

RWI HINDCAST 002 — CFS Alert

Formerly RWI SITREP 007 Part 3. Renamed 27 Oct 2026: reports that reconstruct past events are Hindcasts; SITREPs cover the current situation.

Part 3 of 3 · 1 July - 24 October 2026 · Parts 1 (1 Jan - 24 Mar) and 2 (25 Mar - 30 Jun) were issued 25 Oct. Issued 26 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/](https://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 (all 116 days in this window; 972 military aircraft-days north of 58°N between 140°W and 10°W), Sentinel-2 (13 passes over Alert, 30 Jul - 20 Sep, before polar night closed optical coverage), Sentinel-1 radar (49 passes over Alert), Department of National Defence, Danish Defence, US Air Force and news reporting. Times UTC.

REPORTER LEADS — things in our data that no public reporting explains yet. Leads, not findings: each needs a reporter to confirm or kill it.

L1. Where were the US C-17s going?

USAF C-17s 00-0174 (28 Jul), 09-9209 (1 Aug) and 99-0168 (4 Sep), heading ~330° from north-east Iceland at 34,000 ft and last heard at 68.4-69.3°N 20.5°W (the first two at the identical point, which is probably the edge of receiver coverage). A Luftwaffe A400M (54+28, 4 Aug) was heard briefly at 68.9-69.3°N heading ~013° — towards Station Nord or Svalbard, not the same line

Why it is a lead: from where they were lost, Pituffik bears ~320°, Alert ~342°, and East Greenland's Constable Pynt and Mestersvig 334-345°. Defense One (20 Oct) reports Mestersvig has mainly hosted special operations forces and is to become a US base. No such flights have been reported.

What would settle it: USAF or Danish Joint Arctic Command confirmation of the destinations; the nearest Sentinel passes of Mestersvig and Constable Pynt (5-7 Sep, Plates D2-D3) show nothing at 10 m. (Plate D1)

L2. An RAF Shadow R1 surveillance aircraft at Nuuk

ZZ416 left Keflavík at 10:19 UTC on 20 Oct and departed Nuuk southbound at 14:58 (its arrival was not heard). It then went unheard for about 24 hours somewhere south of Nuuk, came back from the south to land at Nuuk at about 15:36 on 21 Oct, left at about 17:00 and landed at Keflavík about 20:05. Sister aircraft ZZ418 was at Keflavík 12-13 Oct

Why it is a lead: the Shadow R1 is the RAF's intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft (due for withdrawal under the 2026 Defence Investment Plan). We found no report of RAF ISR flights from or over Greenland.

What would settle it: MoD or Danish confirmation of the tasking and where it spent 20-21 Oct; whether it is linked to Arctic Sentry. The Folketing's Greenland Committee was in Nuuk on 20-23 Oct (Altinget calendar) — no stated link, but worth a check. (Plate H1)

L3. First RCAF aircraft on the ground in Greenland in this year's archive

CC-177 177702: left Keflavík 13:41 UTC on 12 Sep, final approach at Nuuk 15:48, on the ground until about 16:35, then departed westbound

Why it is a lead: it is the only RCAF aircraft logged on the ground at any Greenland airfield all year. It landed the day before NORAD's ARCTIC VANGUARD 26 (13-26 Sep, hosted from Goose Bay, operating over Labrador and Greenland), but DND's account lists CF-18s, a CC-130H and helicopters, not a CC-177.

What would settle it: what 177702 carried to Nuuk (consulate, ARCTIC VANGUARD, or BOXTOP II support). (Plate G1)

L4. Danish military surge at Nuuk, 27 Sep - 3 Oct

Royal Danish Air Force C-130J B-536, Challenger C-168 and Navy helicopter N-977 at or near Nuuk on seven straight days

Why it is a lead: 11 Danish aircraft-days at Nuuk in the week to 4 Oct — the most of the year (late May: 10). Danish Defence says Arctic Endurance runs all year, but we found no report of this week's activity.

What would settle it: Danish Joint Arctic Command or Greenlandic media for an exercise, visit or incident that week. (Plate J1)

L5. Unreported government jets at Nuuk

French government Falcon 7X F-RAFB (departed Nuuk 1 Jul), US Navy Citation 166374 (at Nuuk 15:08–16:07, 10 Jul), USAF C-37A 02-01863 (departed Nuuk 21:00, 31 Jul), Dutch A330 MRTT T-061 (overnight at Nuuk, 3–4 Aug)

Why it is a lead: government transports on the ground at Nuuk with no matching public visit we could find.

What would settle it: who flew in — official calendars of the French, US, Qatari and Dutch governments for those dates. (Plate J2)

1. Bottom line

1.1 **Alert itself is still unheard, for the whole year.** No military aircraft was logged within 600 km of the station in any of the 295 days scanned (1 Jan – 24 Oct); in this window the nearest was 1,750 km away (a French A330 tanker north of Iceland). **NOTHING TO MATCH**

1.2 **Fall BOXTOP cannot be seen in open data.** DND has published nothing on the 2026 late-summer/fall resupply. Clear Sentinel-2 passes (six shown, Plate B) and radar through 24 Oct (Plate C) show no aircraft on the ground at Alert. RCAF CC-177s, CC-130Js 130615 and 130610 and Challengers used Keflavík through September, and RAF C-17 ZZ178 on 2 Oct (ZZ171 passed south of Iceland westbound on 26 Sep), but none can be tied to Alert. Two detector hits were reviewed and are empty: three optical boxes on 30 Jul 20:40, and one weak radar return at the north-east runway end on 15 Oct 12:40. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

1.3 **Iceland became the busiest gateway of the year in late summer.** Keflavík peaked at 36 military aircraft-days in the week of 7 Sep — more than three times the first-half average of 11 — driven by US, German and Canadian traffic (Plate A); the peak itself is unexplained. Northern Viking 26 (August) brought US special operations MC-130Js to Akureyri, matching the US Air Force's account, plus two C-146A Wolfhounds the account does not mention. **CORRELATED** (Northern Viking)

1.4 **France's PEGASE 26 crossed the Arctic on 8 Sep.** Three French A330 MRTT tankers flew north of Iceland in close company at 33,000–36,000 ft (F-UJCL, F-UJCN, F-UJCQ); the Rafales they refuelled do not broadcast. Reporting says the four Rafales flew over Greenland to Alaska with five refuellings. F-UJCL came back south through the same corridor on 14 Sep. **CORRELATED**

1.5 **A newly visible northbound corridor from Iceland.** US C-17s (28 Jul, 1 Aug, 4 Sep) and Danish Challengers flew north-north-west from north-east Iceland and were lost near 69°N, towards Pituffik, Alert or East Greenland. Nothing was heard this far north before July; that may be new receiver coverage rather than new traffic. See lead L1. **NOT IN NEWS**

1.6 **Canada in Greenland, at last:** an RCAF CC-177 landed at Nuuk on 12 Sep (lead L3). NORAD's ARCTIC VANGUARD 26 (13–26 Sep) had RCAF CF-18s and a CC-130H operating over Greenland from Goose Bay with US F-16s, Danish F-35s and a NATO E-3; the fighters did not broadcast, but NATO E-3A LX-N90442 is in our data at Keflavík on 14–18 Sep. **PARTIAL**

1.7 **The article's aircraft again:** CC-130J 130615 transited Keflavík on 8–12 Sep — its third appearance in the archive this year (after 10 Feb and 29–30 May), none near Alert. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

2. The article's testable claims, after Part 3

Claim (article, Jan 2026)	Status after Part 3 (full year)	Basis
The January CC-130J flight to Alert was out of cycle	Consistent	Scheduled BOXTOP came in April; fall BOXTOP is unreported for 2026
Alert's tempo will stay elevated while Greenland tensions last	Not testable with open data	No aircraft heard within 600 km of Alert all year; none seen on the ground in any clear optical pass reviewed
Alert is becoming a NATO / allied node	Partly supported	RAF joined BOXTOP 26-1 (DND, 15 May); ARCTIC VANGUARD put Canada, the US and Denmark together over Greenland in September
Allied military activity around Greenland rose after Trump's threats	Supported; peaked in September	Keflavik peak in September; PEGASE 26 over Greenland; RAF ISR at Nuuk; US plans for Mestersvig and Narsarsuaq (Defense One)
Canada is not initiating Greenland operations (Ottawa, 15 Jan)	Softened by September	RCAF CC-177 at Nuuk 12 Sep; RCAF CF-18s and a CC-130H over Greenland for ARCTIC VANGUARD (NORAD-led, from Goose Bay)

3. Military air activity, weekly

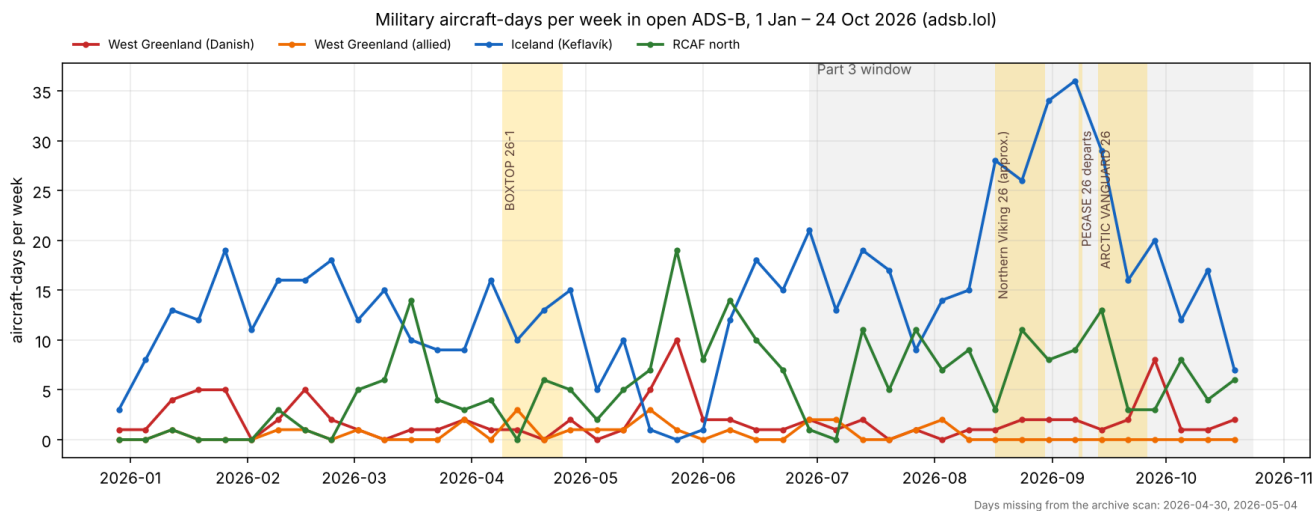


Plate A. Aircraft-days per week, 1 Jan – 24 Oct. Shaded: the Part 3 window. Yellow: BOXTOP 26-1, Northern Viking 26 (approximate dates), the PEGASE 26 departure and ARCTIC VANGUARD 26. Categories as in Parts 1–2. The week of 19 Oct is partial (data to 24 Oct).

4. Alert airfield

CFS Alert airfield — clear Sentinel-2 passes, July to September 2026

True colour, 10 m, auto-stretched per frame. Red boxes: automatic detections; none is an aircraft on review. Polar night ends optical coverage after ~20 Sep.

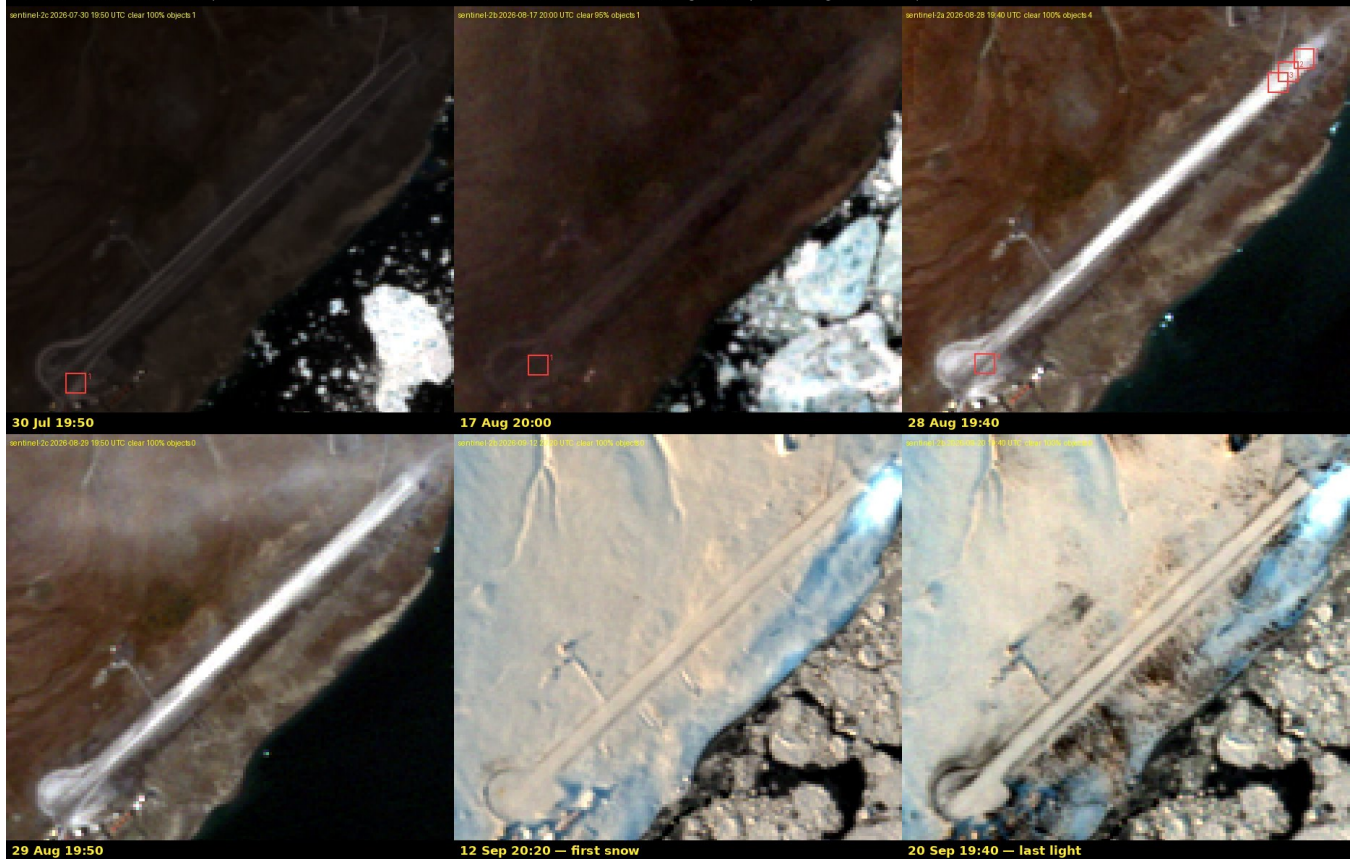


Plate B — Alert airfield, July to September. No aircraft on the runway or apron in any frame. The runway looks much brighter from 26 Aug (dark on 23 Aug); each frame is stretched on its own, so this may be a dry gravel surface rather than resurfacing — not settled. First snow by 12 Sep. After ~20 Sep the sun is too low for usable optical images until March.

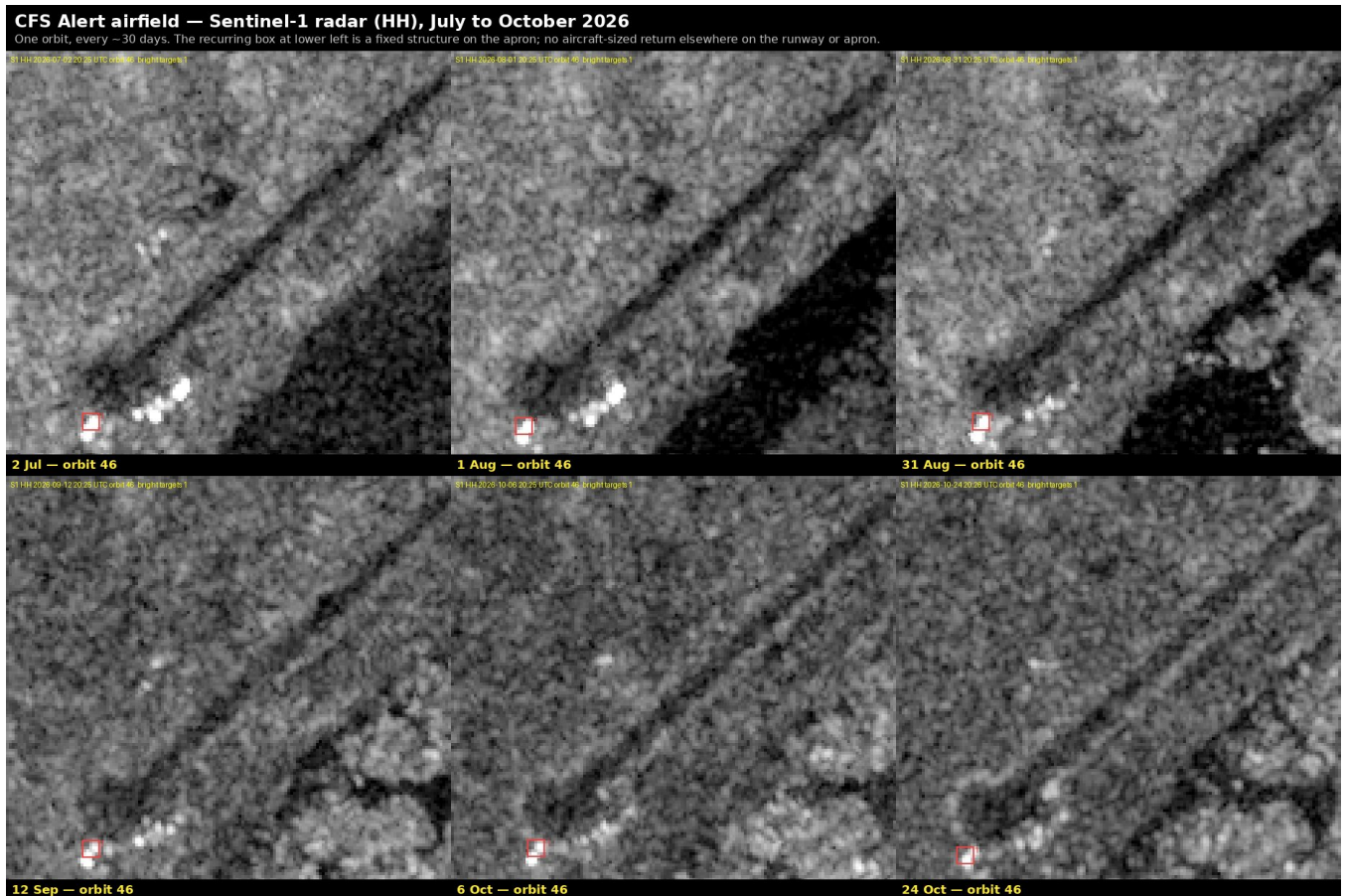


Plate C — Sentinel-1 radar, one orbit, July to October (frames 12-30 days apart). The bright box at lower left recurs on every pass (a fixed structure). Nothing aircraft-sized elsewhere.

5. Aircraft of note

Date	Aircraft	Operator	Where	Context
1 Jul – 4 Aug	Falcon 7X F-RAFB; Citation 166374; C-37A 02-01863; A330 MRTT T-061	France; US Navy; USAF; Netherlands	Nuuk	Government jets; visits unreported (L5)
28 Jul – 4 Sep	C-17 00-0174, 09-9209, 99-0168	USAF	NNW from NE Iceland	Destination unknown (L1)
4 Aug	A400M 54+28	Luftwaffe	68.9–69.3N, heading ~013°	Towards Station Nord / Svalbard; unreported
20–28 Aug	C-146A 16-3020, 99-3106; MC-130J 20-5943, 09-6207	USAF special operations	Akureyri	Northern Viking 26
5–27 Sep	CC-177 177703, 177702; CC-130J 130615, 130610; CC-144 144617, 144618	RCAF	Keflavík	Transits; purpose not reported
14–18 Sep	E-3A LX-N90442	NATO	Keflavík	Matches ARCTIC VANGUARD's NATO E-3
8 / 14 Sep	A330 MRTT F-UJCL, F-UJCN, F-UJCQ	French Air and Space Force	North of Iceland	PEGASE 26 to Alaska
12 Sep	CC-177 177702	RCAF	Nuuk (landed)	First RCAF landing in Greenland this year (L3)
26 Sep / 2 Oct	C-17 ZZ171 / ZZ178	Royal Air Force	South of Iceland / Keflavík	Purpose not reported
27 Sep – 3 Oct	C-130J B-536; Challenger C-168; helicopter N-977	Royal Danish Air Force / Navy	Nuuk	Unreported surge (L4)
12–22 Oct	Shadow R1 ZZ418, ZZ416	Royal Air Force	Keflavík; Nuuk 20 and 21 Oct	ISR aircraft; unreported (L2)

6. Live questions

- **When did fall BOXTOP 2026 fly, and did the RAF take part again?** Parked: not visible in open data and not yet published by DND.
- **Did the January CC-130J flight to Alert happen as described?** Still neither confirmed nor contradicted by open data (Part 1).
- **Is Alert's tempo elevated?** Parked for good unless commercial or satellite ADS-B is bought: free receivers never hear Alert.

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. Fighters (CF-18s, F-35s, Rafales) almost never appear. Our capture box runs from 140°W to 10°W. Sentinel-2 images Alert at about 20:00 UTC and Sentinel-1 at fixed times, so short turnarounds are missed except by chance. Two days in Part 2 (30 Apr, 4 May) are still missing from the scan.

Plates — every component in this brief

JS C-17s heading NNW from NE Iceland, 28 Jul - 4 Sep (00-0174 hidden under 09-9209), and a German A400M heading NNE, 4 Aug

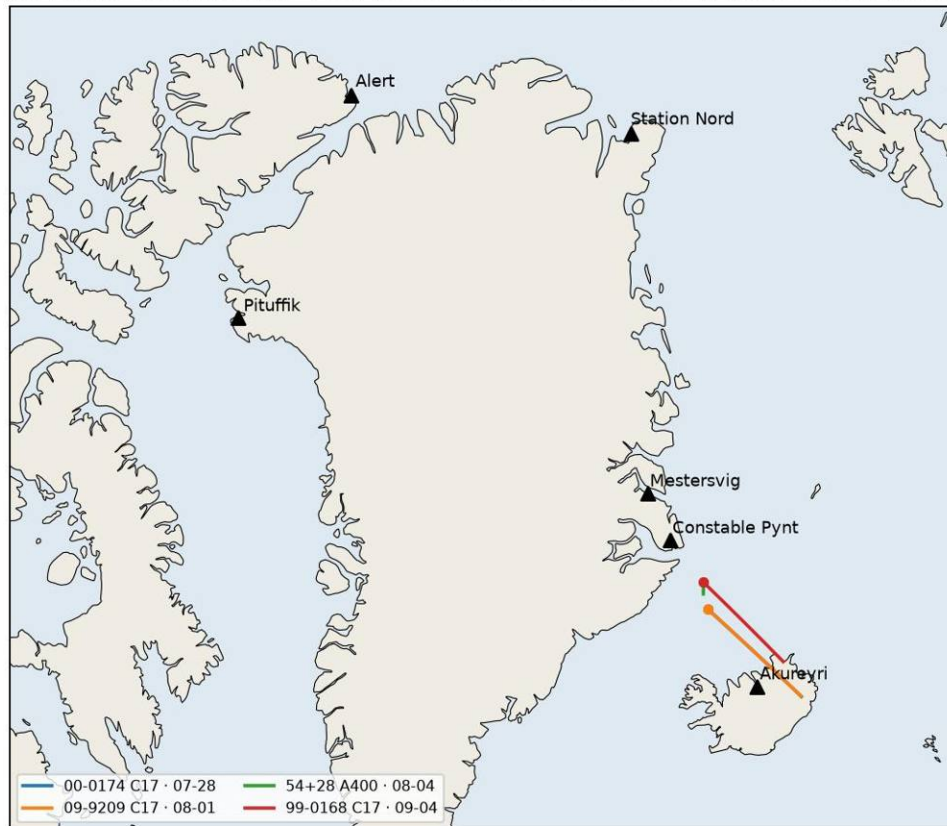


Plate D1 — US C-17s heading NNW from NE Iceland, 28 Jul - 4 Sep (00-0174 hidden under 09-9209), and a German A400M heading NNE, 4 Aug.



Plate D2 — Mestersvig, East Greenland — nearest passes to 4 Sep (planned US base; has hosted special forces).



Plate D3 — Constable Pynt (Nerlerit Inaat), East Greenland — nearest passes to 4 Sep.

US special operations aircraft from Akureyri during Northern Viking 26, 24–28 Aug (C-146A 16-3020, MC-130J ×2)

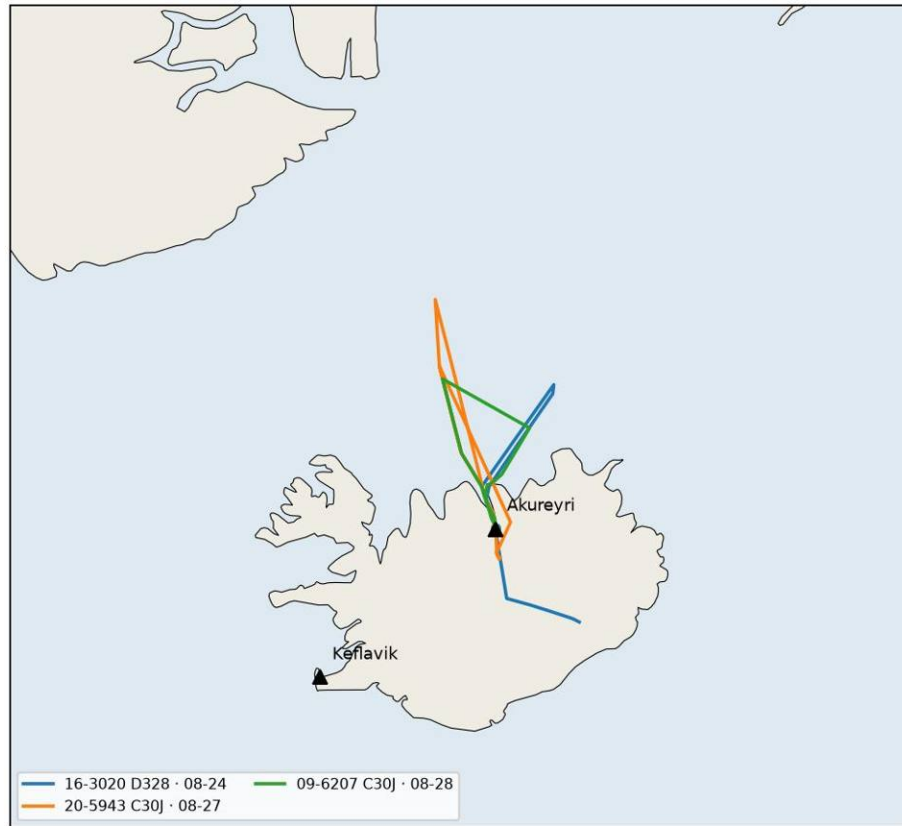


Plate E1 — US special operations aircraft from Akureyri during Northern Viking 26, 24–28 Aug (C-146A 16-3020, MC-130J ×2).

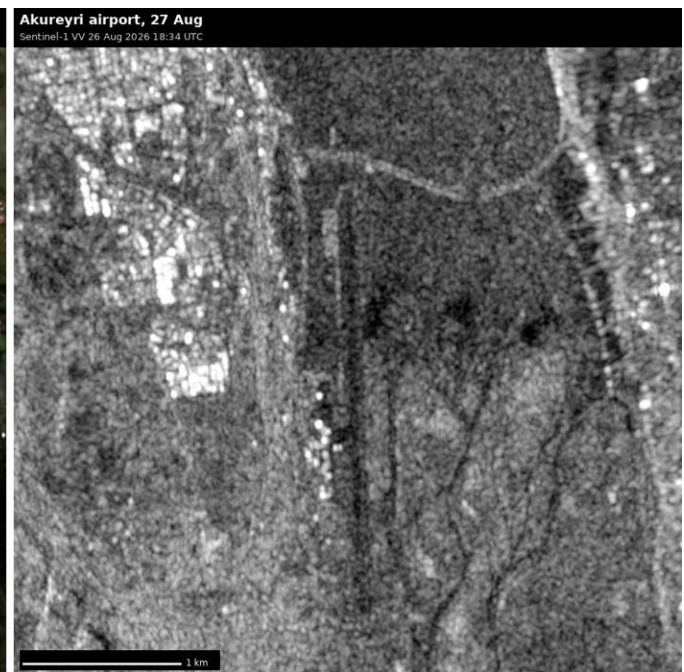


Plate E2 — Akureyri airport, 27 Aug.

PEGASE 26: three French A330 MRTTs north of Iceland, 8 Sep; one returns 14 Sep (F-UJCL, F-UJCN, F-UJCQ)

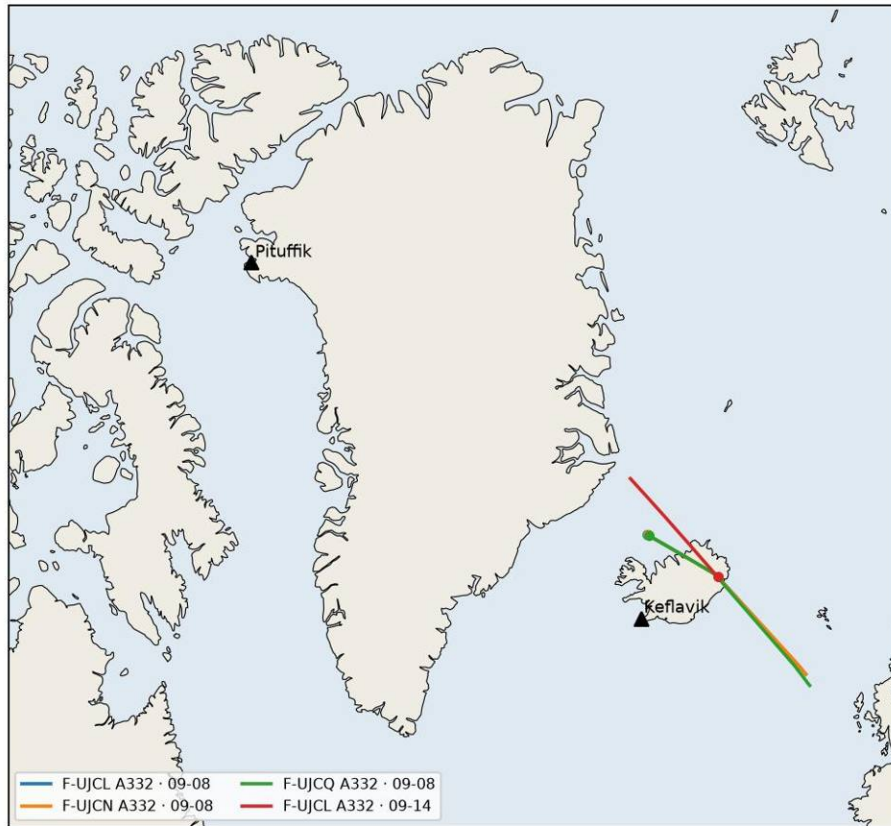


Plate F1 — PEGASE 26: three French A330 MRTTs north of Iceland, 8 Sep; one returns 14 Sep (F-UJCL, F-UJCN, F-UJCQ).

RCAF CC-177 177702 lands at Nuuk, 12 Sep — the only RCAF aircraft on the ground in Greenland in the archive



Plate G1 — RCAF CC-177 177702 lands at Nuuk, 12 Sep — the only RCAF aircraft on the ground in Greenland in the archive.

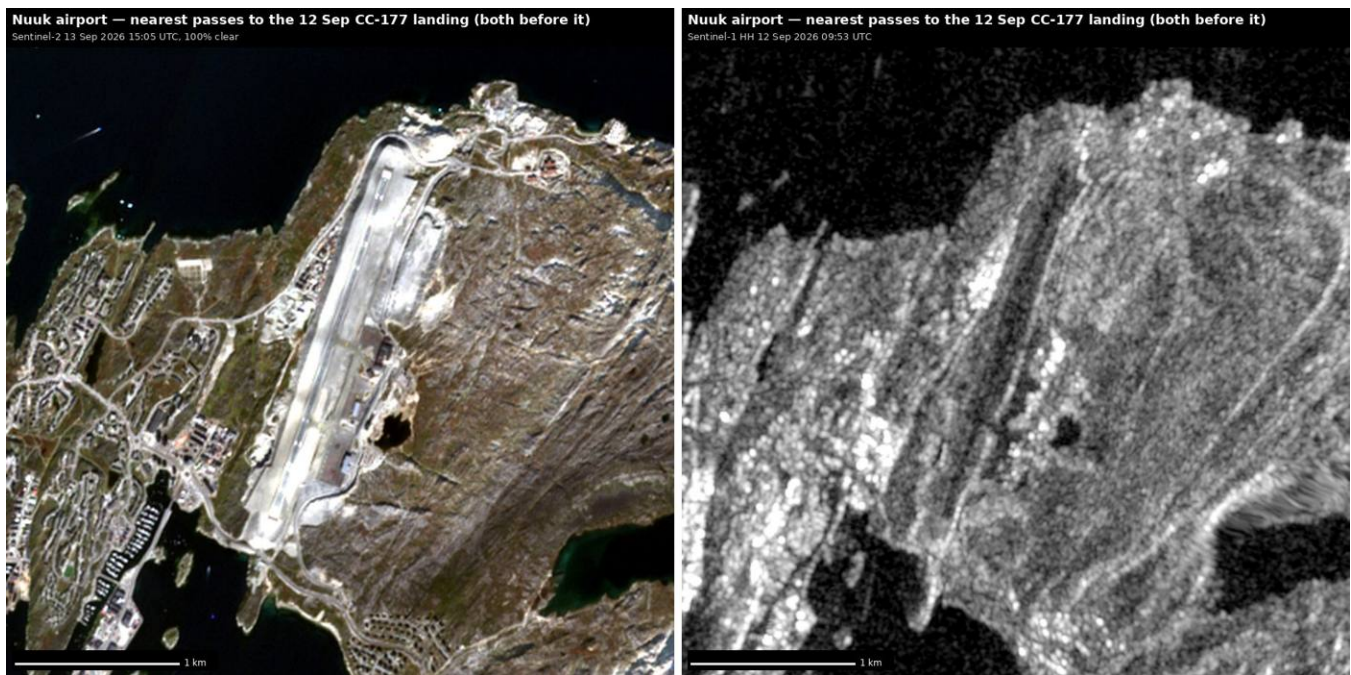


Plate G2 — Nuuk airport — nearest passes to the 12 Sep CC-177 landing (both before it).

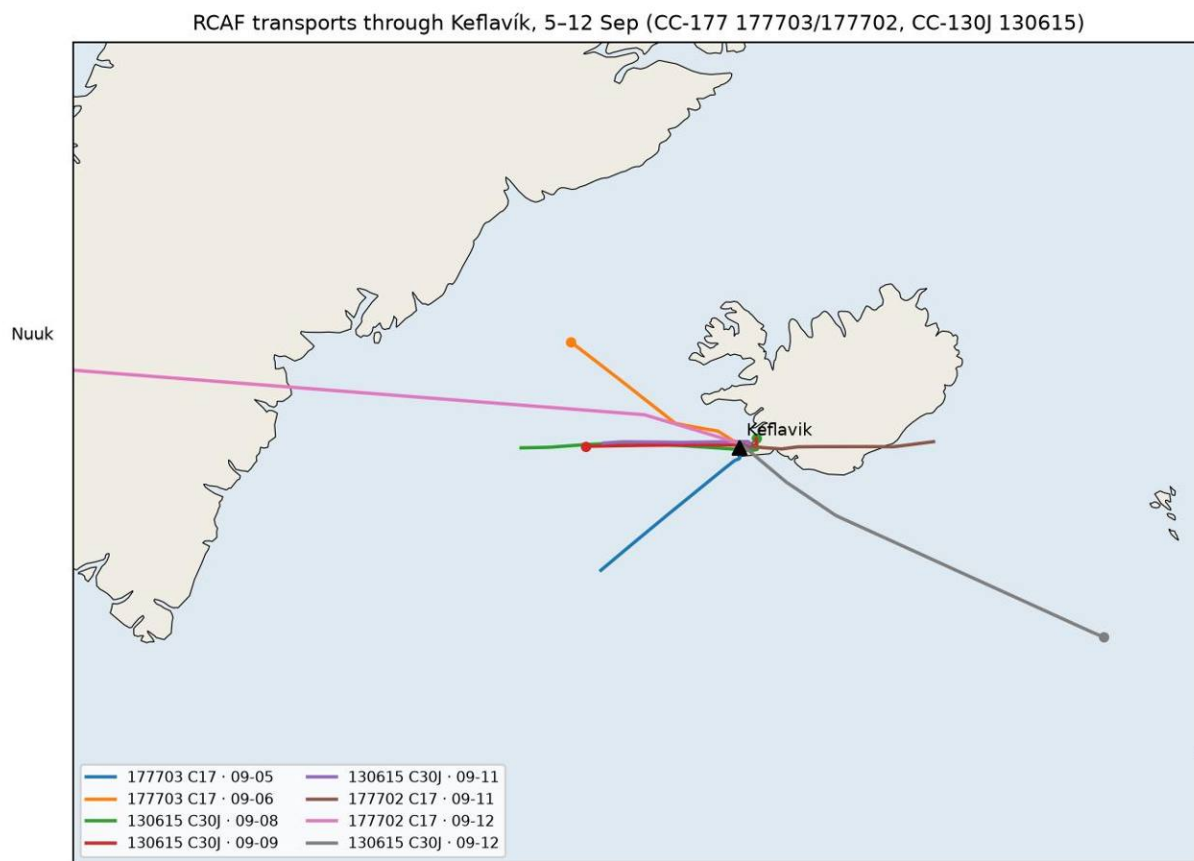


Plate G3 — RCAF transports through Keflavík, 5-12 Sep (CC-177 177703/177702, CC-130J 130615).

RAF Shadow R1 ZZ416 at Nuuk on 20 and 21 Oct (with ZZ418 at Keflavík 12–13 Oct)

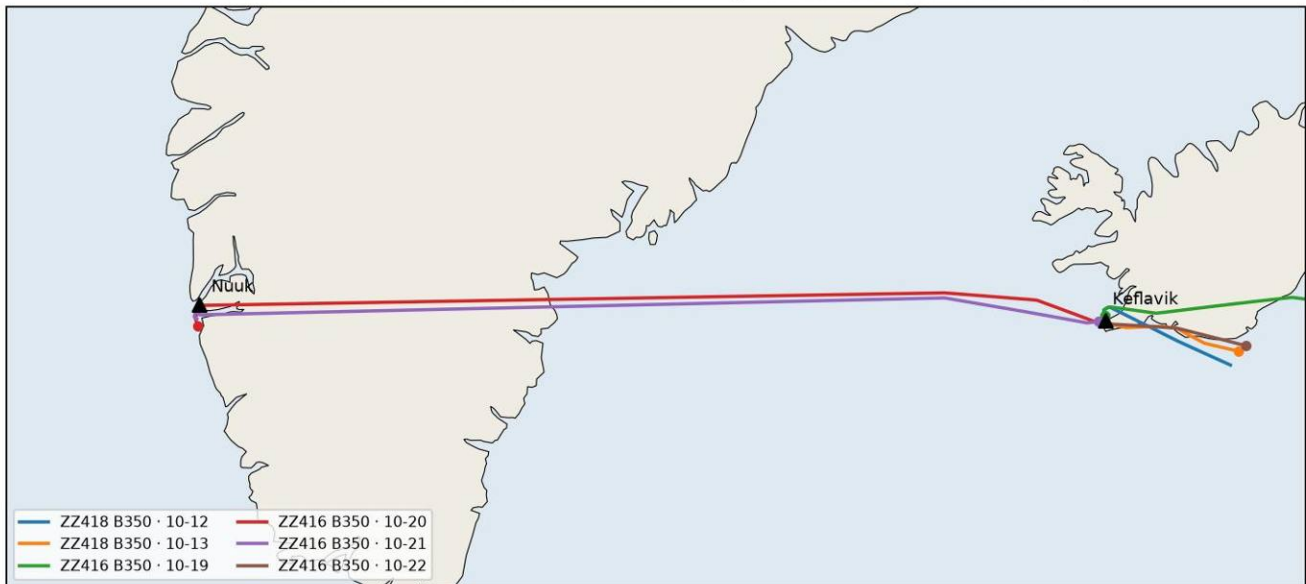


Plate H1 — RAF Shadow R1 ZZ416 at Nuuk on 20 and 21 Oct (with ZZ418 at Keflavík 12–13 Oct).

Nuuk airport — nearest passes to 21 Oct (both before the Shadow's arrival)
Sentinel-2 21 Oct 2026 15:04 UTC, 100% clear



Nuuk airport — nearest passes to 21 Oct (both before the Shadow's arrival)
Sentinel-1 HH 23 Oct 2026 10:01 UTC

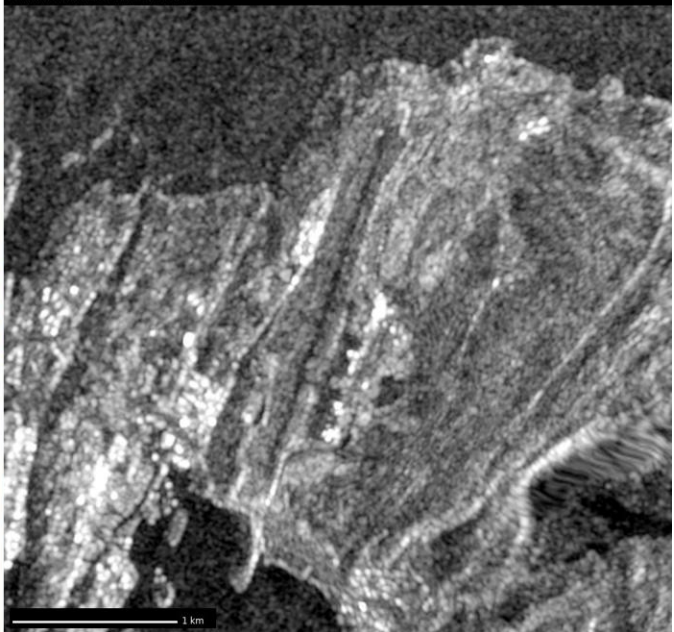


Plate H2 — Nuuk airport — nearest passes to 21 Oct (both before the Shadow's arrival).

RAF C-17s: ZZ171 south of Iceland westbound 26 Sep; ZZ178 through Keflavík 2 Oct

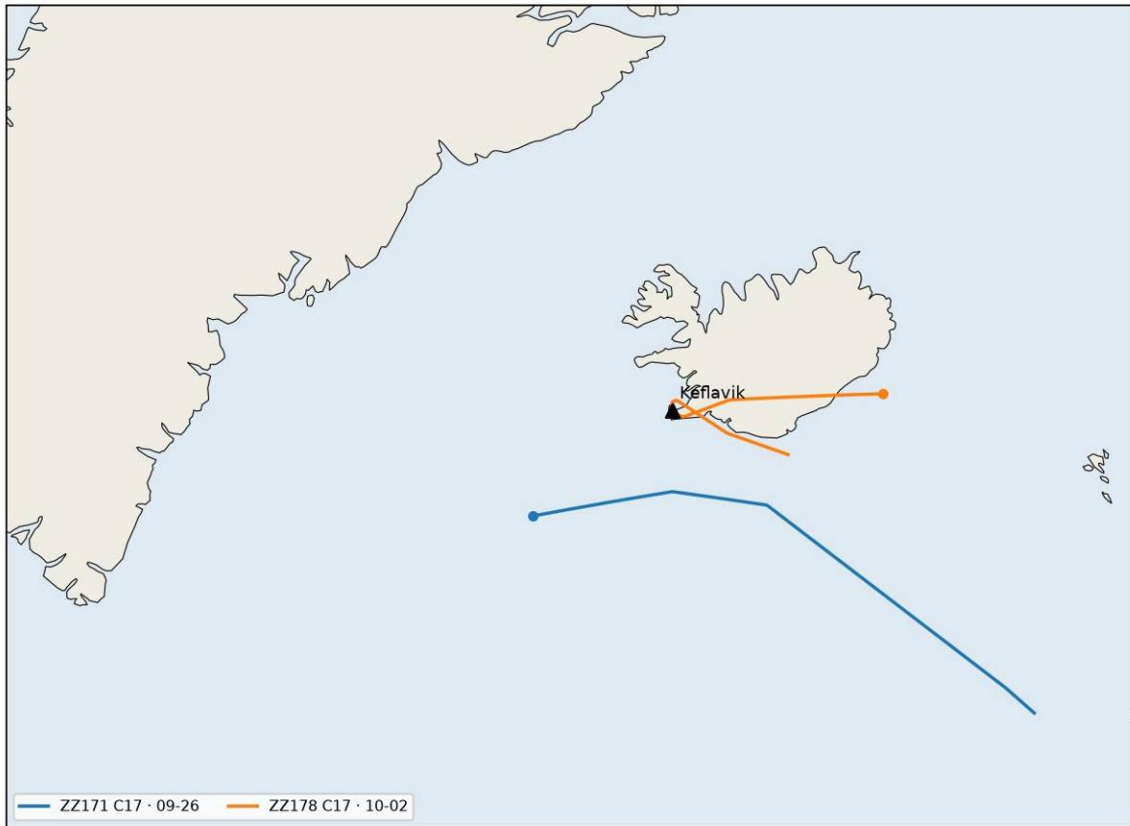


Plate H3 — RAF C-17s: ZZ171 south of Iceland westbound 26 Sep; ZZ178 through Keflavík 2 Oct.

Danish military at Nuuk, 27 Sep - 3 Oct (C-130J B-536, Challenger C-168, Navy helicopter N-977)

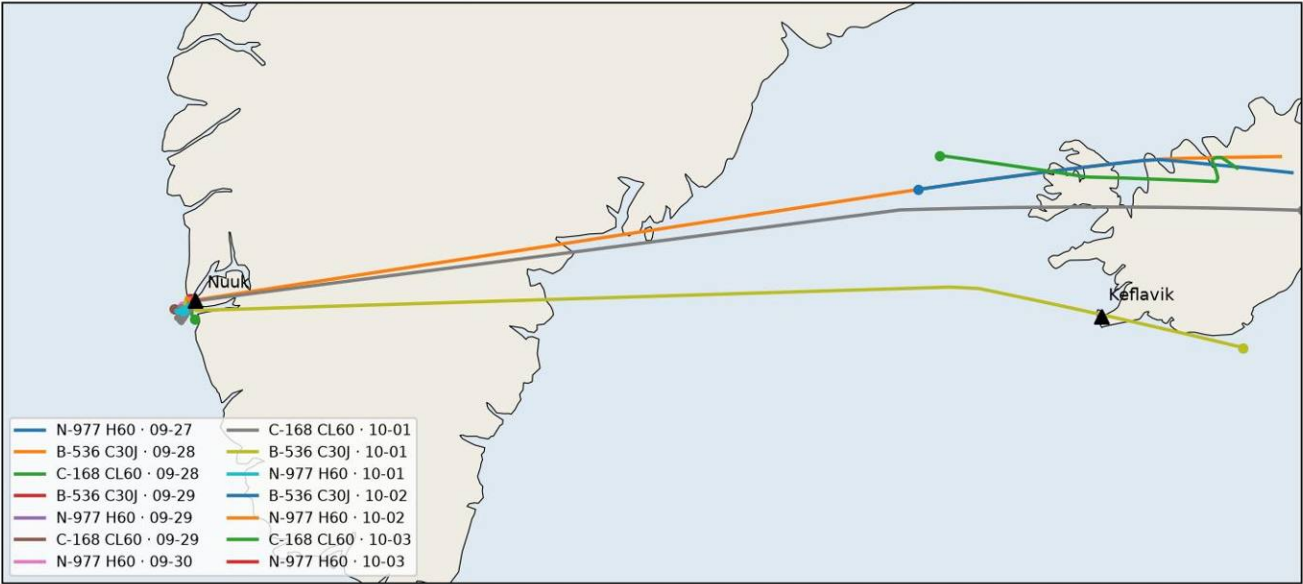


Plate J1 — Danish military at Nuuk, 27 Sep - 3 Oct (C-130J B-536, Challenger C-168, Navy helicopter N-977).

Government jets at Nuuk, 1 Jul - 4 Aug (French Falcon 7X, US C-37A, US Navy Citation, Dutch A330 MRTT)

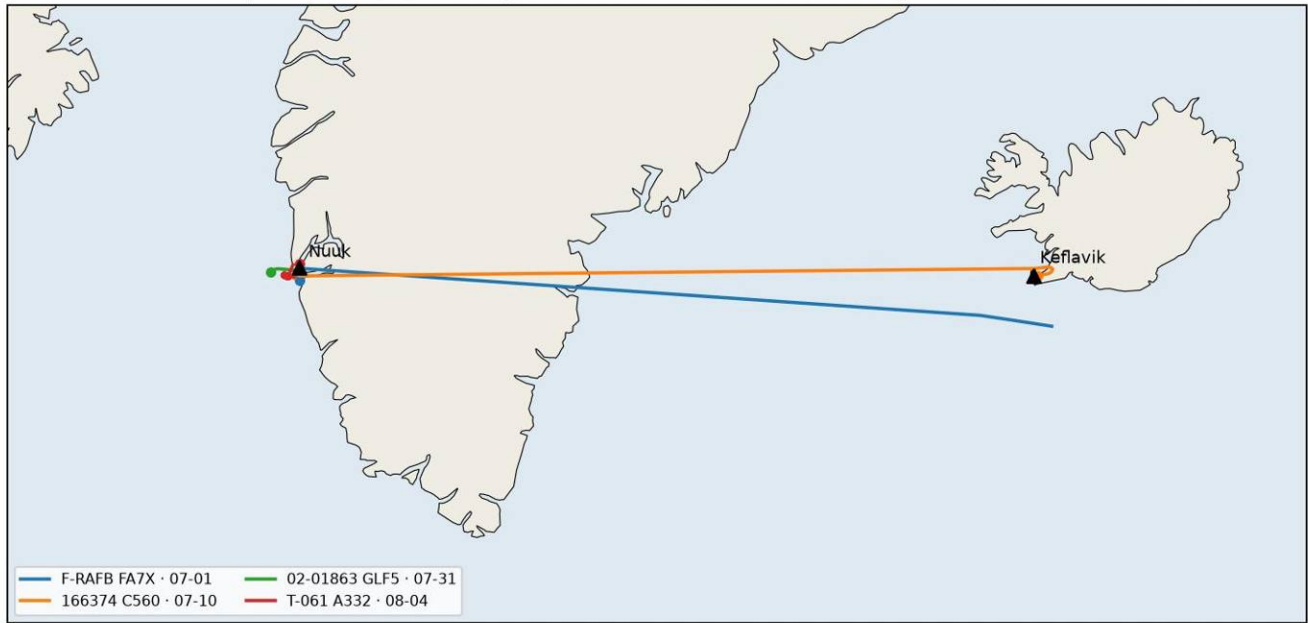


Plate J2 — Government jets at Nuuk, 1 Jul - 4 Aug (French Falcon 7X, US C-37A, US Navy Citation, Dutch A330 MRTT).

Pituffik Space Base, 4 Sep

Sentinel-1 HH 05 Sep 2026 11:36 UTC

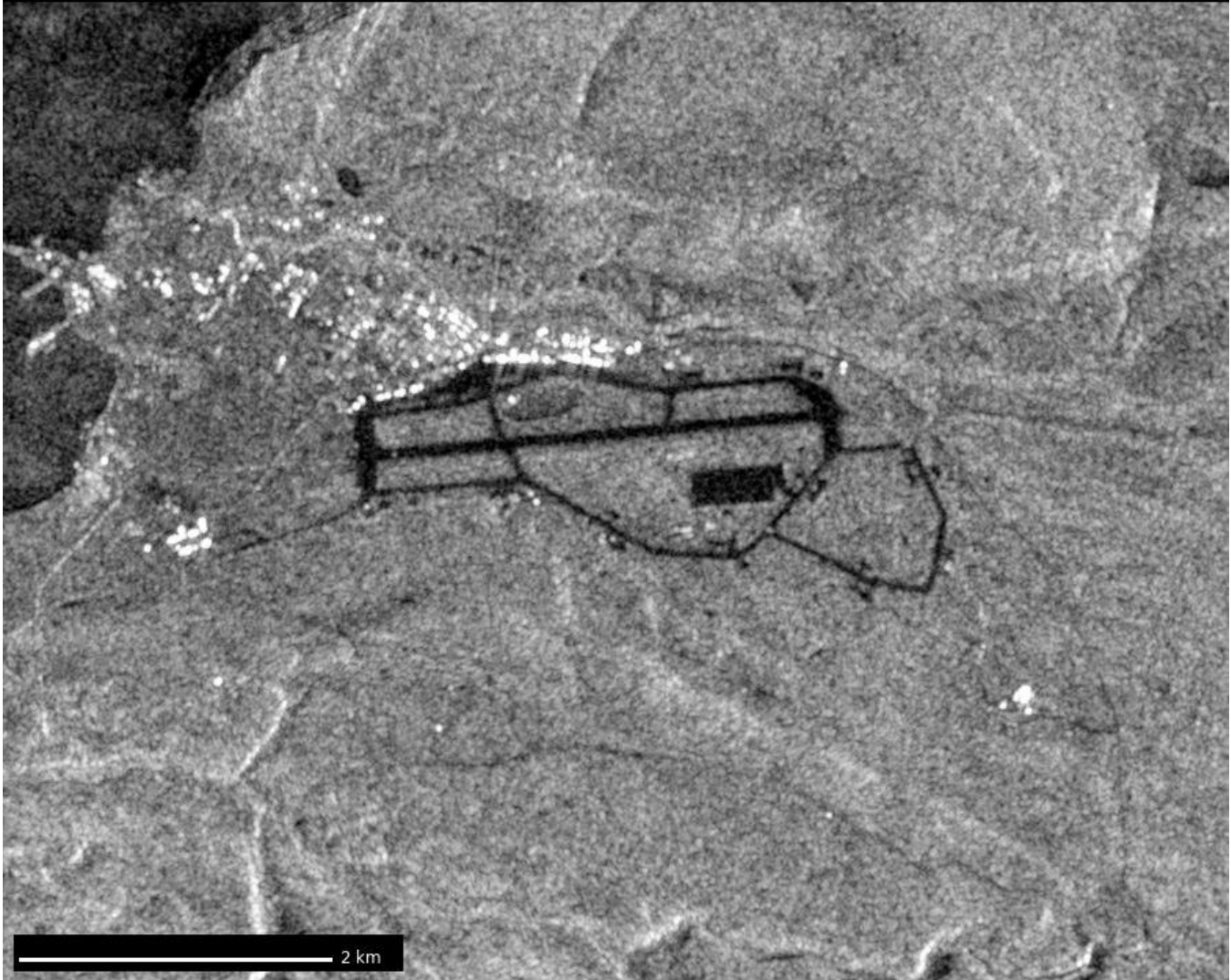


Plate K1 — Pituffik Space Base, 4 Sep.

Sources

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- DND, Arctic partnerships strengthened during Operation ARCTIC VANGUARD (8 Oct 2026) — www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2026/10/arctic-partnerships-strengthened-operation-arctic-vanguard.html
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- adsb.lol globe history archive, days 1 Jul – 24 Oct 2026 — github.com/adsblol/globe_history_2026

- Copernicus Sentinel-1/-2 (Microsoft Planetary Computer, Element 84 Earth Search).