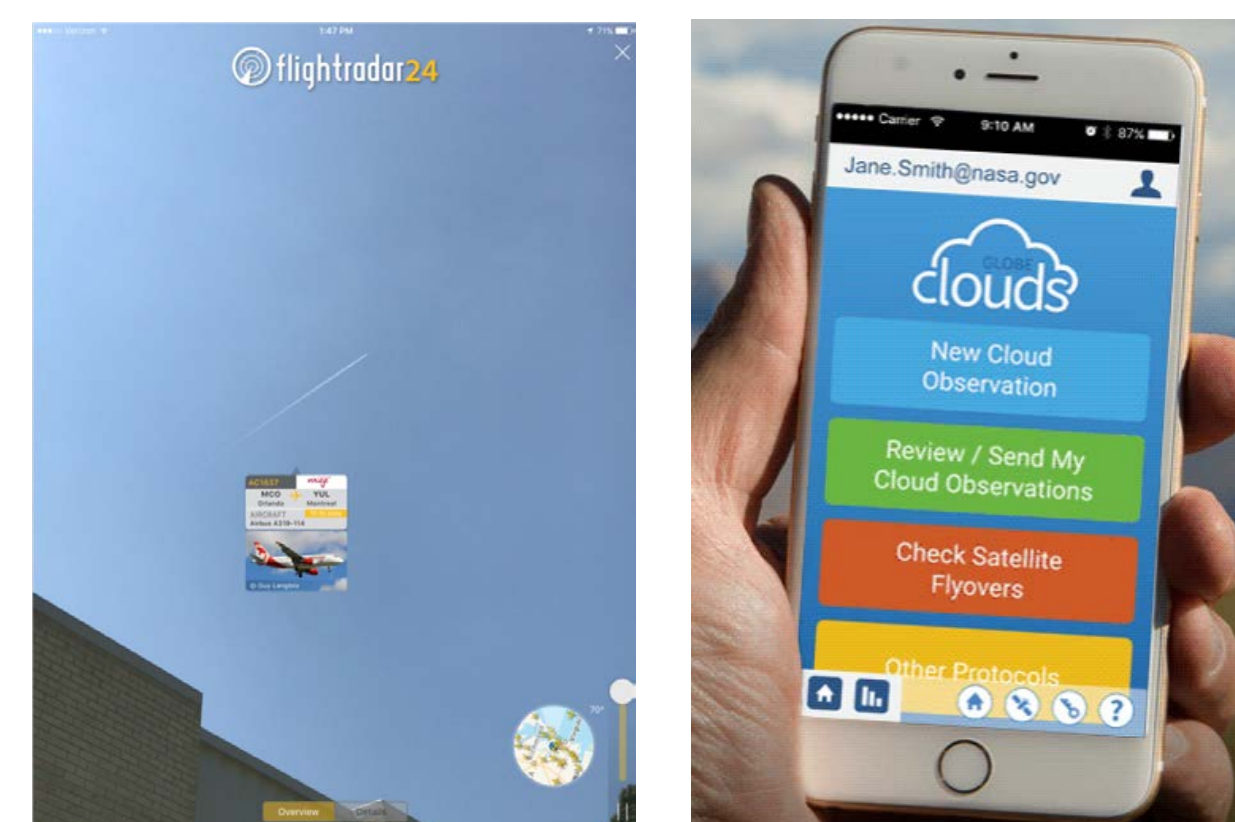
## Contrails Investigations Project

Track which airplanes are or are not creating contrails

Date	Local Time	Airplane Type	Airplane Calibrated Altitude or Height (ft)	Airplane Track (degrees)	Contrail Type
Example for August 29, 2018	Example 10:49am	Example E75L	Example 17,000	Example 34.000	Example No contrail
10032018	13:54	DL1859	16,000	163	No contrail
10032018	14:03	AAL18	17,404	167	No contrail
11082018	13:18	CRJ7	27,000	63	No contrail
12032018	10:25	A320	36,000	231	S or short-lived
12032018	10:29	WG706	35,000	143	S or short-lived
12062018	13:05	UA655	33,000	50	S or short-lived



Flight observations courtesy of Lexington School for the Deaf (presented at 2019 GLOBE Northeast SRS)

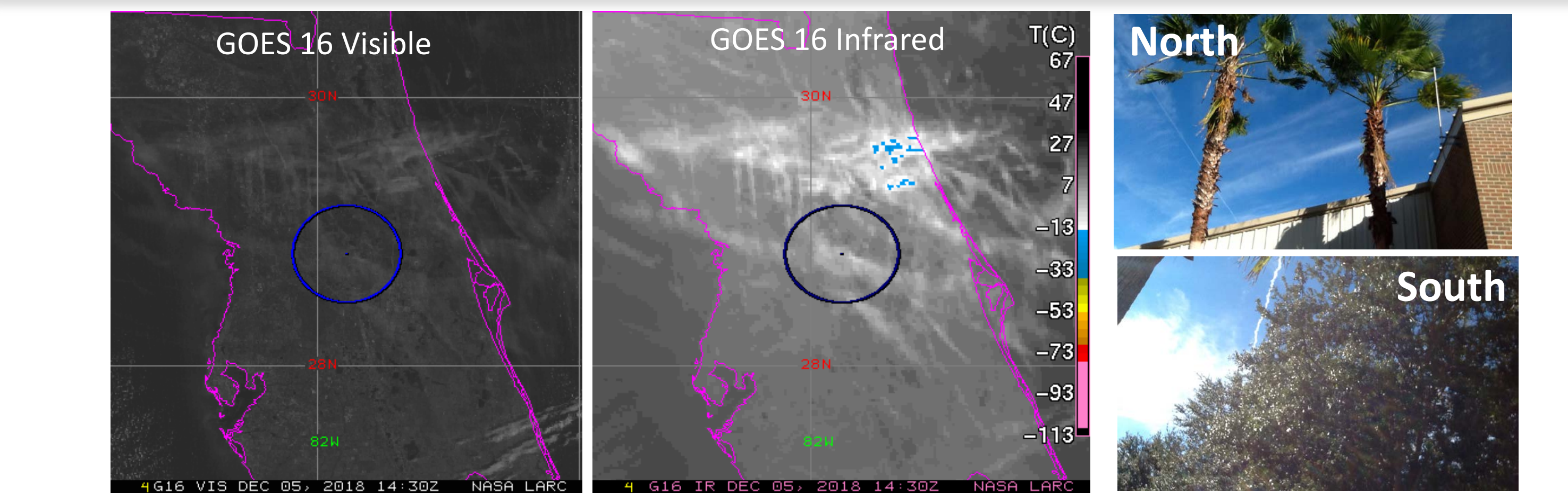


Step 1: FlightRadar24 for airplane info

Step 2: Report contrails via GLOBE

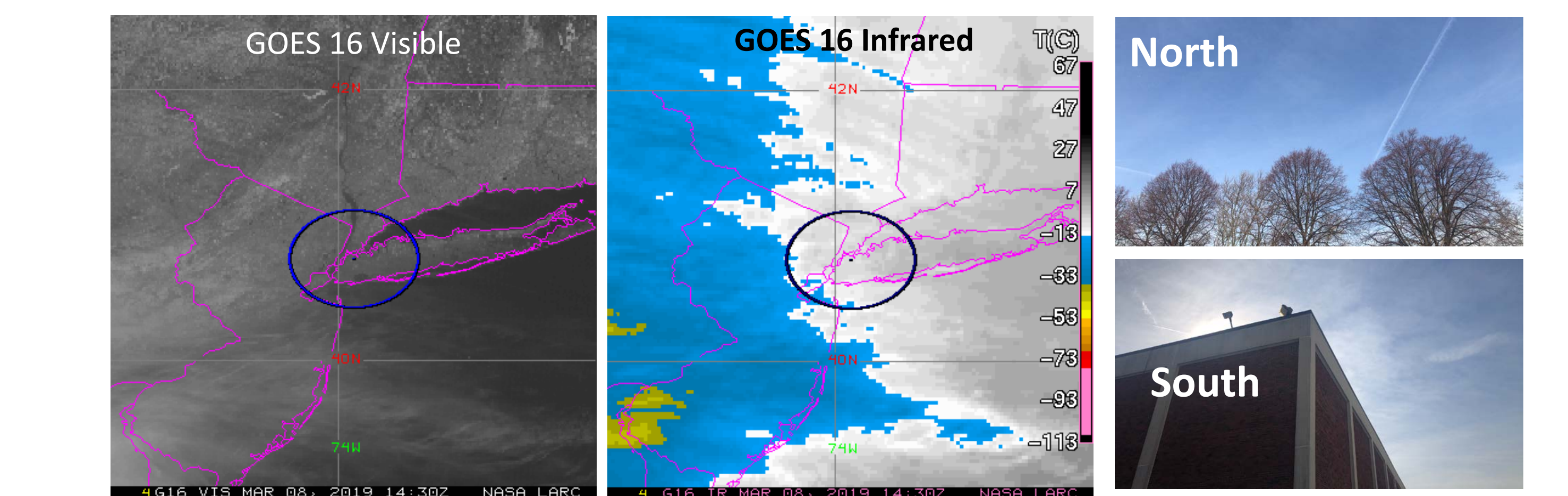
A handful of schools are participating of this project, using the FlightRadar24 app (<https://www.flightradar24.com/>) to find airplanes in their area, record the airplane type, cruising altitude, and track. Students then note if the airplane is creating or NOT creating a contrail and report this using the GLOBE Observer app. The citizen science observations are then collocated with satellite data from the CERES instrument onboard Terra and Aqua, or to Geostationary satellites, or to CALIPSO to provide insight into the impact of commercial aviation on contrail formation and local atmospheric conditions during contrail formation

## Sample Satellite Collocated Data



Date: 12/5/2018 14:33 UTC

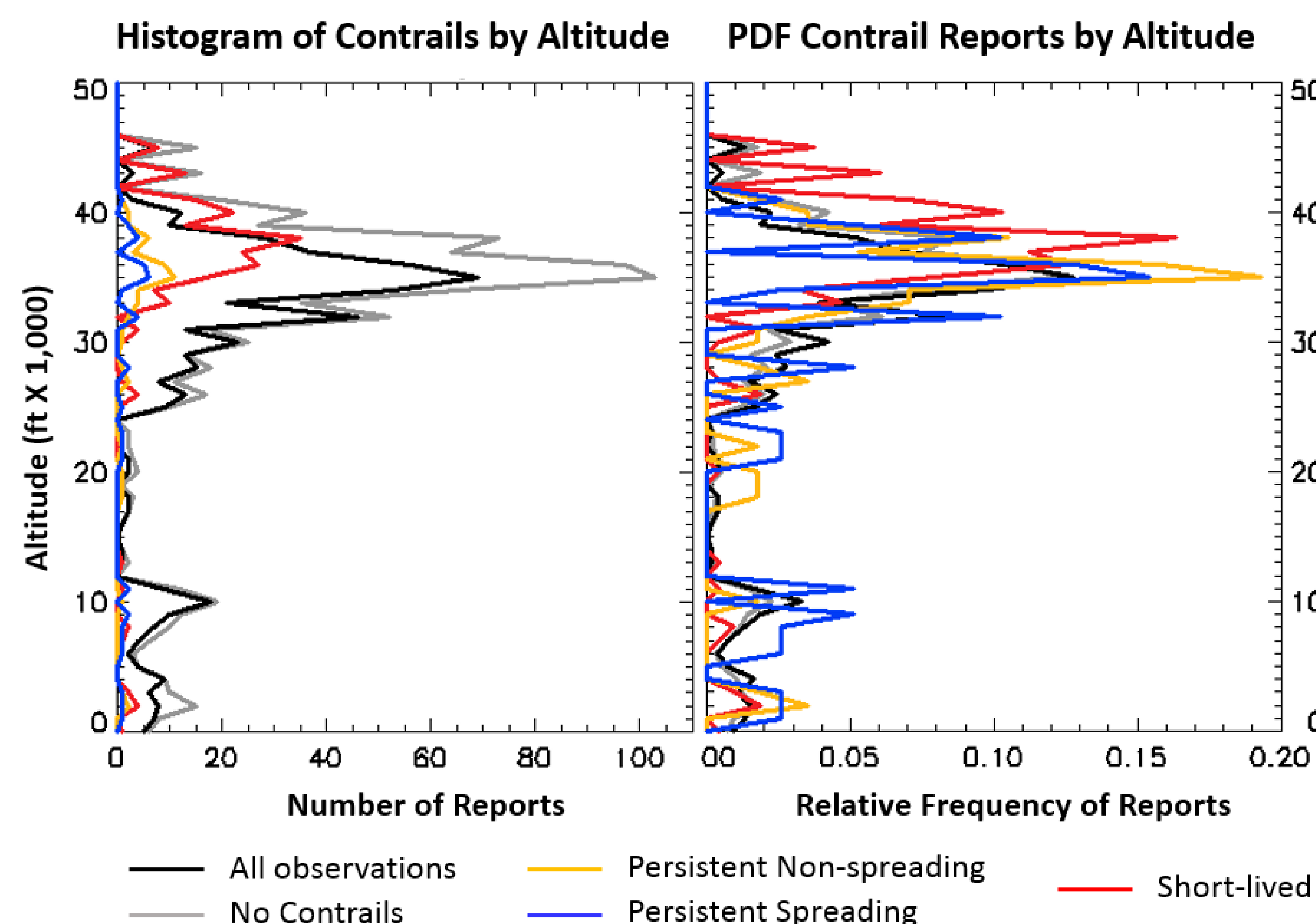
Airplane Type	Airplane Height	Track	Contrail Type
GLF6	36,000	9	Persistent Spreading
A320	35,000	170	Persistent Spreading



Date: 3/8/2019 14:33 UTC

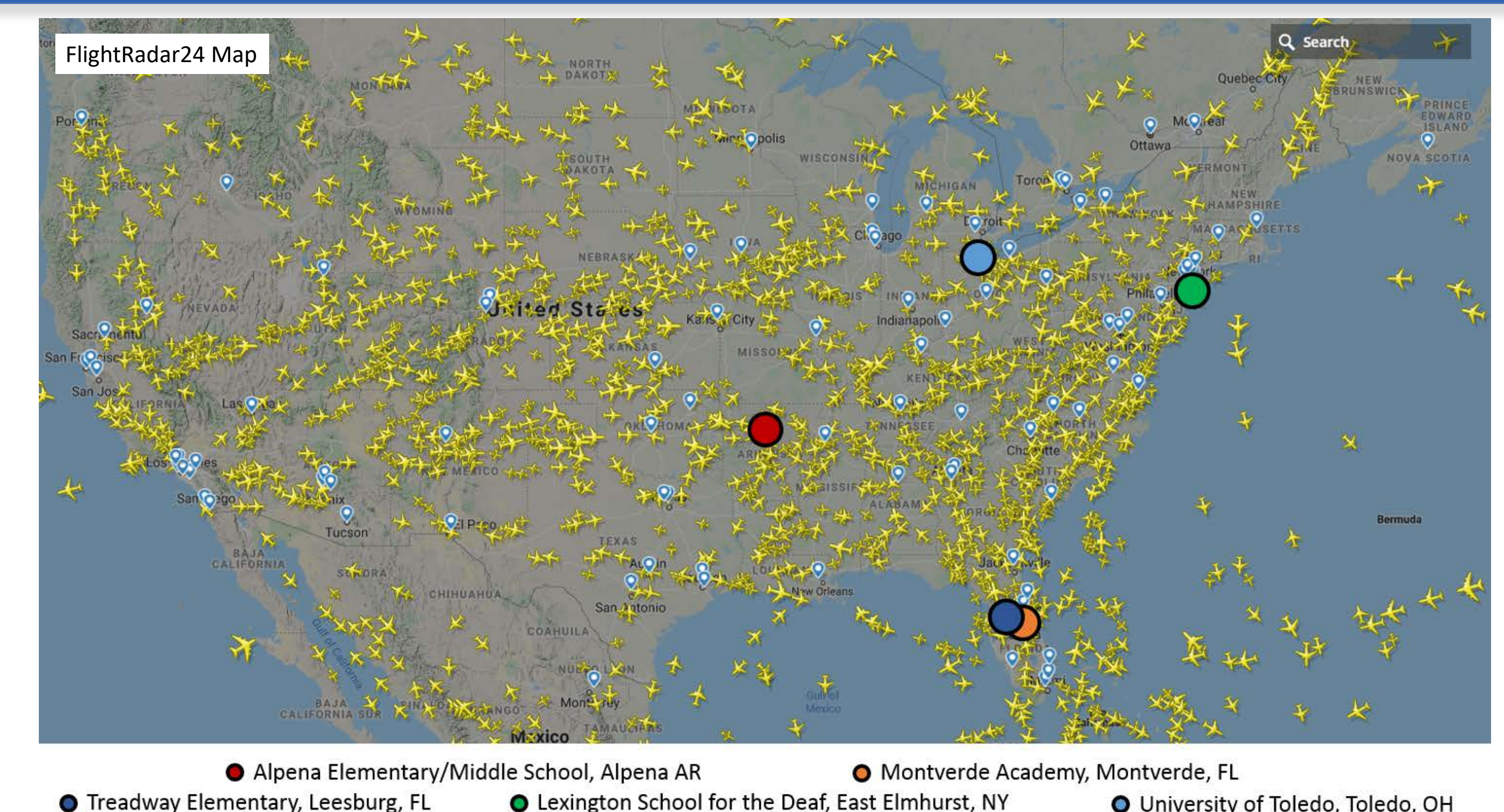
Airplane Type	Airplane Height	Track	Contrail Type
B738	35,000	141	Persistent

## Summary of Observations



Summary of observations collected June 2018 – October 2019.

## Schools Taking Contrail and Airplane Observations



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