

RWI SITREP 016 — Evening, 27-28 October 2026

Window **27 Oct 23:00 → 28 Oct 06:30 UTC** (17:00 → 00:30 MDT; 19:00 → 02:30 EDT), following SITREP 015. 218 sites (Nevada, California and four new Djibouti sites added today). Thermal: NASA FIRMS watch to the night passes of 27-28 Oct (checked 05:21 UTC), and a 180-day FIRMS area pull over Djibouti (all satellites, agent Gazda). Imagery: no new passes in the window; Djibouti plates use the clear Sentinel-2 passes of 18 and 21 Oct. Flights: live military ADS-B samples 01:12-03:24 UTC; city MILAIR first night. Times UTC unless marked.

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. Djibouti: a spot just north of the US drone runway at Chabelley burns again and again

0.5-0.9 km north of the western end of the Chabelley Airfield runway; 4 May, 22 Jun, 6 Jul and 26 Oct 2026 (7 detections, 4-17 MW), always on daytime satellite passes, never at night

Why it is a lead: Nothing else burns in this stretch of desert in six months of data; the same few hundred metres light up on four separate days. Chabelley hosts US remotely piloted aircraft. Open burning of waste at US sites in Djibouti is a live issue: Djibouti is a covered location for toxic-exposure (burn pit) presumptions under the PACT Act. The data cannot say what burns or who burns it.

What would settle it: CJTF-HOA / Camp Lemonnier public affairs: is there a waste-burning, disposal or training-fire site at or beside Chabelley, and who runs it? The next clear Sentinel-2 pass (28 Oct 07:46 UTC) should show whether 26 Oct left a scar. (Plate D4)

1. Bottom line

1.1 Djibouti: no fire at the Chinese base. The fire alerts of 18-27 Oct carried the name of the whole Djibouti box — “PLA base, Camp Lemonnier, Doraleh port” — but none of the heat was at the PLA Support Base or Doraleh port. Six months of satellite fire data (1 May - 27 Oct, 172 detections) show **zero** detections at the PLA base or the Doraleh terminals. **150 of 172** are at the Douda waste dump south of Balbala, which burned on 69 of the 181 days — including both new night detections in this window (27 Oct 22:20 and 22:59 UTC). The 26 Oct detection was at a recurring spot just north of the Chabelley runway (lead L1); the 27 Oct pair was in the Ambouli wadi 1.3 km south of Camp Lemonnier, a farm-and-scrub strip that has burned three times before.

NOTHING TO MATCH

1.2 Elsewhere, a quiet evening. No heat at any conflict site. Routine flares only: Ras Laffan, Bandar Abbas, Kharg, Abqaiq. Ras Laffan logged a 96 MW flare pixel at 17:24 UTC on 27 Oct, the largest in our 10-day watch log but about the tenth-largest in six months (June peaks reached 170 MW): routine. The two new California sites that flagged on their first run (Port of Los Angeles refinery flares, the Miramar landfill flare) are now marked routine. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

1.3 Flights. Qatar's Amiri Flight 747-8 (A7-HHE, QAF1) passed over Ras Laffan at 20,200 ft at 02:44 UTC, outbound from Doha. Normal C-130, KC-135 and helicopter training around Colorado Springs and JBER; an RCAF CC-295 Kingfisher on the ground at Winnipeg. City MILAIR, first night: about 300 aircraft checked per snapshot over the 18 Canadian cities, none military, contractor or police in the overnight hours. Western Libya: no military or state landings in the last 14 days of the archive. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

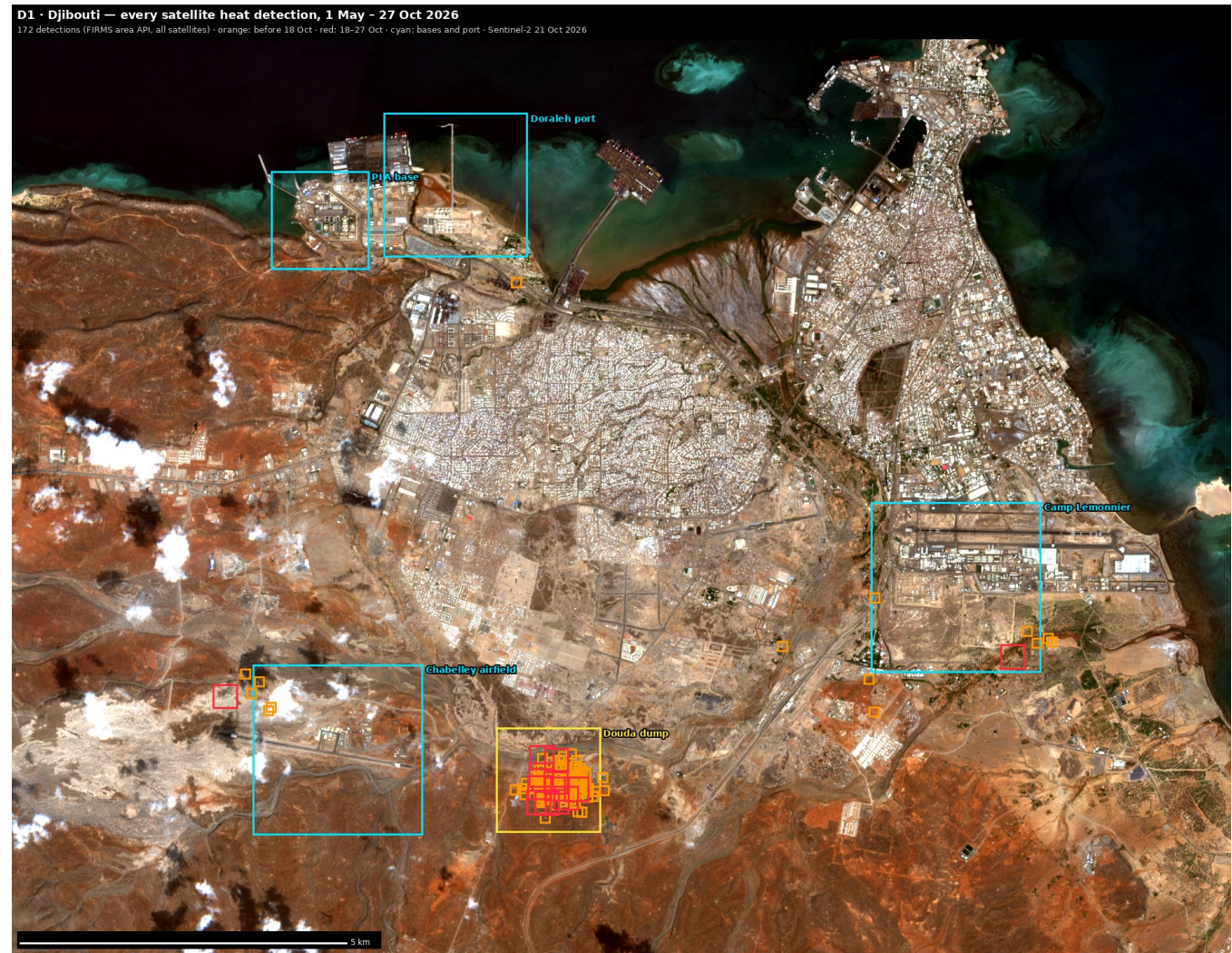
1.4 Ships. RWI-TRK-008 (HMCS Ville de Québec, Den Helder): no AIS from the ship since the track opened; still watching. The new Southern California harbour watch heard 368 vessels on its first night, including the US Coast Guard cutter Florence Finch at San Pedro and Navy contract tugs at 32nd Street.

1.5 New coverage. Vegas Watch and five California Watches (Mojave, San Diego, Central Coast, LA, NorCal) published their first issues for 27 Oct: five Janet shuttle aircraft into the Nevada ranges on 26 Oct; an Australian KC-30 tanker at Nellis and German and Spanish A400Ms over Nevada and California the same day. Wilco Watch ran at 17:12 MDT on 27 Oct; no new clear pass since 22 Oct.

2. Djibouti: where the heat actually is

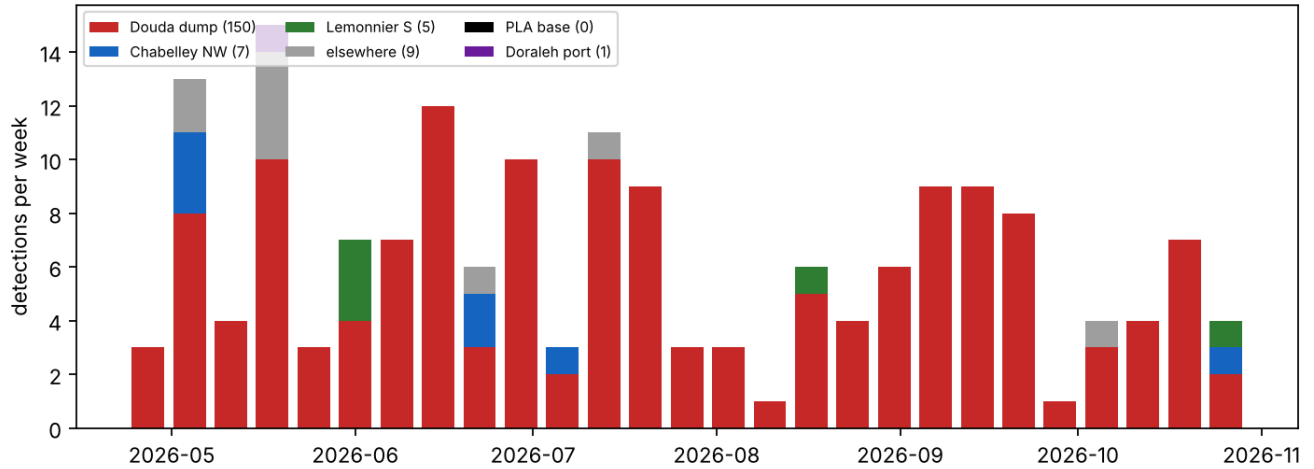
2.1 Why this looked like the Chinese base. Djibouti was watched as one wide box covering the PLA base, Doraleh port, Camp Lemonnier and much of the city, and every detection in it was announced under that name. The box was split today: the PLA base, Doraleh port, Camp Lemonnier, Chabelley Airfield and the Douda dump are now separate sites, so an alert names the place that is burning, and the dump is treated as a routine source.

Place (distance rule)	Detections May-Oct 2026	Latest	Read
PLA Support Base (1 km)	0	—	Nothing. Sentinel-2 18 and 21 Oct identical; no scar (D2).
Doraleh port and oil terminal (2 km)	0	—	Nothing. One detection 1 km south of the terminal road, 22 May.
Douda waste dump, south of Balbala (1.2 km)	150 on 69 days	27 Oct 22:59	Chronic waste fire, day and night, every month (D3, D6).
North of the Chabelley runway (0.9 km)	7 on 4 days	26 Oct 10:43	Recurring daytime burns beside the US drone base — lead L1 (D4).
Ambouli wadi, south of Camp Lemonnier (0.9 km)	5 on 3 days	27 Oct 10:41	Farm and scrub strip; 7 Jun (night ×3), 22 Aug, 27 Oct (D5).
Elsewhere in the box	10	11 Oct	Scattered single detections.



D1 · Every satellite heat detection in Djibouti, 1 May - 27 Oct 2026 (orange before 18 Oct, red 18-27 Oct). Cyan: the bases and the port. Yellow: the Douda dump, where almost all the heat is.

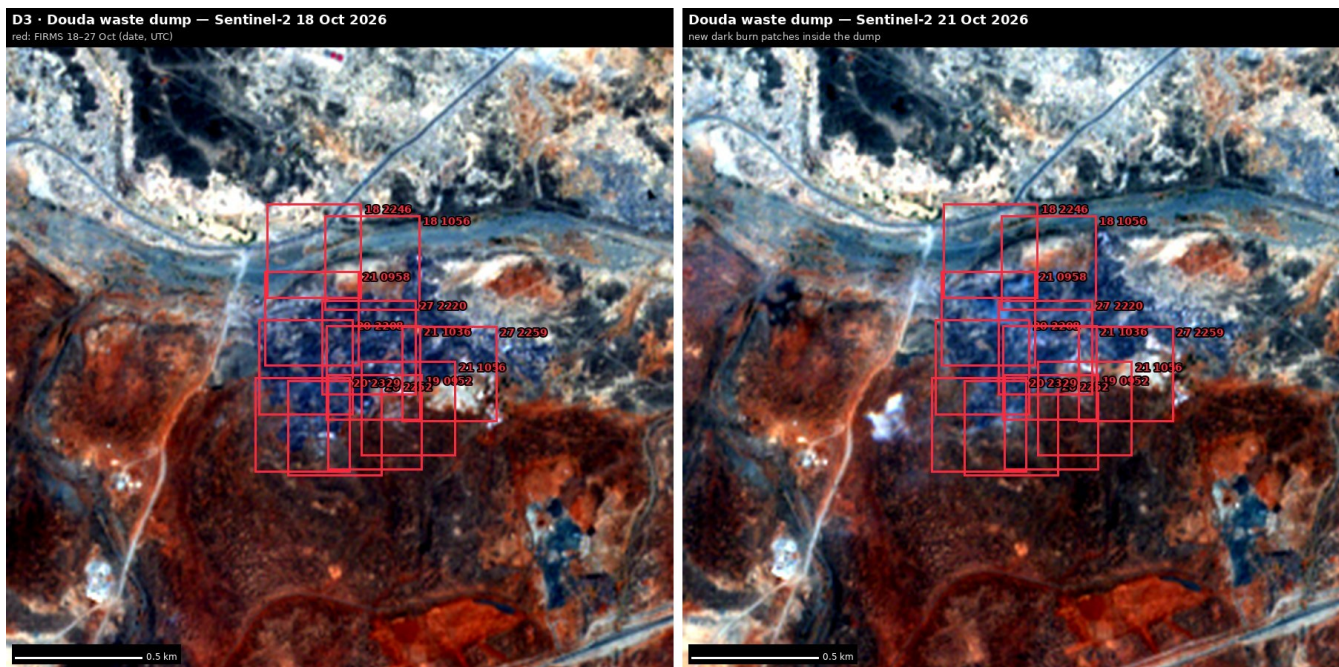
D6 · Djibouti heat detections by place, May–Oct 2026 (FIRMS, all satellites, de-duplicated)



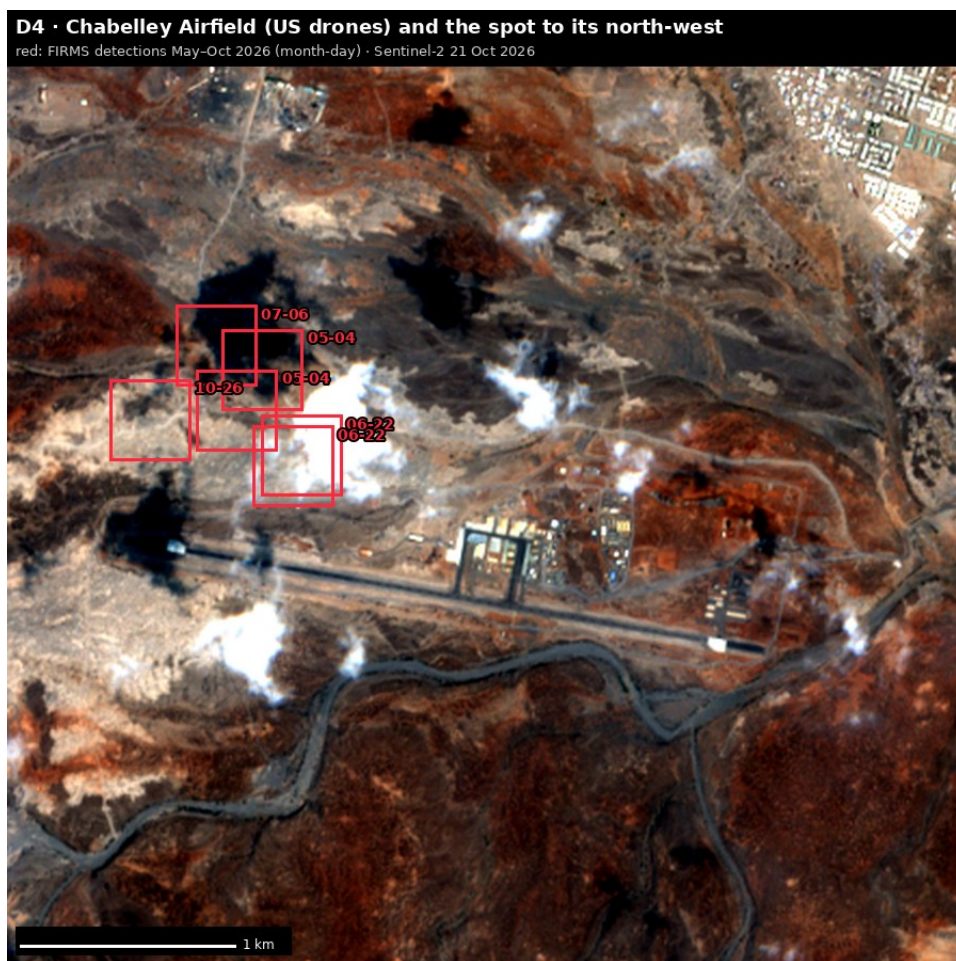
D6 · Detections per week by place. The dump burns every month; the bases never appear.



D2 · PLA Support Base, Sentinel-2 18 and 21 Oct: no change, no burn scar, no heat in 180 days.



D3 · Douda dump, 18 and 21 Oct, with the FIRMS detections of 18–27 Oct: new dark burn patches inside the dumping area.



D4 · Chabelley Airfield and the recurring spot north of its western runway end (lead L1).



D5 · Camp Lemonnier (top) and the Ambouli wadi to its south, with every detection since May.

2.2 Limits. FIRMS pixels are 375 m (VIIRS) and 1 km (MODIS); a detection can sit a few hundred metres from the fire. Small or short fires between passes are missed. A fire inside the PLA base small enough to escape the satellites would not show here. Sentinel-2 26 Oct was cloudy over the bases; the next pass is 28 Oct 07:46 UTC.

3. Live questions

- 3.1 Was there a fire at the Chinese base in Djibouti? Not in the satellite data — none in six months. Answered.
- 3.2 What burns north of Chabelley? Open — lead L1.
- 3.3 House check: primerogueinc.com/blog is not reachable from the build environment; not checked.

4. Follow-ups

- 4.1 Sentinel-2 28 Oct 07:46 UTC over Djibouti: scars at the Chabelley spot (26 Oct) and in the Ambouli wadi (27 Oct).
- 4.2 Ask CJTF-HOA about burning at or beside Chabelley (L1).
- 4.3 Vegas and California Watches, issue of 28 Oct at 19:47 UTC; city MILAIR first full day.

How to read the news tags: **CORRELATED** reporting confirms an event at that place and time · **PARTIAL** reporting in the area/period but not a clean match · **NOT IN NEWS** we see something the news does not (a lead, not a finding) · **NOTHING TO MATCH** nothing notable in our data to match.

Sources

- NASA FIRMS area API (VIIRS S-NPP / NOAA-20 / NOAA-21, MODIS; archive and near-real-time), RWI key agent Gazda, Djibouti and Ras Laffan 1 May – 28 Oct 2026; RWI FIRMS watch. Copernicus Sentinel-2 L2A (Element 84), 18, 21 and 26 Oct 2026. adsb.lol live military feed; aisstream.io.

- Agence française de développement, Gestion, valorisation et traitement des déchets solides — Balbala (Douda landfill).
- US Department of Veterans Affairs, PACT Act consolidated overview (Djibouti a covered location on or after 11 Sep 2001).
- GMA News, Qatar: explosion at Ras Laffan's Barzan plant, 22 Jun 2026 (the only recent Ras Laffan incident found; not this window).
- RWI SITREPs 012–015; RWI Vegas and California Watches, 27 Oct 2026.