

TO Green2Ice Pls, DANISH AND GREENLANDIC AUTHORITIES.

Pending Expedition Permit D-26-91764 – SITUATION REPort (SITREP) no. 04, Sunday 24 May 2026

This SITREP covers the period May 18 - May 24, 2026 (inclusive). Fourth SITREP for 2026 season.

Movement of personnel:

19 May Sverrir Æ. Hilmarsson (IS) from Kangerlussuaq to Copenhagen by Air Greenland.

21 May Marie Kirk (DK) from Kangerlussuaq to GRIP by NY Air National Guard.

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Movement of cargo:

21 May 3 AF-pallets of frozen food, logistics-, drill- & science equipment (2400 lbs, 5900 lbs and 3900 lbs) and loose load with long drill boxes (660 lbs) from Kangerlussuaq to GRIP by NY US Air National Guard.

21 May 1 AF-pallet with EGRIP radar equipment, RECAP generators and logistical retro cargo (2900 lbs) from GRIP to Kangerlussuaq by NY US Air National Guard.

Fuel:

May 21: GRIP received 2650L of fuel by NY Air National Guard.

GRIP camp activities:

The first half of the week, the camp was still waiting for another plane with cargo and frozen food.

Monday was not a day for the skier in the air, hence camp proceeded with the many tasks still at hand to get the GRIP camp fully operational. Specifically, the berm for the drill tent was finished, late evening skiway grooming mission, finishing the construction of the 4th weatherport, excavating boxes and drums on the cargo line and excavation started of the winter storage trench using a snow blower. Finally, the construction of the drillers' workshop was also started.

Tuesday the camp prepared for a skier in the afternoon rescheduled to the evening. Unfortunately, the skier was unable to land and had to return to Kangerlussuaq. Camp still managed to get a lot done, despite the efforts going into receiving the unfortunate Skier 22. Hollowing out the berm for the drill tent was started, the 5th and final Weatherport was constructed, and various radar and medical equipment was excavated from a storage trench. The drillers finished the construction of the drillers' workshop cabin.

Wednesday the camp got ready for receiving the flight planned for Thursday, making sure that the GRIP skiway was in the best possible condition for receiving a plane. The skiway, taxiway and apron were groomed, while all skiway markers, including the lead in flags on both ends of the skiway, were inspected. More retro cargo was found and palletized. The hollowing out of the berm for the drill tent was finished. Lastly, the doppler radar was installed on the dome roof and reprogramming of it was started.

Thursday the camp, finally, received the skier in the afternoon after being on weather hold all morning. The last critical cargo as well as frozen food to camp made it on this final chance to get it into camp. The plane was unloaded, loaded and defueled, while Marie (FOM in Kangerlussuaq) was showed around in GRIP camp. The drillers also worked on getting the drillers' workshop finished up and continued shaping the berm for drill tent.

Friday the camp broke down pallets received Thursday and organized cargo plus frozen food. Meanwhile, at the drill site, work on the drillers' workshop continued and leveling around the berm for the drill tent. The associated project continued preparations for mounting solar panels on the dome. The skiway, taxiway and apron were groomed to erase the rollers and tracks from Skier 41. Lastly, an extended polar bear safety briefing for new camp members was held.

Saturday went with snow blowing trenches, constructing drill tent, grooming more and more of camp and sorting through and organizing several tons of cargo, as well as preparing a scaffold for the solar panel project. After lunch, rifles were tested and we did some shooting practice. The motion detection radar system was set up with a perimeter some 1.2km and further outwards from camp.

Sunday, we continued snow blowing a trench for our cook's freezer and continued constructing the drillers tent. Power cables for the Weatherports and the drill tent were organized and the 3rd Pistenbully repaired. The sensitivity of the motion detection radar system was verified by doing a crawling test on the skiway some 1.3km from camp. A test of one of the new solar panels was also carried out.

Drilling:

No drilling activities yet.

Science:

No science activities yet.

GRIP Camp Population: 13.

GRIP camp phone numbers:

+45 77 34 74 45

GRIP IP telephone

+8816 5243 9574

GRIP Field Leader handheld Iridium phone. FL1

Weather at GRIP:

Monday starting with drifting snow and a magnificent halo early in the morning, turning Sunny during the day with some lower clouds forming around noon, and then completely clear skies in the afternoon. Temp from to -21C to -17C. Wind decreasing from 14kts until lunch to completely calm in the evening, mainly from SW.

Tuesday was generally a cloudy day, with poor to moderate visibility. Temp from -25C to -16C. Wind increasing from 2-5 kts in the morning to up to 15kts in the afternoon, while turning from ENE to ESE. In the evening a further turn to SE and a decrease in wind strength to 4-9 kts.

Wednesday started with ground fog gradually lifting, giving room to a beautiful sunny day. Temp from -28C to -20C. Wind 2-7 kts turning from SE. to S, and then to WSW.

Thursday started with ground fog only truly lifting in the early afternoon, giving room to gradually increasing sunny spells interspersed by bouts of low clouds. Temp from -28C to -20C. Wind 3-9 kts turning from E to ENE and decreasing.

Friday generally sunny conditions. Temp from -31C to -15C. Wind 2-8 kts generally from SW and gradually increasing.

Sunny conditions all weekend until Sunday evening when low clouds moved in. Temp from -28C to -14C. Wind 4-8 kts generally from SW, increasing to 10 kts and turning W Sunday evening.

Kangerlussuaq activities:

Monday, May 18, FOM together with outgoing field participants once again packed the AF pallet with frozen food. Due to a broken windshield on the skier on taxiway the mission to GRIP was cancelled and the frozen food went back into the freezer.

Tuesday, May 19, new FOM arrived to Kangerlussuaq and for the third time the food was packed on the pallet. The mission to GRIP left Kangerlussuaq early in the evening, after have been flying first a mission to Summit Station and fixing of a minor issue. Unfortunately, the skier had to boomerang due to issues with the hydraulic system. The plane arrived back in Kangerlussuaq just after midnight and the frozen food went back into the freezer.

Wednesday, May 20, the FOM team worked on getting the final mission into GRIP, even the 109th had started to return to their base in NY.

Thursday, May 21, the frozen food was packed on the AF pallet for the fourth time for mission to GRIP. Due to fog at camp, the plane was on weather hold all morning. A little after 2pm the plane took off from Kangerlussuaq. On route to camp, a crag developed in the windshield, but after circulating the 109th got permission to land in camp. Back in Kangerlussuaq the retro pallet from camp was brought to our warehouse.

Friday, May 22, the FOM team started to take the retro pallet apart and getting the 150kg trash from camp thrown out.

Saturday, May 23, the FOM team worked mostly on paperwork like SITREPs, daily and plans for payload for next flight period. The sea container with logistical and science equipment for next flight period, plus all dry food for the 2027 season, was packed on Monday in Copenhagen by Iben. The container was picked up Wednesday and is scheduled to arrive in Kangerlussuaq on June 10. The AF pallets can first be built after the cargo arrives, but until then two AF pallets can already been built over the next weeks with camp equipment we already have in Kangerlussuaq.

Sunday, May 24, the FOM team went over to look at potential office facilities for the future.

Weather in Kangerlussuaq/SFJ:

Nice sunny days until Saturday afternoon, then cloudy and Sunday windy too. Still muddy on the ground around the warehouse. Temperatures between 3°C and 12°C. Mosquito situation: None.

The GRIP FOM office:

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Kangerlussuaq FOM
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