RWI HINDCAST 002 — CFS Alert

Formerly RWI SITREP 007 Part 1. Renamed 27 Oct 2026: reports that reconstruct past events are Hindcasts; SITREPs cover the current situation.

Part 1 of 3 · 1 January – 24 March 2026 · Parts 2 (25 Mar – 30 Jun) and 3 (1 Jul – 24 Oct) follow as the archive scan completes.

Issued 25 Oct 2026, 09:45 EDT. Starting point: Prime Rogue's article The Arctic Flight Nobody Noticed: How Canada's Alert Station Became NATO's Answer to Trump's Greenland Threats (Kevin J.S. Duska Jr., dated 14 Jan 2026 in the text) — primerogueinc.com/blog/the-arctic-flight-nobody-noticed-how-canadas-alert-station-became-natos-answer-to-trumps-greenland-threats/. Sources: adsb.lol daily global ADS-B archive (82 days scanned, 1 Jan – 24 Mar; every military-flagged aircraft north of 58°N between 140°W and 10°W, plus anything north of 74°N), Sentinel-1 radar (32 passes over Alert), Sentinel-2 (none usable before 24 Mar — polar night), NASA Black Marble (no coverage at 82.5°N), and public reporting. Times UTC.

1. Bottom line

1.1 **Open sources are blind at Alert itself.** No open ADS-B receiver hears aircraft within 600 km of the station; the RCAF CC-130J flight of 12–13 Jan that the article documents from FlightRadar24 does not appear in the open archive at all. Polar night rules out optical imagery until 24 Mar, and night-lights products stop south of 82.5°N. Claims about Alert's flight tempo in this period cannot be confirmed or refuted from free open data. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

1.2 **What the data does show is a sustained Danish military airlift into West Greenland** starting **12–13 Jan** — Royal Danish Air Force C-130Js (B-536, B-537) and a Challenger (C-080) at Nuuk — **three to four days before the Arctic Endurance airlift was publicly reported (16 Jan)**. Open ADS-B logged two to five Danish military aircraft-days a week near West Greenland from mid-January through February, tapering in March. **PARTIAL**

1.3 **Allies at Nuuk:** a French A400M (17 Jan, matching French troop arrivals), a US Air Force C-40C (9 Feb), a French Falcon 50 (20 Feb) and a US KC-46-type 767 near Nuuk (4 Mar). **CORRELATED** for the French arrival; the US visits are **NOT IN NEWS** in the reporting we found.

1.4 **No RCAF aircraft were seen landing in Greenland.** RCAF CC-177s (177701, 177703), a CC-130J (130606) and CC-144 Challengers passed through Keflavík in late January and February — consistent with European tasks — and the RCAF's northern activity in March centres on Yellowknife (CC-330 Husky, CC-130J 130616, Twin Otters), matching Operation NANOOK-NUNALIVUT (Feb–Apr). This is consistent with Ottawa's 15 Jan statement that Canada was not initiating new Greenland operations. **CORRELATED**

1.5 **The article's tail number reappears:** CC-130J **130615** — the aircraft it tracked to Alert — was logged on 10 Feb near the Yukon–Alaska border (59.36°N 137.74°W). Its January Alert flight is not in the open archive. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

1.6 **Radar over Alert:** 32 Sentinel-1 passes. The 13 Jan 11:35 pass — the article's date — shows nothing new on the airfield (Plate B). Faint, single-pass returns on the runway on **13 Feb 20:25** and **18 Feb 11:35** could be a parked aircraft or a vehicle; at 10–20 m they are too weak to call. **NOT IN NEWS**

2. The article's testable claims

Claim (article, Jan 2026)	Status after Part 1	Basis
An RCAF CC-130J (130615) flew Trenton → Iqaluit → Alert on 12–13 Jan	Not visible in open ADS-B; not contradicted	No adsb.lol coverage; FR24 (article's source) uses wider feeds
The flight was out of cycle (BOXTOP runs Apr–May and Sep–Oct)	Consistent	Spring BOXTOP 2026 departed 9 Apr (InQuinte); nothing in our data contradicts
Alert's tempo will stay elevated while Greenland tensions last	Cannot be tested at Alert with open data	No receiver coverage; radar shows only two possible transient objects (Feb)
Alert is being positioned as NATO's/Denmark's independent eye on Pituffik	Outside what imagery or ADS-B can show	Inference in the article; no observable correlate
Allied Arctic military activity rose after Trump's threats	Supported	Danish airlift from 12 Jan; French, US and German aircraft at Nuuk/Keflavík

Corrections to the article noted while reading it: weekday references are off for 2026 (10 Jan was a Saturday, 13 Jan a Tuesday); the station's population is given both as "about six operators" and as ~55 personnel; the screenshot caption gives "CFC 3803" while the text gives tail 130615. None changes the core observation.

3. Military air activity, weekly

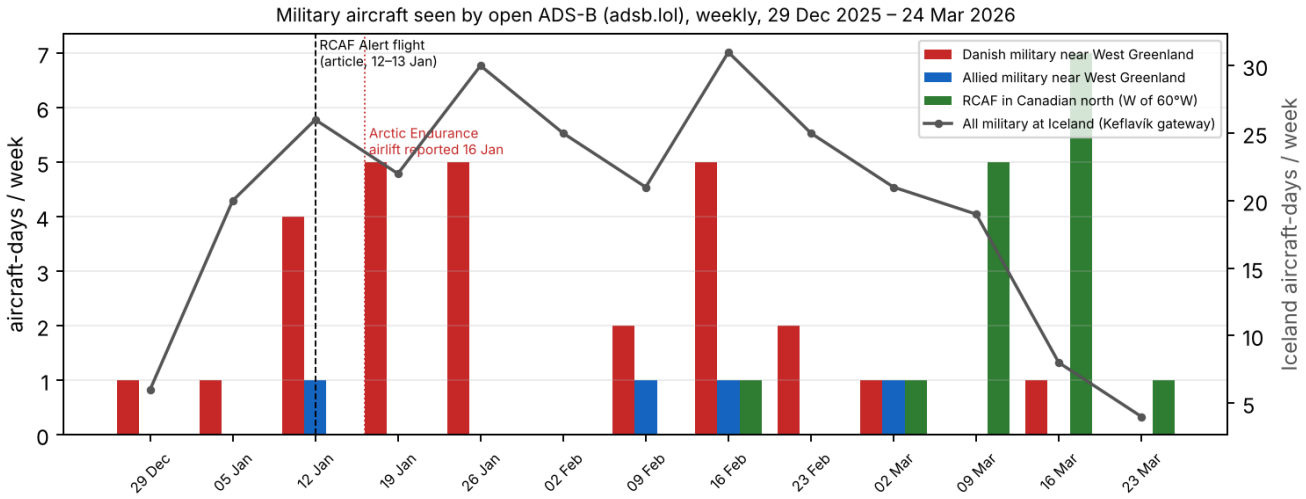


Plate A. Aircraft-days per week from the open adsb.lol archive. West Greenland = any military aircraft logged west of 40°W and north of 59°N (Nuuk, Kangerlussuaq, Davis Strait). Iceland = Keflavík gateway. RCAF north = Canadian military aircraft north of 58°N between 129°W and 60°W. The week of 23 Mar is partial (data to 24 Mar). Open ADS-B undercounts: aircraft may fly without broadcasting position, and there are few receivers in the Arctic.

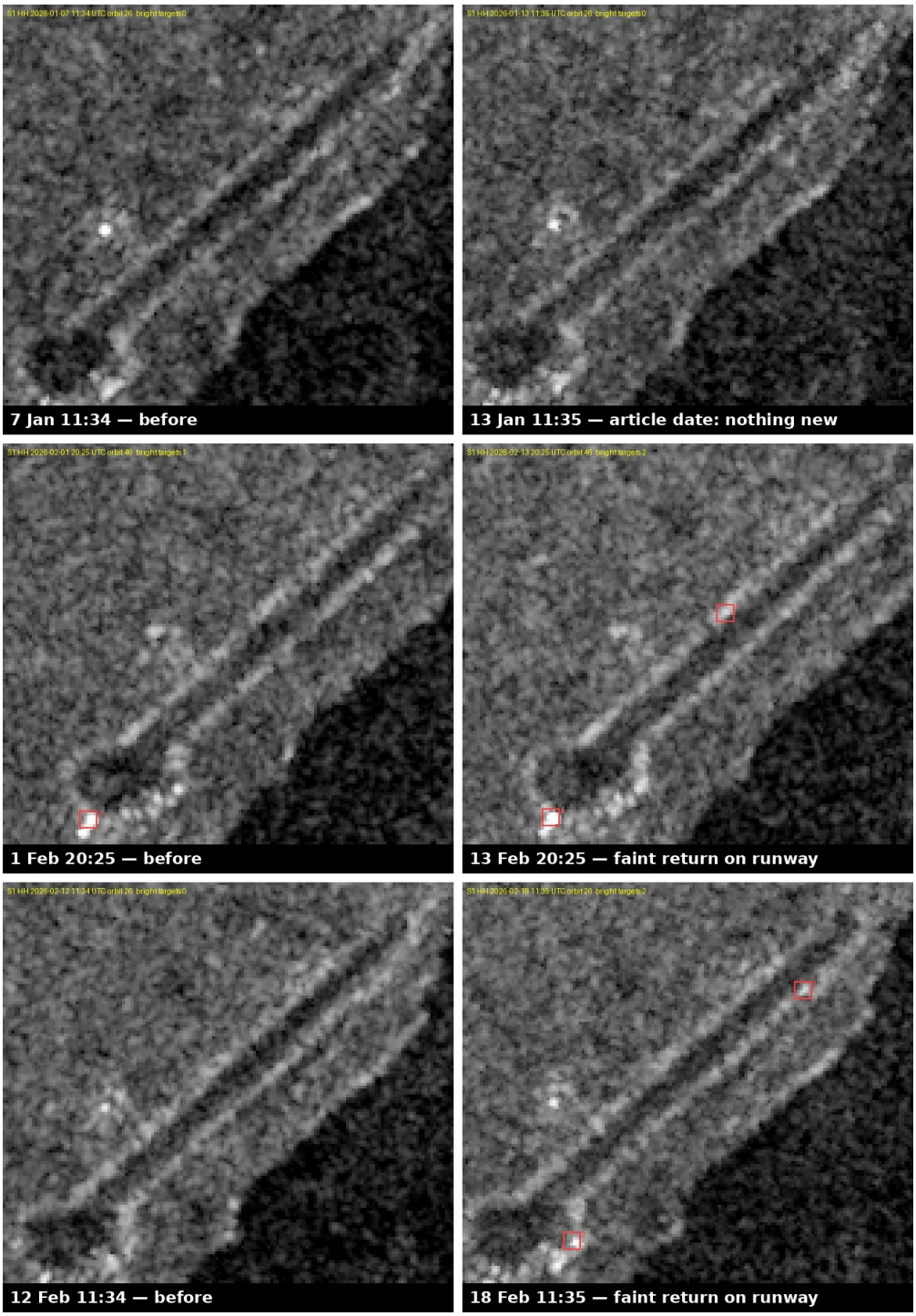


Plate B — Alert airfield on Sentinel-1 radar (HH, ~1.5 km × 1.5 km, runway running SW–NE; station buildings at lower left). Each pair compares a pass with an earlier one from the same orbit. Red boxes: returns brighter than that orbit's median by more than 6 dB. The box at lower left in the February frames is a fixed feature on the apron that recurs on most passes; the upper boxes are the single-pass runway returns. No convincing aircraft signature in any frame.

4. Aircraft seen in West Greenland

Date	Aircraft	Operator	Where	Context
12–15 Jan	C-130J B-536, B-537; Challenger C-080	Royal Danish Air Force	Nuuk	Ahead of the reported 16 Jan airlift start
17 Jan	A400M F-RBAR	French Air and Space Force	Nuuk	French mountain troops arrive (15–18 Jan)
Jan–Mar	MH-60R N-971, N-972 (9 days)	Royal Danish Navy	Off Nuuk	Frigate-based helicopters
Jan–Mar	Challenger C-168, C-172, C-215; C-130J B-538, B-583	Royal Danish Air Force	West Greenland	Patrol and airlift
9 Feb	C-40C 05-4613	US Air Force	Nuuk	Government transport; purpose not reported
20 Feb	Falcon 50 "36"	French Navy/Air Force	Nuuk	Liaison; around the Danish king's 18–20 Feb visit
4 Mar	767-200 21-46095	US Air Force	Near Nuuk	KC-46-type tanker serial; transit or support

5. What Parts 2 and 3 will test

5.1 Spring Operation BOXTOP (9–25 Apr; RCAF CC-177 and RAF C-17 staging through Pituffik) — the first window with daylight imagery over Alert's apron.

5.2 Whether Danish and allied activity in Greenland stayed elevated after March, and whether any RCAF aircraft appear in Greenland.

5.3 Any Alert-bound flights outside the BOXTOP windows (the article's prediction), using Pituffik approaches as a proxy, since Alert itself is unheard.

6. Limits

Open ADS-B (adsb.lol) depends on volunteer receivers and has almost none north of 70°N; military aircraft often fly without position broadcasts. Absence of a flight in this data is not evidence it did not happen. Commercial feeds (FlightRadar24, ADS-B Exchange) and satellite ADS-B would fill some of the gap but are not free. Sentinel-1 at 10–20 m can show a large aircraft as a bright return but cannot identify it.

Plates — every component in this brief

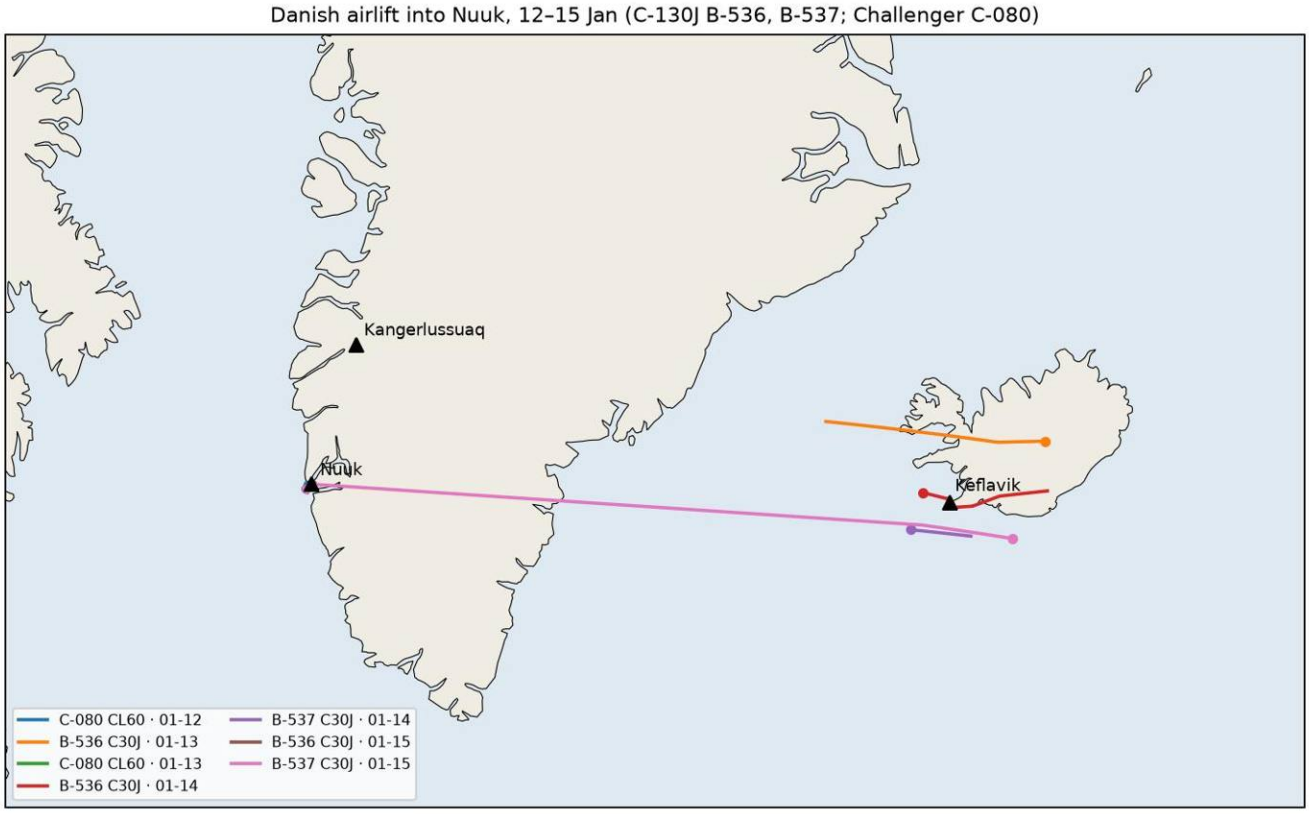


Plate C1 — Danish airlift into Nuuk, 12–15 Jan (C-130J B-536, B-537; Challenger C-080).

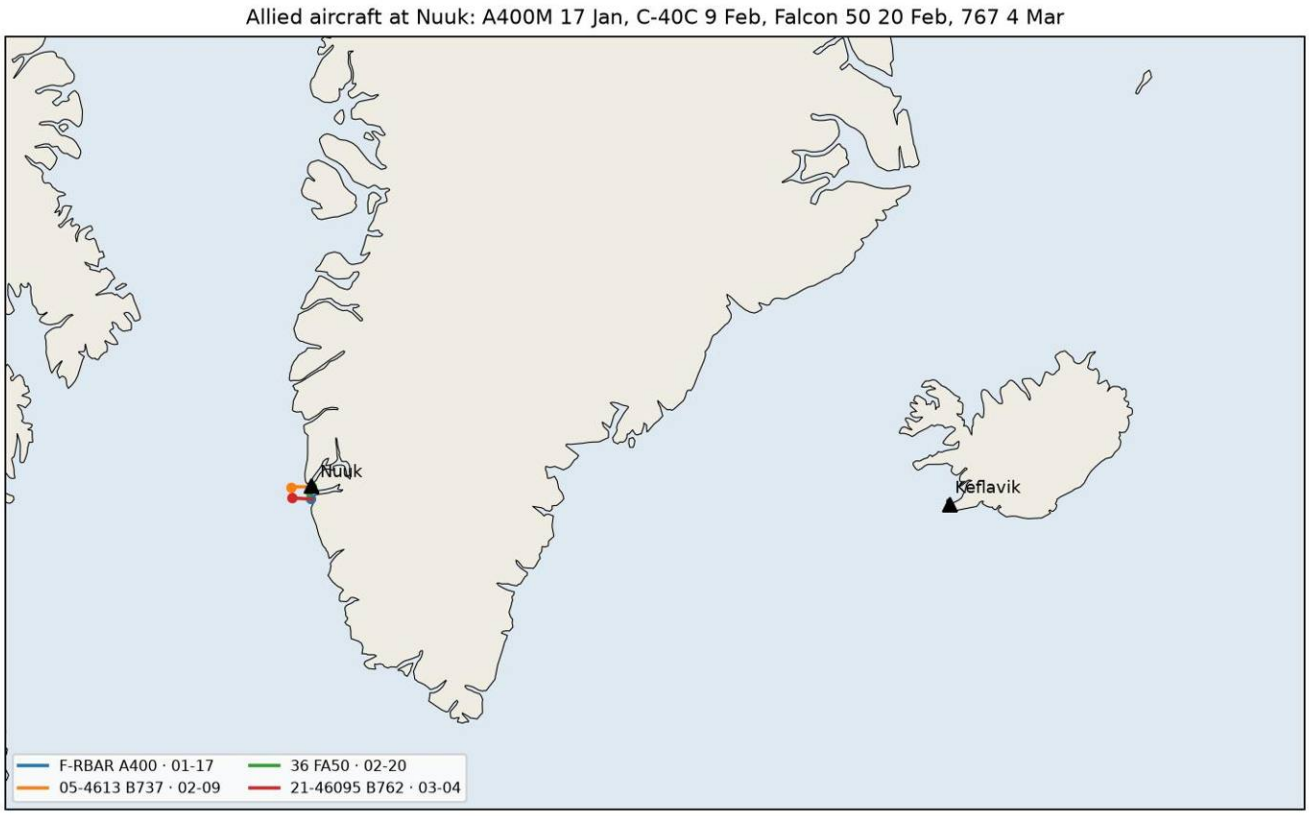


Plate C2 — Allied aircraft at Nuuk: A400M 17 Jan, C-40C 9 Feb, Falcon 50 20 Feb, 767 4 Mar.

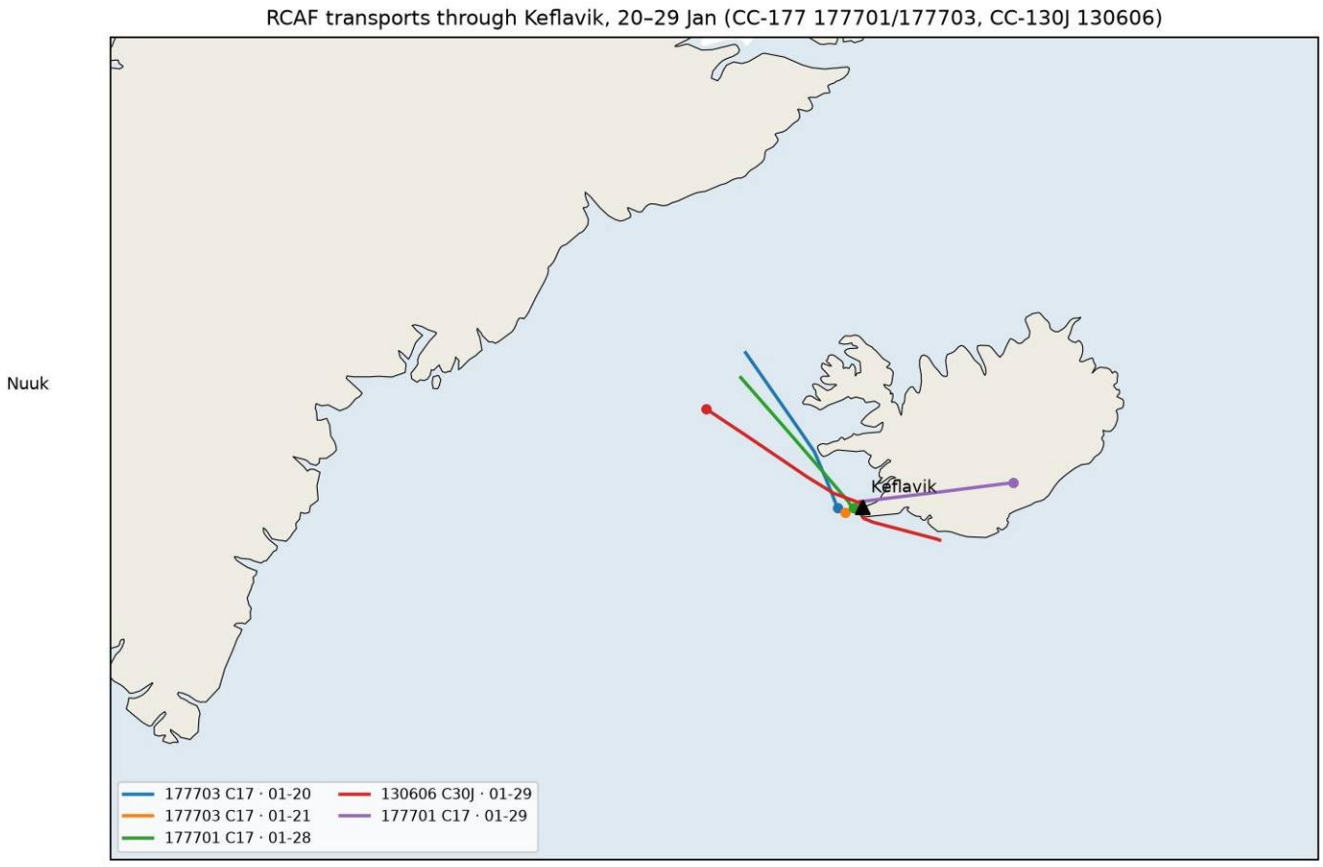


Plate C3 — RCAF transports through Keflavik, 20–29 Jan (CC-177 177701/177703, CC-130J 130606).



Plate C4 — CC-130J 130615 (the article's aircraft), 10 Feb, Yukon–Alaska.

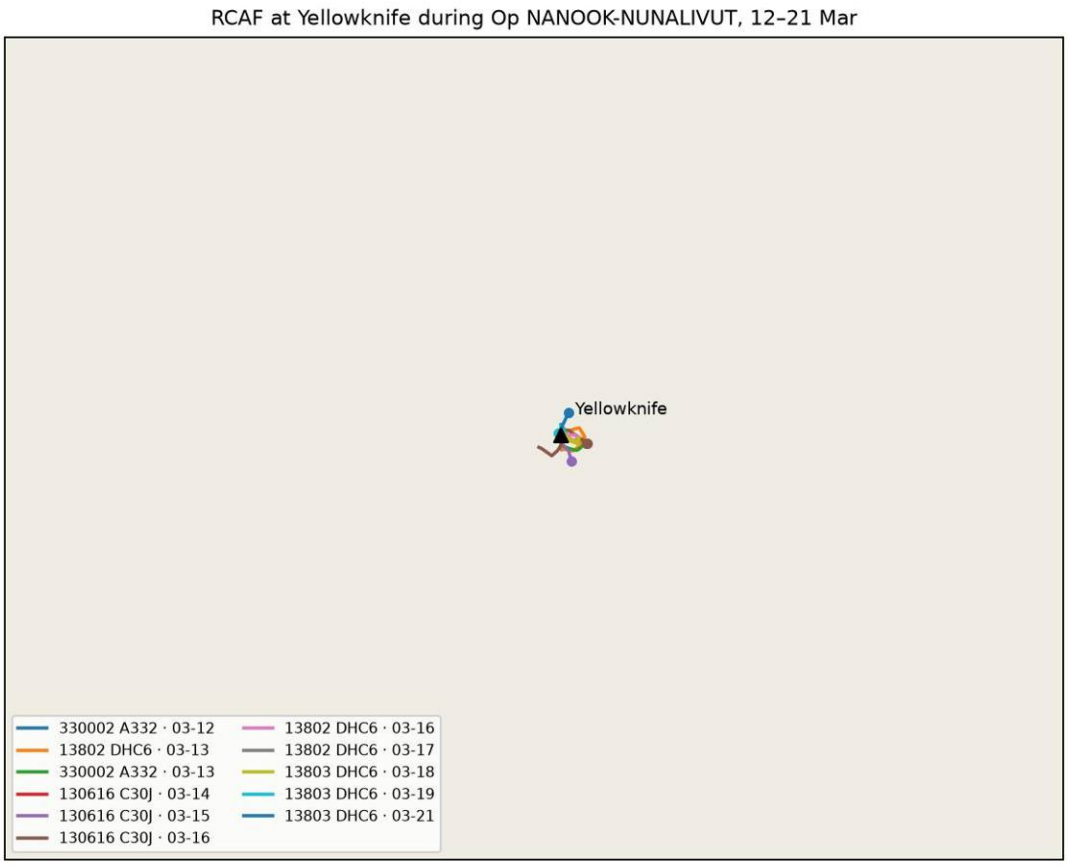


Plate C5 — RCAF at Yellowknife during Op NANOOK-NUNALIVUT, 12–21 Mar.

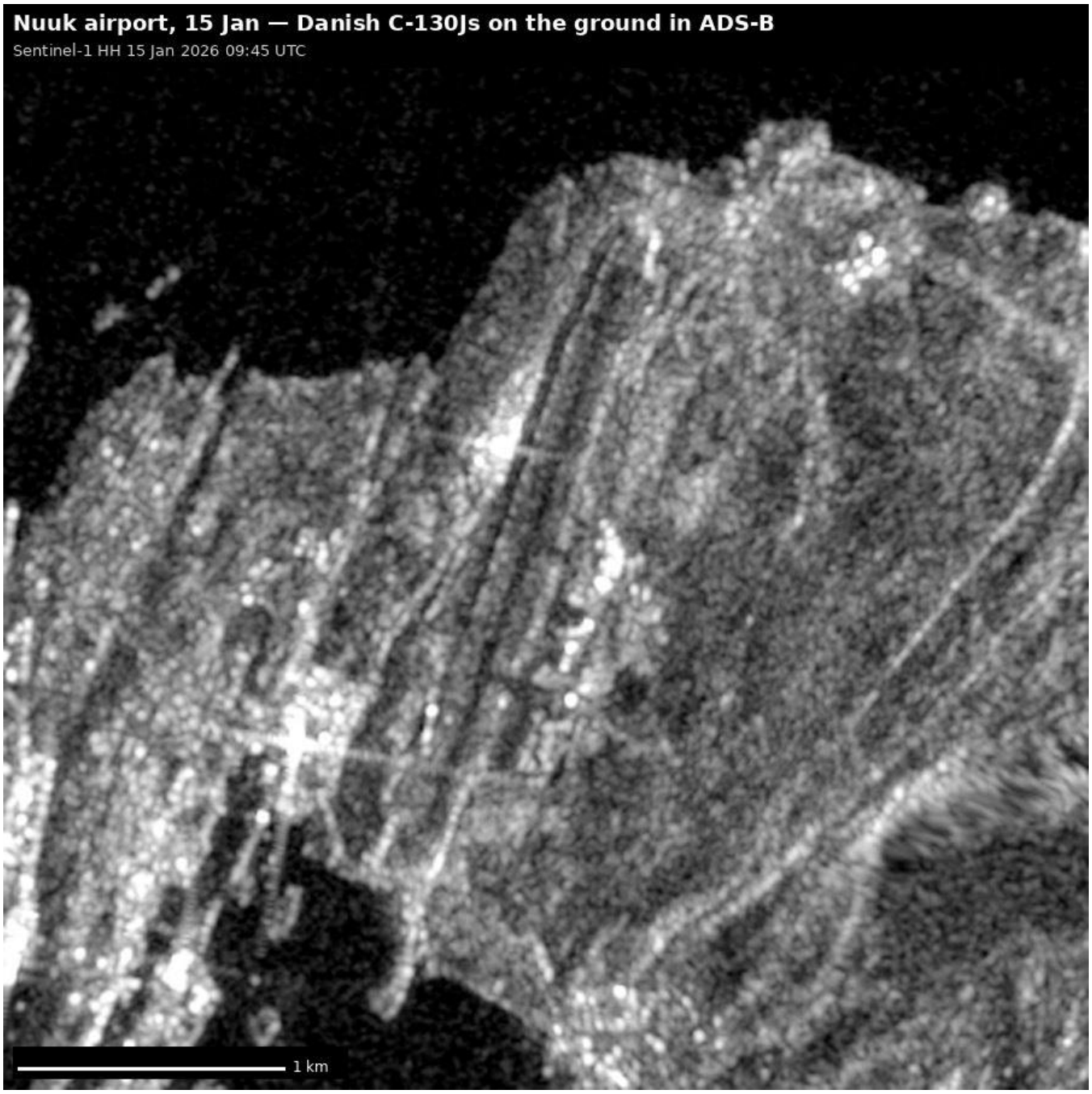


Plate D1 — Nuuk airport, 15 Jan — Danish C-130Js on the ground in ADS-B.

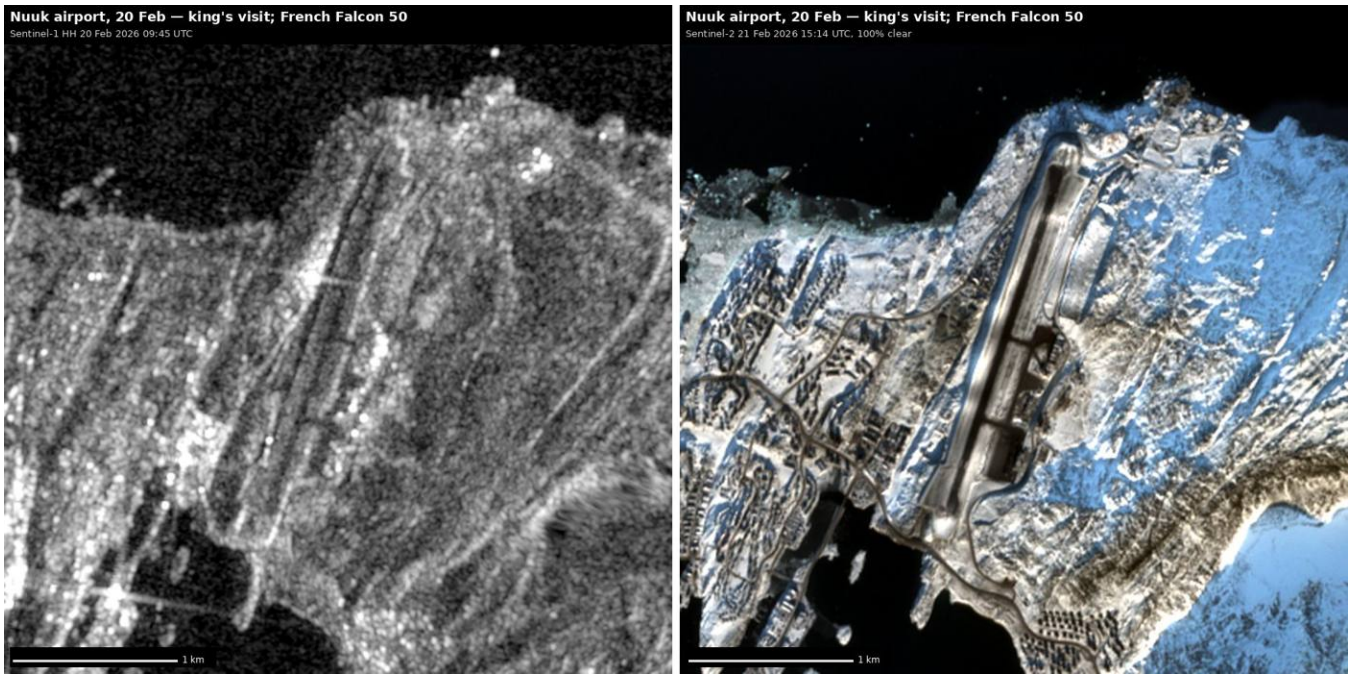


Plate D2 — Nuuk airport, 20 Feb — king's visit; French Falcon 50.



Plate D3 — Pituffik Space Base, 13 Jan — the article's date.

Sources

• Prime Rogue Inc., The Arctic Flight Nobody Noticed (Jan 2026) — primerogueinc.com/blog/the-arctic-flight-nobody-noticed-how-canadas-alert-station-became-natos-answer-to-trumps-greenland-threats/
• adsb.lol globe history archive (GitHub releases adsblol/globe_history_2026), days 1 Jan – 24 Mar 2026 — github.com/adsblol/globe_history_2026
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• Wikipedia, 2026 in Greenland (accessed 25 Oct 2026) — en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_in_Greenland
• InQuinte, Bi-annual Operation BOXTOP set to fly away Thursday, 8 Apr 2026 — www.inquinte.ca/2026/04/bi-annual-operation-boxtop-set-to-fly-away-thursday/
• Vanguard, Canada wraps largest ever Arctic winter military operation — vanguardcanada.com/canada-wraps-largest-ever-arctic-winter-military-operation-with-expanded-northern-presence/
• Copernicus Sentinel-1/-2 (Microsoft Planetary Computer, Element 84 Earth Search).