

FACT SHEET:

# **Second Agreement on the Arctic and North Atlantic**

Under the 2024-2033 Defence Agreement





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# Stronger defence and security in the Arctic and North Atlantic

**DKK 27.4 billion** has been allocated to the initiatives in the second agreement.

**DKK 14.6 billion** has been allocated in 2024–2033 for the initiatives in the first agreement.

Investments from the agreements are shown on the map on page 12.

Denmark, the Faroe Islands, and Greenland have resolved to further strengthen defence and security in the Arctic and North Atlantic with an agreement that expands assertion of sovereignty and surveillance capabilities, as well as capabilities for providing operational, deterrence, and defence support for NATO and allies in the region.

## Investments in land, sea, and air capabilities

The *Second Agreement on the Arctic and North Atlantic* includes significant additional investments in initiatives and capabilities that strengthen the Danish Armed Forces.

The presence of the Danish Armed Forces will be significantly strengthened, including additional arctic vessels, a maritime patrol aircraft capacity, air surveillance radar, and special forces for deployment in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

These broad and significant investments will also support the operations of close allies and NATO, and must be seen in light of the Kingdom of Denmark's ambition to maintain peace and stability in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

## Builds on previous agreements

This agreement builds on its predecessor, the *First Agreement on the Arctic and North Atlantic*, which took important steps to strengthen defence and security, including the procurement of Arctic vessels, and strengthened the situational awareness and intelligence gathering with the establishment of satellite capability and procurement of additional long-range drones.

A series of initiatives under the agreement focusing on broader societal security will enhance the resilience of civil society in the Faroe Islands and Greenland and strengthen cooperation on emergency preparedness.

Funding for increased surveillance and satellite capacity has also been agreed on with The Consensus on strengthening the Danish Armed Forces' ability to detect, identify, and react to threats, and establishing facilities for the construction of larger ships. This will also have an impact in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

With funding by The Acceleration Fund Denmark has entered into a joint NATO air-to-air refuelling capability, which among other things will improve the ability of the Danish Armed Forces' F-35 fighter jets and allies' aircraft to operate in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

Denmark has also offered to establish a NATO special operations headquarters, giving Denmark a leading role in NATO's special operations domain in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

The *Second Agreement on the Arctic and North Atlantic* is reached by the Danish Government and the parties behind the 2024–2033 Defence Agreement and developed in close collaboration with the Government of the Faroe Islands and the Government of Greenland (Naalakkersuisut).

## Overview of the agreement

- **Initiatives for land operations:**  
Increased presence and local anchoring.
- **Initiatives for maritime operations:**  
Improved surveillance and operational conditions.
- **Initiatives for air operations**  
Improved situational awareness and support for authorities.



The Armed Forces' permanent presence in Greenland is strengthened, and the ability to respond quickly to incidents is improved.

## Initiatives for land operations

The strategic importance of Arctic and North Atlantic continues to grow. To strengthen the Danish Armed Forces and security in the region, the conditions for the presence of the Danish Armed Forces must be improved. These efforts will be carried out in cooperation with local authorities and with respect for the existing division of competences in the Kingdom of Denmark.

### Increased presence and exercise activity

To strengthen the Danish Armed Forces' presence and response to incidents, the organisational framework for a new military unit based under Joint Arctic Command in Greenland will be established.

This unit will perform logistical and support tasks (e.g. in connection with Host Nation Support, exercises, training, and deployments), and oversee Arctic Basic Training as well as a potential unit of Greenlandic Rangers.

### New headquarters for Joint Arctic Command

To meet the facility and security needs of the Danish Armed Forces, a new military headquarters will be established for Joint Arctic Command in Nuuk.

The headquarters will have the capacity to house Joint Arctic Command and support future developments in operations. Joint Arctic Command will also gain increased

capacity to support temporary lodging of reinforcement contributions and allies.

### Specialised Arctic unit

To meet the Danish Armed Forces' need for increased operational capabilities in the Arctic and North Atlantic, a new specialised unit will be established under Special Operations Command. The unit will focus on operative deployment in the Arctic, providing additional first responder capability and strengthening the Danish Armed Forces' response to incidents in the Arctic.

This capability should be viewed in connection with the Sirius Special Operations Forces, which was strengthened as part of the *First Agreement on the Arctic and North Atlantic*. The Danish Armed Forces must be capable of deployment in the Arctic and Nordic countries, while also performing tasks elsewhere, including the Baltic region.

### Funding for recruitment and retention of employees

The *First Agreement on the Arctic and North Atlantic* strengthened Joint Arctic Command with additional personnel. To further support the strengthening of personnel and staffing, funding has been established to improve recruitment and retention capabilities for stationed staff and recruited staff from Denmark to Greenland at Joint Arctic Command. Funding will be allocated based on a study of the conditions for Danish Armed Forces personnel stationed in Greenland.



## Joint Arctic Command

Joint Arctic Command conducts maritime surveillance and assertion of sovereignty, among other tasks. The *First Agreement on the Arctic and North Atlantic* resolved to strengthen the security level and staffing of Joint Arctic Command. Building on that decision, the parties to this new agreement have resolved to establish a new headquarters for Joint Arctic Command in Nuuk that meets the facility and security needs of the Danish Armed Forces.



### **Drone module under Arctic Basic Training**

The *First Agreement on the Arctic and North Atlantic* resolved to analyse possibilities for expanding Arctic Basic Training to include a drone module. This agreement establishes the drone module as part of Arctic Basic Training.

The drone module will provide Arctic Basic Training recruits with competences in drone piloting, which among other things can strengthen the performance of emergency preparedness tasks.

### **Greenlandic Rangers**

An analysis initiated as part of the *First Agreement on the Arctic and North Atlantic* examined the possibility of establishing a new unit of Greenlandic Rangers.

This agreement accelerates the process so that both the analysis and the chosen model for implementation will be completed in 2026.

### **Additional strengthening of research efforts**

As the strategic importance of the Arctic and North Atlantic grows and the Danish Armed Forces increase activity in the region, the need for research on defence and geopolitical issues also grows.

With this agreement, the parties to the agreement and Naalakkersuisut build on the existing research efforts relating to defence and security policy in the Arctic and North Atlantic.





The ability to detect, identify, and respond to threats above and below the water is strengthened with more aircraft and ships.

## Initiatives for maritime operations

The agreement includes investments in capabilities and initiatives that significantly strengthen maritime operations, particularly the capability to detect, identify, and react to maritime threats above and under the water.

The maritime situational awareness and the capability to identify submarines are especially crucial in the Arctic and North Atlantic, and this is a prioritised task for NATO.

### Maritime patrol aircraft

Funds are allocated so that the Armed Forces can invest in maritime patrol aircraft capacity in cooperation with a NATO ally. The capacity will primarily be dedicated to the Arctic and North Atlantic, increasing the response capability of the Danish Armed Forces as well as the overall combat power of NATO.

Maritime patrol aircraft are advanced aircraft that can be equipped with anti-submarine capability and which have the capability to identify and combat enemy fleet vessels. The acquisition of maritime patrol aircraft strengthens the capability to further ascertain the maritime situational awareness in the Arctic and North Atlantic, including the GIUK gap.

### Additional arctic vessels

The *First Agreement on the Arctic and North Atlantic* resolved to procure three new Arctic vessels. This agreement includes the procurement of an additional two Arctic vessels, giving the Danish Armed Forces five new Arctic vessels with icebreaker capability.

The new vessels will be able to operate more effectively and flexible in the Arctic and North Atlantic. The five vessels will be of the same type, ensuring economies of scale and optimised maintenance.

The vessels will be designed to operate in ice-covered waters similarly to the Danish Armed Forces' existing Thetis Class vessels, and will be able to transport drones, helicopters, etc. When the new Arctic vessels enter into the Danish Armed Forces' operations, a sale or transfer of one of the Danish Knud Rasmussen-class vessel to Greenland for use in coast guard and fisheries inspection tasks, etc. will be explored.

This agreement upholds the priority of increasing the capability of the Danish Armed Forces' maritime platforms to be inspected, maintained, and serviced in Greenland and in Faroe Islands.

### Icebreaker capability

An agreement will be made to gain access to an icebreaker capability that can supplement the Danish Armed Forces' Arctic vessels.

This agreement can be established as a collaboration with a local partner that has experience with navigating in the Arctic. There is consensus that icebreaking operations must be conducted with respect for the local communities.

### North Atlantic undersea cable

The undersea cables infrastructure is limited in the Arctic and North Atlantic. The parties to the agreement and Naalakkersuisut therefore agree on the establishment of a North Atlantic undersea cable to better



### New vessels in the Arctic

*With the two agreements on the Arctic and North Atlantic, the Danish Armed Forces will have five Arctic vessels with icebreaker capability. These vessels will comprise the core of the Kingdom of Denmark's maritime capability in the region also including the Danish frigates.*

connect Denmark and Greenland. The government and the Faroese Home Rule Government will discuss as soon as possible the possibilities for connecting the undersea cable to the telecommunications infrastructure in the Faroe Islands.

The new undersea cable will strengthen communication resilience and improve the Armed Forces' ability to communicate securely. In addition, the new submarine cable will also reduce vulnerability to outages and sabotage.

#### **Protection of critical infrastructure**

It is necessary to increase the ability to detect threats against critical subsea infrastructure.

With this agreement, the parties to the agreement and Naalakkersuisut agree to explore the possibility of procuring suitable capacities for monitoring and altering of incidents against critical subsea infrastructure in the deep sea in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

#### **New quay in the Port of Nuuk**

General maritime traffic in Greenland is increasing. More cruise ships, trawlers, etc. are docking in Nuuk, which limits space in the port and the capacity to house the Danish Armed Forces' vessels. This agreement ensures the Danish Armed Forces' vessels a dedicated naval quay in Nuuk. The quay will also be available for use by allies and will benefit civil society when the Danish Armed Forces are not using the space.





The intelligence and situational picture as well as military air surveillance in the Arctic and North Atlantic styrkes.

## Initiatives for air operations

This agreement provides for investments in significant capabilities that strengthen the Danish Armed Forces' air operations and contribute to an improved intelligence gathering and situational awareness.

### **Establishment of air surveillance radar**

The situational awareness and military air surveillance in the Arctic and North Atlantic will be further strengthened with the establishment of air surveillance radar in East Greenland. Together with the acquisition of smaller drones and increased surveillance, this radar capability will permanently strengthen the situational awareness in the Arctic and North Atlantic, particularly in the GIUK gap.

### **Additional drone capacity**

New drones will further improve the ability to establish situational awareness. The capacity can also supplement the Danish Armed Forces in supporting local authorities in the Faroe Islands and in Greenland.

The agreement provides for the procurement of new smaller drones, which can contribute

to both military operations and governmental support. The drones provide situational awareness, and can create detailed images in connection with search and rescue operations, environmental incidents, police support efforts, etc. The drones will be based in Greenland.

### **Improved facilities at Kangerlussuaq Airport**

This agreement establishes funding to improve the physical conditions in Kangerlussuaq. This funding can be used for purposes such as renovation of the Danish Armed Forces' buildings, security improvements, runway, establishing additional hangar facilities, etc, improving the ability for Danish F-35 fighter jets to occasionally operate in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

The allocation of this funding will be discussed with Naalakkersuisut.



## Stronger airspace surveillance

The *First Agreement on the Arctic and North Atlantic* resolved to establish satellite capability and procure a number of long-range drones. The Consensus on strengthening the *Danish Armed Forces' ability to detect, identify, and react to threats, and establishing a physical framework for the construction of larger ships* allocated funding to strengthen the situational and intelligence picture with an increased number of satellites, etc. These capabilities strengthen the Danish Armed Forces' ability to detect, identify, and respond to threats and incidents in, among other places, the Arctic and North Atlantic.



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The overall, significant investment has been made, among other things, to support the tasks of allies and NATO in the Arctic and North Atlantic and should be seen in the light of the Kingdom's ambition to maintain peace, security, and stability in the region.





The locations and number of icons are only illustrative.

## Overview of initiatives from the Second Agreement



### Increased presence

Increased permanent presence of the Danish Armed Forces with the establishment a new military unit under Joint Arctic Command.



### Joint Arctic Command

Strengthening of Joint Arctic Command with a new headquarters in Nuuk.



### Specialised Arctic unit

A specialised unit for deployment in the Arctic will be established under Special Operations Command.



### Recruitment and retention

Funding established to improve recruitment and retention of stationed personnel from Denmark in Greenland.



### Arctic Basic Training

A new drone module as part of Arctic Basic Training.



### Maritime patrol aircraft

Procurement of a maritime patrol aircraft capacity to strengthen the Danish Armed Forces' response capability.



### Additional Arctic vessels

Procurement of an additional two Arctic vessels with icebreaker capability, giving the Danish Armed Forces a total five such vessels.



### Icebreakers

Access to an icebreaker capability will be established to support the Danish Armed Forces' Arctic vessels.



### North Atlantic undersea cable

Establishment of a North Atlantic undersea cable.



### Additional drones

Procurement of additional drones capable of collecting detailed images and supporting military operations.



### Kangerlussuaq Airport

Renovation of buildings and runway in Kangerlussuaq, better equipping the airport for the Danish Armed Forces' increased flight activities.



### Air surveillance radar

Establishment of radar capability in East Greenland to strengthen the situational picture and military air surveillance.



### Greenlandic Rangers

The analysis and decision on a model for Greenlandic Rangers will be accelerated and completed in 2026.



### Protection of critical infrastructure

The possibilities for procuring capacities to monitor critical subsea infrastructure will be examined.



### New quay in Nuuk

A dedicated naval quay for the Danish Armed Forces' vessels will be established in the Port of Nuuk.



### Additional strengthening of research efforts

Stronger research efforts relating to defence and security issues in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

## The Danish Defence's current mission



### THETIS-class inspection vessels

The vessels patrol the Faroe Islands and Greenland all year round – often accompanied by a SEAHAWK helicopter.

### The KNUD Rasmussen-class inspection vessels

The vessels patrol Greenland all year round and the Faroe Islands as needed.



### Challenger inspection aircraft

Used for fisheries inspection, search and rescue missions and passenger transport.



### Special Operations Force Sirius

Denmark's Arctic Special Force, which contributes to surveillance and sovereignty enforcement in Northeast Greenland.



### Arctic Basic Training Programme (ABU) in Kangerlussuaq

Provides young people in Greenland with skills in defence and emergency preparedness.



### Joint Arctic Command

A joint operational territorial command of the Danish Defence operating in the Faroes Islands and in Greenland.

## Overall initiatives in the first agreement



### Drones

Two long-range drones for advanced image acquisition in addition to the two signal acquisition drones from the Arctic Capability Package.



### Satellite capacity

Surveillance activity in the Arctic, North Atlantic and in close proximity to Denmark.



### Arctic patrol vessels

Three new arctic patrol vessels for the Danish Defence's tasks at sea.



### Joint Arctic Command

Command facilities are further strengthened and secured.



### Aircraft for inspection, surveillance and transport

Options for cooperation in solving the tasks are clarified.



### Coastal radars

Two coastal radars are established in Greenland.



### Special Operations Force Sirius

Strengthening the presence of the Arctic Special Operations Force.



### Arctic Basic Training Programme

Enrolment in the Arctic Basic Training Programme is increased to 30 students.



### S!RENEN

The S!RENEN alert system is extended to citizens in the Faroe Islands and in Greenland.



### Rangers

Analyse whether a Greenlandic Rangers unit can be established.



### Guardians

Strengthening the Greenland Guardians reporting service.



### Nuclear measuring station

A stationary measuring station will be established in East Greenland.

## Initiatives stemming from other agreements

- The *Consensus on strengthening the Danish Armed Forces' ability to detect, identify, and react to threats, and establishing facilities for the construction of larger ships* allocates funding to further strengthen the situational and intelligence picture with an increased number of satellites, etc.
- An analysis of investments in frigates, starting with air defence frigates, has been initiated with the *Agreement on a Fleet Plan*.
- Funded by The Acceleration Fund Denmark has entered into a joint NATO air-to-air refuelling capability, which among other things will improve the ability of the Danish Armed Forces' F-35 fighter jets and allies' aircraft to operate in the Arctic and North Atlantic.
- Denmark has offered to establish a NATO special operations headquarters, giving Denmark a leading role in NATO's special operations domain in the Arctic and North Atlantic.





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