

U.S. National Ice Center

PRESS RELEASE

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Iceberg A-85 Has Calved From Ronne Ice Shelf

21FEB2025, SUITLAND, MD — The U.S. National Ice Center (USNIC) has confirmed that iceberg A-85 (Figure 1, below) calved from the Ronne Ice Shelf. As of February 19, A-85 was centered at 77° 30' South and 48° 32' West and measured 10 nautical miles on its longest axis and 3 nautical miles on its widest axis.

The new iceberg was first spotted by Dr. Jan Lieser of Australia's Bureau of Meteorology and confirmed by USNIC Analyst using the Sentinel-1 image below.

Iceberg names are derived from the Antarctic quadrant in which they were originally calved. The quadrants are divided counter-clockwise in the following manner:

- A = 0-90W (Bellingshausen/Weddell Sea)
- B = 90W-180 (Amundsen/Eastern Ross Sea)
- C = 180-90E (Western Ross Sea/Wilkesland)
- D = 90E-0 (Amery/Eastern Weddell Sea)

When first sighted, an iceberg's point of origin is documented by USNIC. The letter of the quadrant, along with a sequential number, is assigned to the iceberg. For example, C-19 is sequentially the 19th iceberg tracked by USNIC in Antarctica between 180-90E (Quadrant C). Icebergs with letter suffixes have calved from already named icebergs, where the letters are added in sequential order. For example, C-19D is the 4th iceberg to calve off the original C-19 iceberg.

Iceberg positions are analyzed weekly and are available on the USNIC webpage at: <https://usicecenter.gov/Products/AntarcIcebergs>



Figure 1: Sentinel-1 image of iceberg A-85 from February 19, 2025.

The USNIC is a multi-agency partnership between the U.S. Navy, NOAA, and the U.S. Coast Guard that provides strategic-, operational-, and tactical-level ice and snow products, ice forecasting, and related environmental intelligence services for the U.S. government. To access daily products, weekly products, archival data and much more of USNIC data in various formats, visit the USNIC webpage at: <https://usicecenter.gov/Products>.

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