

RWI HINDCAST 002 — CFS Alert

Formerly RWI SITREP 007 Part 2. Renamed 27 Oct 2026: reports that reconstruct past events are Hindcasts; SITREPs cover the current situation.

Part 2 of 3 · 25 March – 30 June 2026 · Part 1 covered 1 Jan – 24 Mar; Part 3 (1 Jul – 24 Oct) follows when the archive scan completes.

Issued 25 Oct 2026. Starting point: Prime Rogue's article The Arctic Flight Nobody Noticed — 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 (96 of 98 days in this window scanned; 30 Apr and 4 May are being re-run), Sentinel-2 (daylight from 24 Mar; 71 passes over Alert in the window), Sentinel-1 radar (43 passes over Alert), Department of National Defence, Danish Defence and news reporting. Times UTC.

1. Bottom line

1.1 Spring BOXTOP happened, and it was British as well as Canadian. DND confirms Operation BOXTOP 26-1 in April: an RCAF CC-177 and, for the first time, an RAF C-17, staging through Pituffik and flying more than 1.1 million litres of fuel into Alert, with photos dated 15–16 Apr. Open ADS-B logs RAF C-17s through Keflavík on 7, 10, 18 and 27 Apr. On 10 Apr, **ZZ176** left Iceland heading northwest at 32,000 ft and was last heard at 65.6°N 28.5°W, on a line towards Pituffik. On 18 Apr it was heading back southeast towards the UK.

PARTIAL

1.2 Alert itself is still unheard. Nothing was logged north of 72°N in the whole window. The nearest military aircraft to Alert was about 1,950 km away (Danish Challengers off East Greenland). **NOTHING TO MATCH**

1.3 Satellites saw no aircraft on the ground at Alert during BOXTOP — but they were unlikely to. Five clear Sentinel-2 passes (8, 13, 21, 23, 24 Apr, all 19:40–20:30 UTC) and the Sentinel-1 radar pass on 15 Apr 12:08 show an empty runway and apron. A C-17 is on the ground at Alert for a few hours, so a once-a-day snapshot will usually miss it. This is a limit of the data, not evidence against DND's account. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

1.4 US government jets at Nuuk match the envoy's visit. A USAF C-40B (01-0040) descended into Nuuk on 17 May between 17:05 and 18:33, the day AFP reported envoy Jeff Landry's arrival. A C-37B (18-1947) climbed out of Nuuk on 20 May, the last day of the Future Greenland forum. US Navy King Airs and a Citation were at Nuuk on 18–20 May. **CORRELATED**

1.5 The busiest Danish stretch since January came in late May. Royal Danish Air Force C-130Js (B-536, B-537, B-538), Challengers and a Navy MH-60R were at Nuuk on most days between 13 May and 4 Jun. The peak was 10 aircraft-days in the week of 25 May. Danish Defence says Arctic Endurance runs through 2026. We found no reporting on this specific surge. **PARTIAL**

1.6 The RCAF's spring and summer effort went west, not to Greenland. RCAF CC-130Js, CC-150 Polaris and the CC-330 Husky, with an RAF A400M, appear at the Yukon-Alaska border on 25–27 May and 12–16 Jun. That matches RCAF and RAF participation in RED FLAG-Alaska 26-2 (28 May – 12 Jun). Our scan stops at 140°W, so these are only the Canadian ends of the tracks. **CORRELATED**

1.7 The article's aircraft reappears. CC-130J **130615** was at Yellowknife on 29–30 May. That is its second sighting in the archive after 10 Feb, and neither sighting is near Alert. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

1.8 Still no RCAF aircraft in Greenland. RCAF CC-177s, the CC-330 and CC-144s used Keflavík throughout the window — 14 aircraft-days, clustered on 11–27 Apr and 12–30 Jun — but none was logged west of 40°W in Greenland. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

2. The article's testable claims, after Part 2

Claim (article, Jan 2026)	Status after Part 2	Basis
The January CC-130J flight to Alert was out of cycle	Consistent	The scheduled run, BOXTOP 26-1, came in April as usual (DND, 15 May)
Alert's tempo will stay elevated while Greenland tensions last	Not testable at Alert with open data	Nothing heard north of 72°N; no aircraft seen on the ground in 5 clear passes during BOXTOP
Alert is becoming a NATO / allied node	Partly supported	BOXTOP 26-1 was the first resupply with an RAF C-17 alongside the RCAF (DND calls it an operational first)
Allied military activity around Greenland rose after Trump's threats	Supported	Danish surge 13 May – 4 Jun; Dutch tankers off Nuuk in April; US government jets during the envoy's visit
Canada is not initiating Greenland operations (Ottawa, 15 Jan)	Consistent	No RCAF aircraft logged in Greenland; RCAF effort goes to BOXTOP, NANOOK and RED FLAG-Alaska

3. Military air activity, weekly

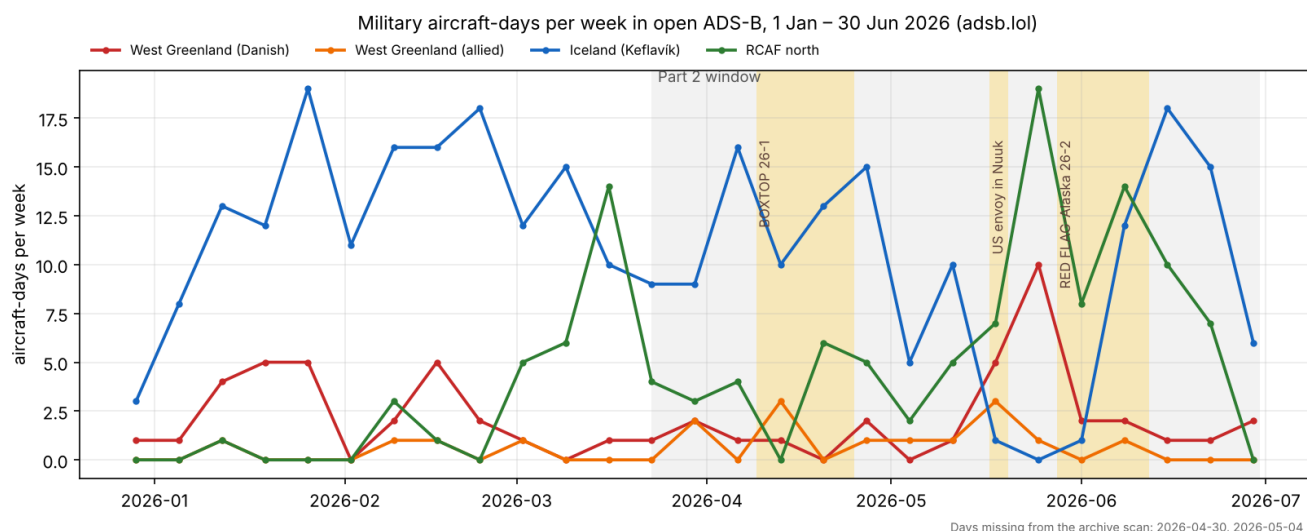


Plate A. Aircraft-days per week, 1 Jan – 30 Jun. Shaded: the Part 2 window. Yellow: BOXTOP 26-1, the envoy's visit and RED FLAG-Alaska 26-2. West Greenland = west of 40°W and north of 59°N, split into Danish and allied. RCAF north = Canadian military aircraft north of 58°N between 141°W and 60°W (mostly 440 Squadron Twin Otters at Yellowknife, plus the late-May and June western cluster). The fall in Keflavík traffic in the weeks of 18 May and 25 May is real in the archive, but we cannot explain it.

4. Alert airfield

CFS Alert airfield — clear Sentinel-2 passes around BOXTOP 26-1 (9-25 Apr)

True colour, 10 m. Runway SW-NE; station at lower left. Red boxes are automatic detections — on review, snow-clearing marks and terrain, not aircraft.

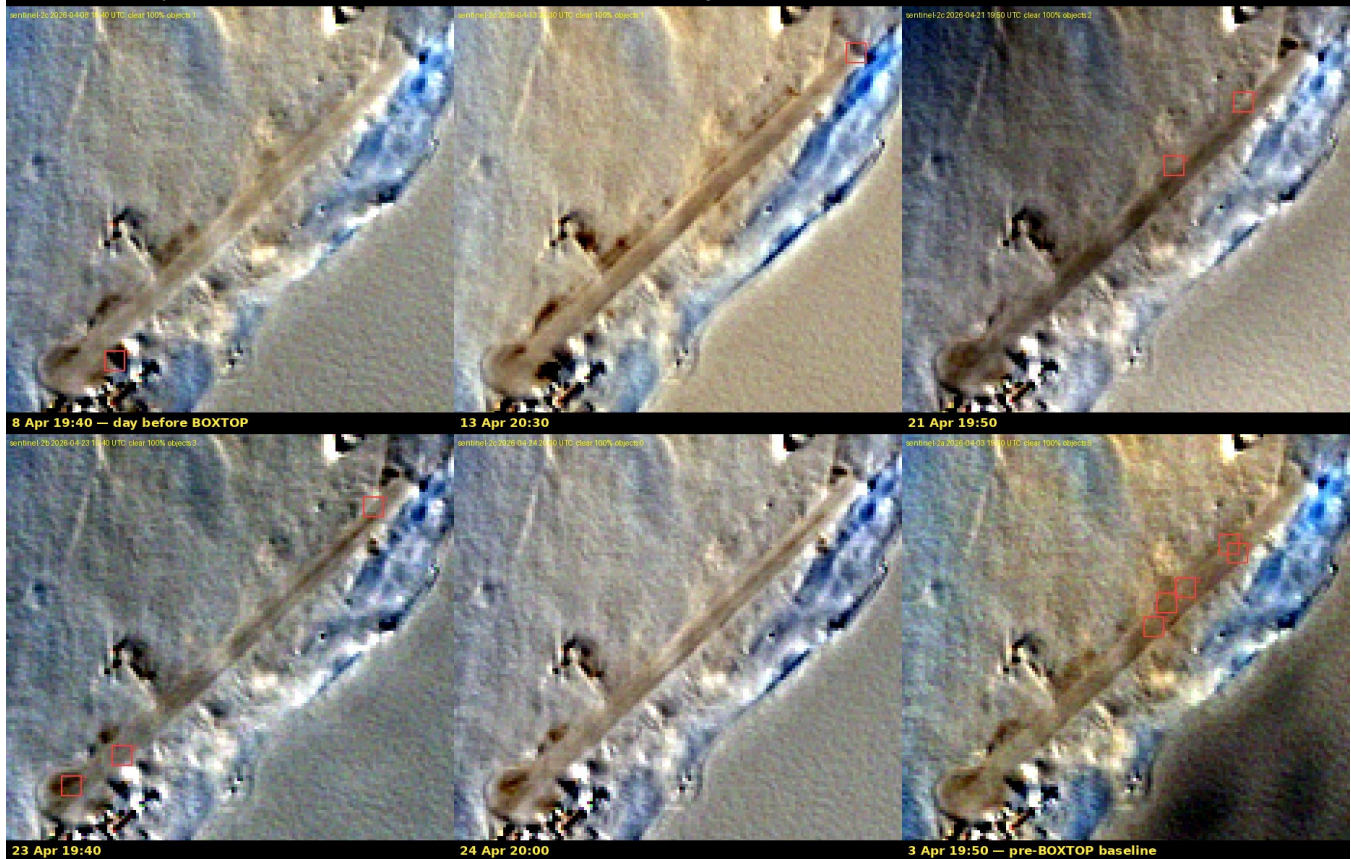


Plate B — clear Sentinel-2 passes around BOXTOP 26-1. No aircraft on the runway or apron in any frame. The automatic detector's red boxes fall on snow-clearing marks and terrain; this matches Part 1's finding that optical detections at Alert are unreliable. Passes at about 20:00 UTC (15:00–16:00 at Alert) miss short ground stops.

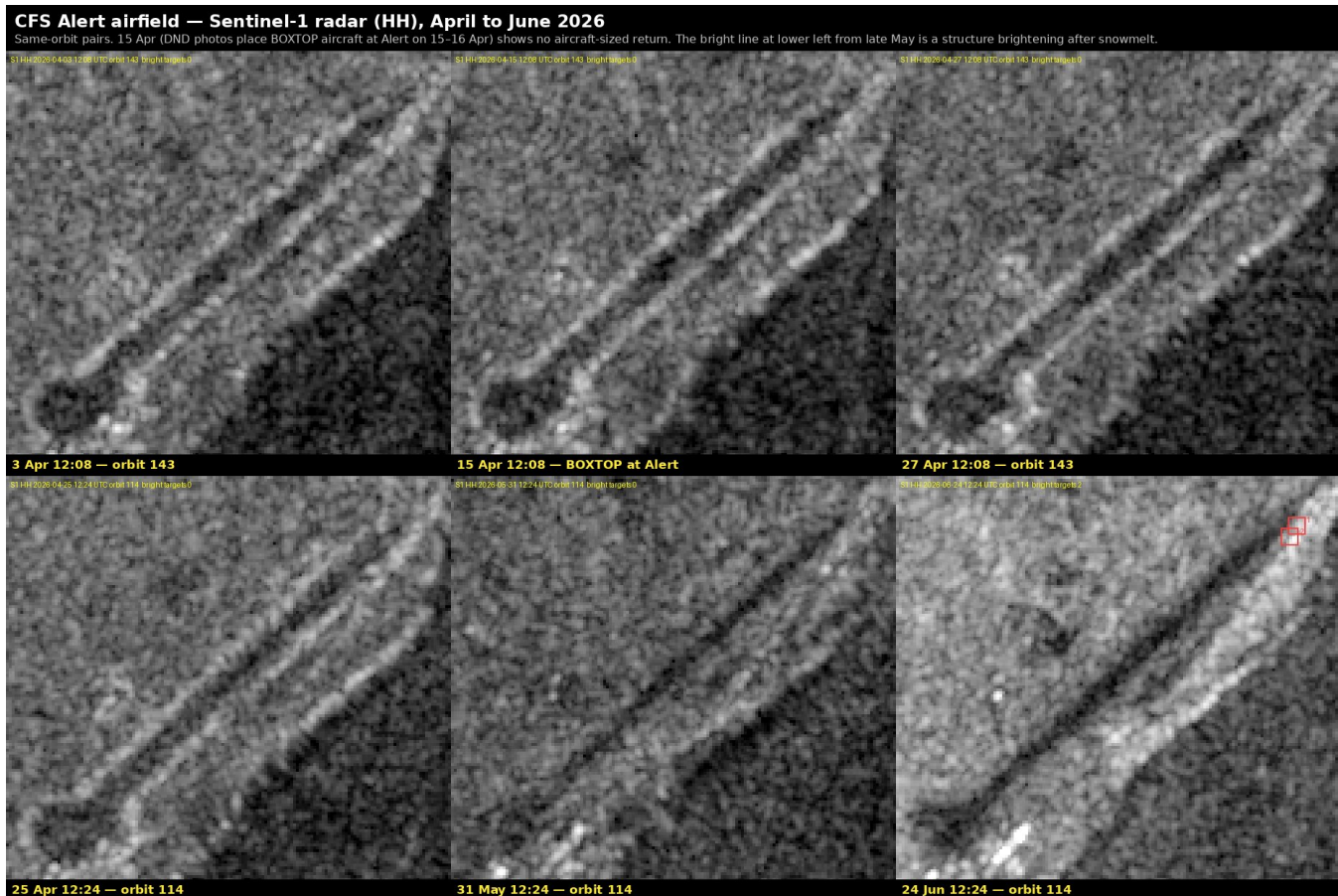


Plate C — Sentinel-1 radar. Same-orbit comparisons. 15 Apr 12:08 falls inside the 15–16 Apr window in DND's photo captions and shows nothing aircraft-sized. The bright linear return at lower left on 31 May and 24 Jun is a structure that brightens once the snow melts. It is absent in April and early May on the same orbit, and it is too long and too fixed in position to be an aircraft.

5. Aircraft of note

Date	Aircraft	Operator	Where	Context
7–27 Apr	C-17 ZZ178, ZZ176, ZZ174	Royal Air Force	Keflavík; NW-bound 10 Apr	BOXTOP 26-1 (RAF's first)
15 Apr	C-5M 87-0028	US Air Force	Off West Greenland, eastbound	Same day as BOXTOP at Pituffik; purpose not reported
3 Apr – 1 May	A330 MRTT T-054, T-057, T-059, T-061	Royal Netherlands Air Force	Off Nuuk	Tanker support; not reported
16 Apr	A330 A7-HHM	Qatar Amiri Flight	Near Nuuk	Government transit; not reported
17–20 May	C-40B 01-0040; C-37B 18-1947; King Air 350, Citation	US Air Force / US Navy	Nuuk	Envoy Landry's visit and Future Greenland forum
13 May – 4 Jun	C-130J B-536/537/538; Challenger C-080, C-168; MH-60R N-971	Royal Danish Air Force / Navy	Nuuk	Arctic Endurance; surge not reported
14 Jun	Gulfstream MM62293	Italian Air Force	Nuuk	VIP transport; not reported
25 May – 16 Jun	CC-130J x4, CC-150 15004/15005, CC-330 330002; A400M ZM409	RCAF; RAF	Yukon–Alaska edge	RED FLAG–Alaska 26-2
29–30 May	CC-130J 130615	RCAF	Yellowknife	The article's Alert aircraft

6. What Part 3 will test

6.1 Fall BOXTOP (usually September–October) — whether the RAF flies again, and whether clear Sentinel-2 passes catch an aircraft on the ground.

6.2 Operation NANOOK's summer phase and any RCAF presence in Greenland.

6.3 Whether the late-May Danish surge was a one-off or the start of a summer pattern.

7. 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 from this data is not evidence that a flight did not happen. Our capture box runs from 140°W to 10°W, so tracks into Alaska are cut off at the border. Sentinel-2 images Alert at about 20:00 UTC and Sentinel-1 at about 11:35, 12:08, 12:24 and 20:25 UTC; neither can catch a turnaround of a few hours except by chance. Two days (30 Apr, 4 May) are still being re-scanned.

Plates — every component in this brief

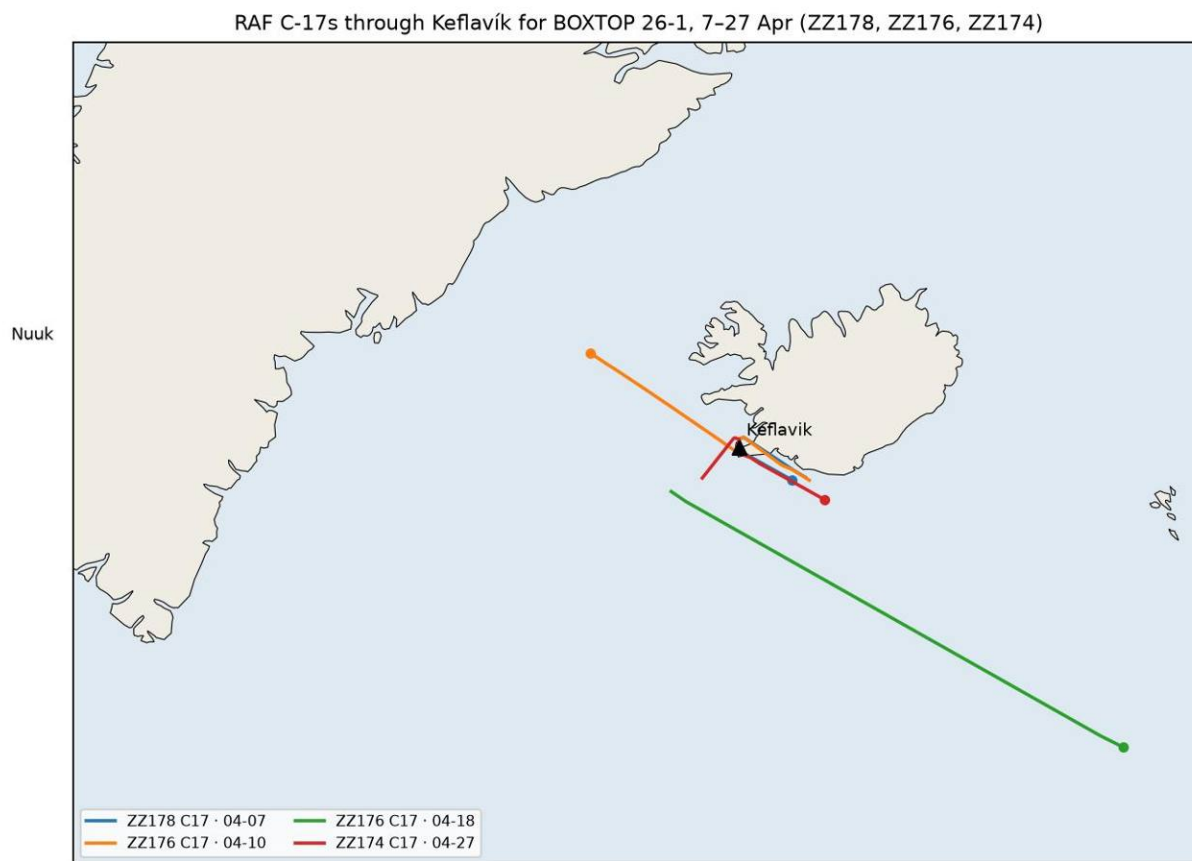


Plate D1 — RAF C-17s through Keflavík for BOXTOP 26-1, 7-27 Apr (ZZ178, ZZ176, ZZ174).

USAF C-5M 87-0028 eastbound off West Greenland, 15 Apr (the day BOXTOP was at Pituffik)



Plate D2 — USAF C-5M 87-0028 eastbound off West Greenland, 15 Apr (the day BOXTOP was at Pituffik).

Pituffik Space Base, 15 Apr — BOXTOP 26-1 staging (DND photos)
Sentinel-2 15 Apr 2026 17:52 UTC, 84% clear



Pituffik Space Base, 15 Apr — BOXTOP 26-1 staging (DND photos)
Sentinel-1 HH 13 Apr 2026 11:36 UTC

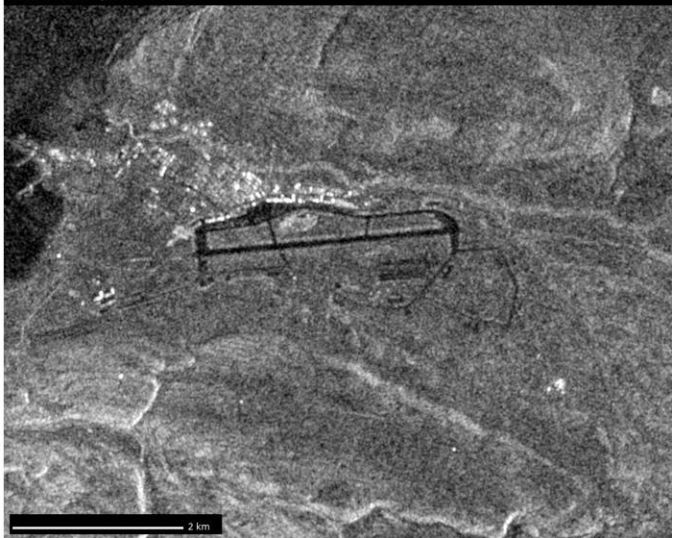


Plate D3 — Pituffik Space Base, 15 Apr — BOXTOP 26-1 staging (DND photos).

US government jets at Nuuk around envoy Landry's visit, 17-20 May (C-40B 01-0040, C-37B 18-1947)

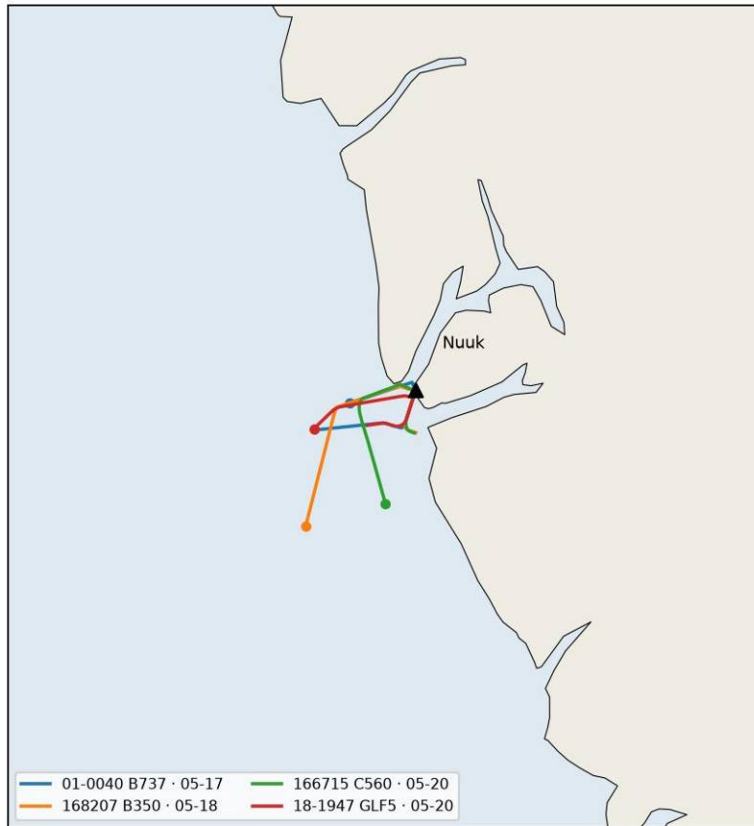


Plate E1 — US government jets at Nuuk around envoy Landry's visit, 17-20 May (C-40B 01-0040, C-37B 18-1947).

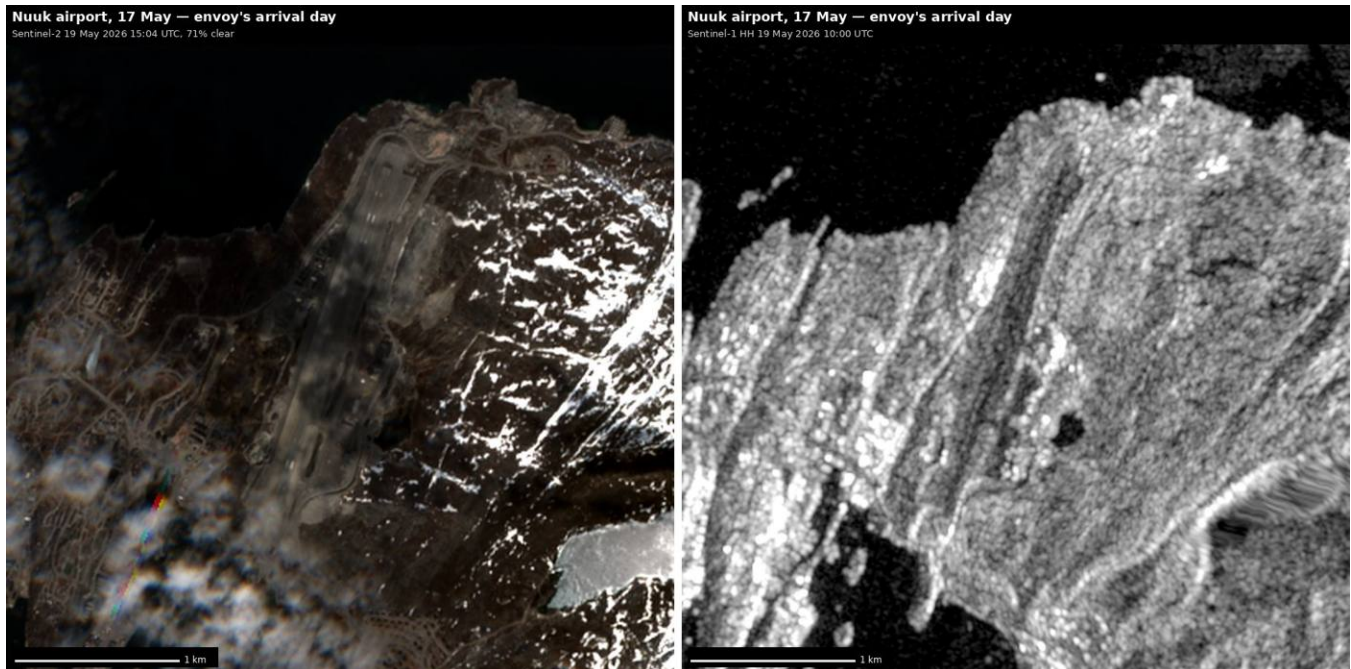


Plate E2 — Nuuk airport, 17 May — envoy's arrival day.

Danish C-130J / Challenger surge at Nuuk, 13 May - 4 Jun

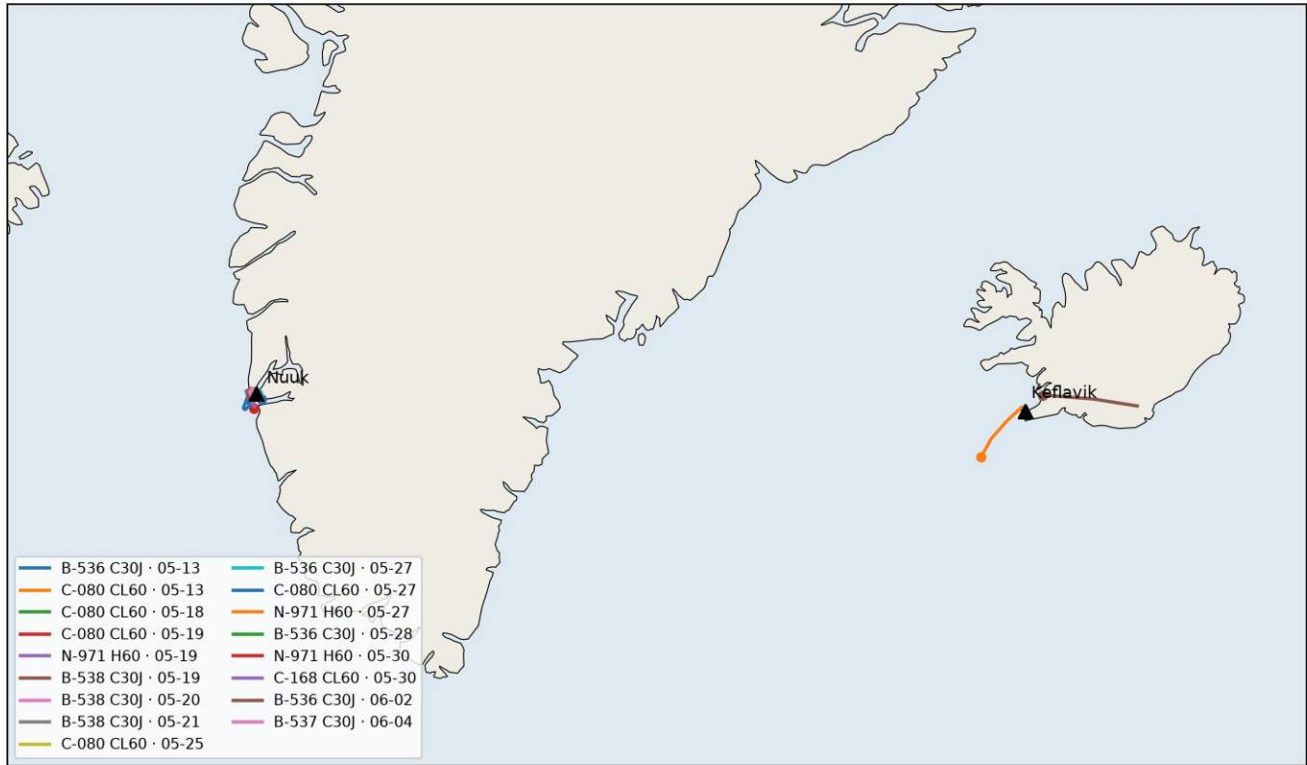


Plate E3 — Danish C-130J / Challenger surge at Nuuk, 13 May - 4 Jun.

Dutch KDC-10/MRTT tankers off Nuuk, 3 Apr - 1 May (T-054, T-057, T-059, T-061)



Plate E4 — Dutch A330 MRTT tankers off Nuuk, 3 Apr - 1 May (T-054, T-057, T-059, T-061).

RCAF and RAF transports at the Yukon-Alaska edge, 25 May - 16 Jun (RED FLAG-Alaska 26-2)

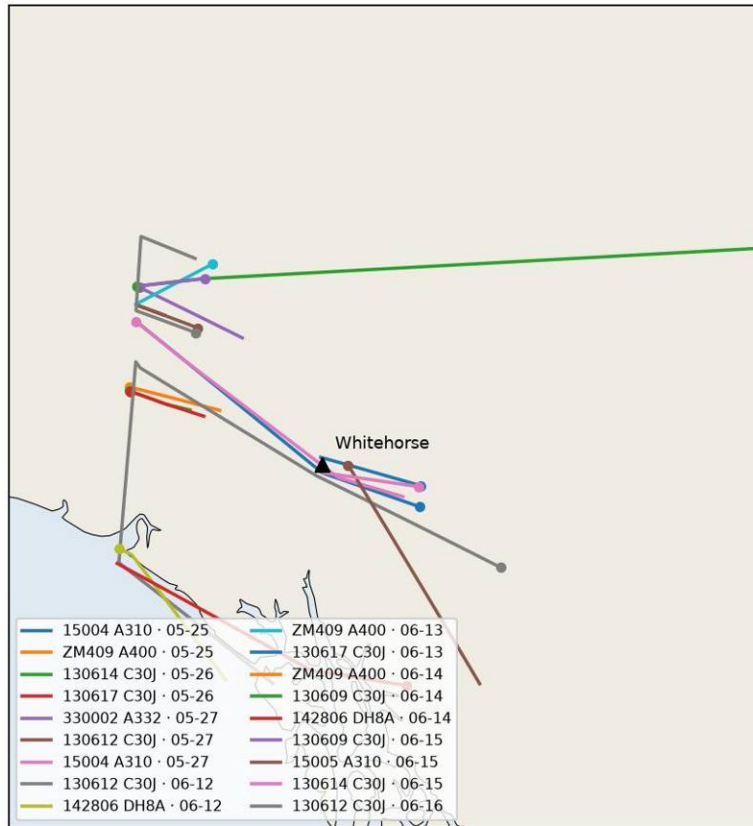


Plate F1 — RCAF and RAF transports at the Yukon-Alaska edge, 25 May - 16 Jun (RED FLAG-Alaska 26-2).

CC-130J 130615 (the January Alert aircraft) at Yellowknife, 29-30 May

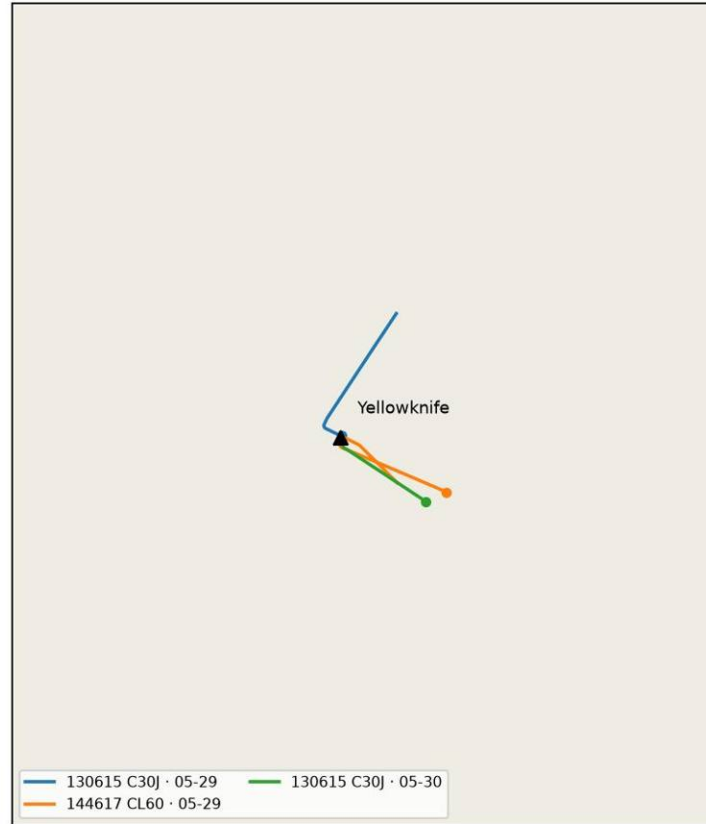


Plate F2 — CC-130J 130615 (the January Alert aircraft) at Yellowknife, 29-30 May.

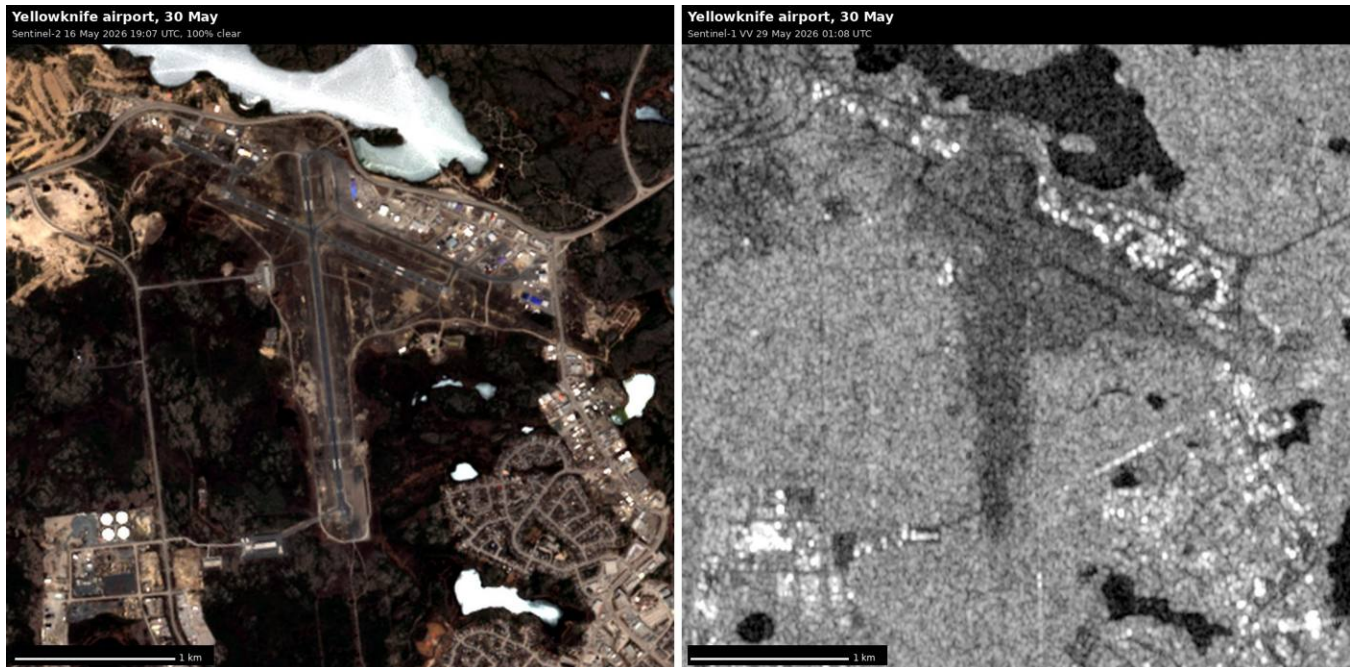


Plate F3 — Yellowknife airport, 30 May.

RCAF through Keflavík, 23-27 Apr (CC-330 330002, CC-177 177702, CC-144 144618)

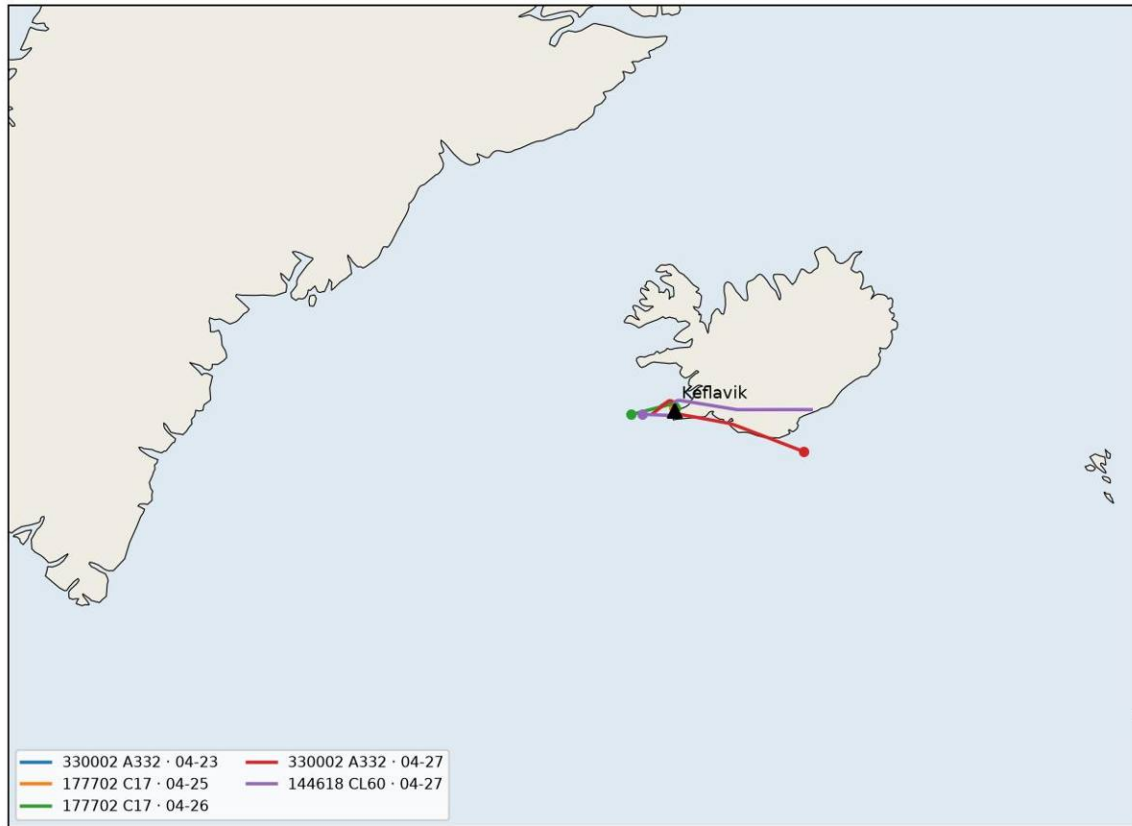


Plate G1 — RCAF through Keflavík, 23-27 Apr (CC-330 330002, CC-177 177702, CC-144 144618).

Sources

- Prime Rogue Inc., The Arctic Flight Nobody Noticed (Jan 2026) — primerogueinc.com/blog/the-arctic-flight-nobody-noticed-how-cana-das-alert-station-became-natos-answer-to-trumps-greenland-threats/
- DND / RCAF, Interoperability and readiness at the top of the world (15 May 2026) — www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/maple-leaf/rcaf/2026/05/interoperability-readiness-top-world.html
- AFP via NAMP, Trump envoy arrives for Greenland visit (17 May 2026) — www.nampa.org/text/22929846
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- Danish Defence, Arctic Endurance continues throughout 2026 (23 Jan 2026) — www.forsvaret.dk/en/news/2026/arctic-endurance-fortsatter-i-hele-2026/
- Danish Defence, Danish-led exercise activity in and around Greenland becomes part of NATO's Arctic Sentry (12 Feb 2026) — www.forsvaret.dk/en/news/2026/ny-danskledet-ovelsesaktivitet-i-og-omkring-gronland-bliver-en-del-af-natos-arctic-sentry/
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- Copernicus Sentinel-1/-2 (Microsoft Planetary Computer, Element 84 Earth Search).