

TO Green2Ice Pls, DANISH AND GREENLANDIC AUTHORITIES.

Pending Expedition Permit D-26-91764 – SITUATION REPort (SITREP) no. 03, Sunday 17 May 2026

This SITREP covers the period May 10 - May 17, 2026 (inclusive). Third SITREP for 2026 season.

Movement of personnel:

12 May Julien Westhoff (DE/DK), Chantal Zeppenfeld (AT/DK), Kevin Nikolaus (US/DK), Rahul Dey (IN/DK), Charlotte Maistriau (BE), Grant Boeckmann (US/DK), and James MacPhail (GB/NZ) from Copenhagen to Kangerlussuaq by Air Greenland.

15 May Julien Westhoff (DE/DK), Chantal Zeppenfeld (AT/DK), Kevin Nikolaus (US/DK), Rahul Dey (IN/DK), Charlotte Maistriau (BE), Grant Boeckmann (US/DK), and James MacPhail (GB/NZ) from Kangerlussuaq to GRIP by NY Air National Guard.

15 May Jørgen Peder Steffensen (DK) & Sverrir Hilmarsson (IS) from GRIP to Kangerlussuaq by NY Air National Guard.

Movement of cargo:

12 May Drilling and camp equipment, 80kg, from Copenhagen to Kangerlussuaq as overweight.

13 May DKAAR0255463 frozen+ refrigerated food from Arctic Import, AUG-2025, 4 EUR pallets, for 2026.

15 May AWB: 631-30043683. 1.3kg, 1 cll, PistenBully hose line.

15 May 2 AF-pallets of camp food/logistics, drill & science equipment, excess luggage (6952 lbs and 3322 lbs) and loose load from Kangerlussuaq to GRIP by NY US Air National Guard.

15 May 2 snow machines/skidoos plus 4 sledges retro cargo (3272 lbs) from GRIP to Kangerlussuaq by NY US Air National Guard.

Fuel:

May 15: GRIP received 3000L of fuel by NY Air National Guard.

GRIP camp activities:

Monday May 11 as predicted it was a stormy morning, and so it was with wind speed up to 37kts, gusting 46kts with both snowfall and drifting snow, visibility decreasing to 50-100m and no surface contrast. The storm lasted until lunch and the morning was used mostly for indoor tasks that included; getting hot water system operational, cleaning and did laundry in the dome, repairing dishwasher leak one more time, identified that airband radio in cupola needed a replacement, saving and repaired camp weather station. Tasks in the afternoon included; clearing new snowdrifts inside outhouse and carpenters' garage, started raising markers on skiway, started levelling snowdrifts in camp, moved heavy sleds from winter hills into camp.

On Tuesday May 12, the team started to prepare for the upcoming NYANG LC-130 Skier operations, planned to start on Thursday. Tasks Tuesday included; groomed skiway, taxiways and apron, groomed cargo staging area and made load pad, raised and replaced broken skiway markers on southern half of skiway, readied and tested airband radios and marine band radios, repaired soda machine in the dome, cleared snow in front of white storage tent, and moved sledges and fueling systems out, moved all “can be frozen” food from cargo sledge to white tent for temporary storage.

Wednesday May 13 the team made the final preparations before the Skier operations. Tasks Wednesday included; groomed skiway, taxiways and apron, groomed area between the dome and skiway, raised and replaced broken skiway markers on northern half of skiway, started to organize food in white tent, and prepare for new supplies, started clearing snow off of winter storage sledges, readied cargo for tomorrow's Skier mission, Installed ceilometer to measure cloud base height.

On Thursday May 14 unfortunately the NYANG LC-130 aircraft, callsign Skier 41 had a mechanical issue that prevented it from landing and had to return with the cargo and new GRIP crewmembers to Kangerlussuaq for the plane to be repaired. Tasks included; made ready for receiving skier 41, established radio communication with skier 41, watched skier 41 do two low level overpasses of the GRIP skiway, continued clearing snow of big winter sledges, build new retro pallet for skier 51, started grooming big snow drifts out of camp.

On Friday May 15, the same plane (tail-number 01) flew as Skier 51 to GRIP, this time making a nice landing as the first LC-130 plane on our skiway. The GRIP team welcomed 7 new crew members to the camp and said goodbye to two team members leaving camp on Skier 51 after generously sharing their decades of experience in ice core camp logistics to give this GRIP season a good start. Daily tasks included; received skier 51 with 7 PAX, two pallets of cargo and 3000L of fuel, said goodbye to two PAX as well as 2 snowmobiles and 4 sledges flying retro with skier 51, briefed new crew members on camp safety and practicalities, started breaking down the two pallets of cargo, secured food from pallets, groomed skiway, taxiways and apron in anticipation of Saturday's scheduled skier mission, corrected skiway markers blown out of shape by skier 51, got a place to sleep for everybody in camp by the end of the day.

Saturday May 16 weather conditions in Kangerlussuaq prevented the planned flight operations to GRIP. Instead, the daily tasks included; building Weatherports for quartering more people later in the season, groomed the entire skiway, taxiway and apron, deploying the bore hole camera in the uppermost part of the casing to inspect it, digging a new toilet-hole and building new outhouse.

Sunday May 17, the plane originally planned for Saturday, was re-scheduled for Sunday, and the team made ready for receiving Skier 71. However, due to technical issues, a change of airframe was needed, and the plane ended up being delayed for 5 hours. Hence, it was with great anticipation that we got radio-contact with Skier 71 (tail-number 01) around 15.40 local time, and we were all set for a landing around 16.10. However, misfortune struck again as Skier 71 had to abort the landing and make another low-level flyby due to a maintenance issue. Daily tasks included; made ready for receiving skier 71, watched skier 71 do a low-level overpass of the GRIP skiway, made foundations for 4 weatherports and erected 3 of them, made a new outhouse, started building berm for drill tent, changed battery on the Caterpillar, changed and recharged battery for radios, erected a flag line, had a fantastic Saturday dinner-party on a Sunday.

GRIP camp phone numbers:

+45 77 34 74 45 GRIP IP telephone
+8816 5243 9574 GRIP Field Leader handheld Iridium phone. FL1

Drilling:

No drilling activities yet.

Science:

No science activities yet.

GRIP Camp Population: 13.**Weather at GRIP:**

Monday temp decreasing from -12C to -27C, with a snow storm lasting until lunch, then letting up and giving way to a fairly calm and even sunny afternoon and evening. Wind 37kts, gusting 46kts from North until around lunch then decreasing to 10-15kts and turning SE. Tuesday temp from to -29C to -20C, sunny until evening where a cloud cover moved in. Some intermittent thin ground fog. Wind 3-10kts, turning from SSE to SW and then to W. Wednesday temp from to -34C to -18C, and mostly sunny. Wind 0-6kts, turning from W to WSW. Thursday ground fog in the early morning, quickly dissipating giving way to a sunny day. Temp from to -31C to -20C. Wind 0-8kts, mainly from S. Friday sunny morning giving way to increasing cloud cover with overcast and intermittent slight snowfall in the evening and afternoon. Temp from -31C to -16C, with wind from S all day, increasing from 5 kts to 10 kts. Saturday starting with overcast and low contrast, but turning Sunny during the day. Temp from to -21C to -17C. Wind decreasing from 14kts in the early morning to almost calm, mainly from SW. Sunday cloudy morning, quickly turning sunny with just a few high clouds. Temp from -23C to -17C, with wind turning from SW to SE, 0-6 kts, increasing to 9 kts towards midnight.

Kangerlussuaq activities:

Monday, May 11, the FOM made the final preparations before the arrival of the second team. Tuesday, May 12, the team arrived and went to find clothes and started to prepare the food and cargo going to GRIP. Wednesday May 13, the team picked up the frozen and refrigerated food and continued building AF pallets for the coming flights. On Thursday May 14, 4 PAX went on the C130 to GRIP, but unfortunately had to return due to mechanical issues. The rest of the team continued to build AF pallets and started to unload everything in the container from Canada. When the four PAX returned, they helped until everything was prepared and ready to go on the coming flights. Friday May 15, all seven PAX made it to GRIP and two PAX returned from camp. Saturday May 16, the planned flight was cancelled due to snowfall in Kangerlussuaq and at GRIP. Sunday May 17, the team build the frozen food pallet in the morning; but unfortunately once again the flight to GRIP ended up returning due to mechanical issues and the team had to unload all the food again.

Weather in Kangerlussuaq/SFJ:

Warm temperatures, sunny and clear sky most of the week. Saturday cold with overcast and snow. Still muddy on the ground around the warehouse. Temperatures between -1°C and 10°C. Mosquito situation: None.

The GRIP FOM office:

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Kangerlussuaq FOM

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