



FACT SHEET:

First agreement on the Arctic and North Atlantic

Under the 2024-2033 Defence Agreement

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The security tensions between Russia, China and the United States have also spread to the Arctic.



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Security policy at a turning point

Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland are at a historic turning point regarding defence and security policy following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has brought war back to Europe.

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

Geopolitical tensions between Russia, China and the U.S. have spilled into the Arctic and the goal of low tension in the region is under pressure. Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland must respond to the intensified security situation.

The first step

With this first agreement crucial steps are taken towards strengthening defence and security in the Arctic and North Atlantic under the 2024-2033 Defence Agreement.

A second agreement on the Arctic and North Atlantic will follow in the first half of 2025 further strengthening defence and security. Further acquisition of capabilities can for example consist of frigates, icebreaking capabilities and unmanned systems for the Navy, maritime patrol aircrafts, fighter aircrafts, transport aircrafts and other relevant capabilities for the Air Force, as well as further investments in special operations forces and improved surveillance of critical infrastructure.

In total, this significant investment will be made to achieve NATO's future capability targets. The strengthening of defence and

security in the region will be executed in close cooperation between the Kingdom of Denmark, the U.S. and other arctic allies.

Stronger defence and better societal resilience

With this agreement, the parties behind the 2024-2033 Defence Agreement, the Government of the Faroe Islands and the Government of Greenland (Naalakkersuisut) aim to improve surveillance and assertion of sovereignty in the region. The parties agree on the necessity of supporting close allies and NATO's mission in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

A central priority in the agreement is improving societal resilience so that civil society is better prepared in the Faroe Islands and in Greenland.

Implementation of the agreement will be executed in close collaboration with the Faroe Islands and Greenland, so that the initiatives benefit civil society and are locally rooted as much as possible.

Close cooperation

This first agreement has been decided by the Danish government and the parties behind the 2024-2033 Defence Agreement. The agreement has been developed in close cooperation with the Government of the Faroe Islands and Greenland's Naalakkersuisut.

Contents of the first agreement

- Stronger local anchoring in Greenland and stronger cooperation with Faroese authorities
- Improved situational awareness and intelligence gathering
- Long-range drones
- New Arctic patrol vessels
- The Danish Defence's presence in the Arctic and North Atlantic
- Enhanced deployment and communication capabilities
- Cooperation on intelligence and research
- Increased enrolment in the Arctic Basic Training Programme
- Stronger societal resilience



Drones and satellites will strengthen the ability to monitor activity in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

Improved situational awareness and intelligence gathering

The strategic importance of the Arctic and North Atlantic is increasing. Both military and civilian activity in the region has increased. Consequently, the Danish Defence needs to improve its situational awareness and intelligence gathering capabilities in the region.

Establishing a satellite capability and ground-based sensors

- Satellites and ground-based sensors will improve situational awareness and intelligence gathering by identifying and monitoring activity in the Arctic, North Atlantic, in the areas surrounding Denmark and in space.
- Better surveillance strengthens societal resilience by faster identification of environmental incidents, natural disasters, search and rescue operations etc.
- Establishment will take place in cooperation with close allies, prioritizing the use of local partners and companies when installations are made in Greenland.

Long-range drones

NATO's expectations to surveillance increases the need for more advanced operational image acquisition. Thus the Danish Defence's ability to conduct detailed long-range surveillance in the Arctic, the North Atlantic and the areas surrounding Denmark must be strengthened.

Procurement of long-range drones

- Two long-range drones with advanced operational image acquisition capabilities that can monitor large areas across long distances and capture detailed images.
- The drones can also support civil authorities in case of environmental incidents, natural disasters search and rescue missions etc.
- The drones comes on top of the two signal acquisition drones included in the agreement on Arctic Capability Package from 2021.
- The drones can occasionally operate from Kangerlussuaq, e.g. to reduce response time. The possibility of more frequent operations from Kangerlussuaq will be analysed in time for inclusion in the coming second agreement.



Stronger local anchoring in Greenland and stronger cooperation with Faroese authorities

Building societal resilience in Greenland is a key objective for a number of the initiatives in the agreement. Societal resilience can be strengthened by applying local insight, competence and presence of Greenlanders, especially in the remote areas of Greenland. The large distances and sparsely populated areas make presence and strong emergency response vital. The potential in applying local knowledge, skills and presence, especially in eastern and northern Greenland can help achieve this.

In the Faroe Islands, it remains a priority that the operations of the Danish Defence are combined with civil defence, police and authorities, including data and information sharing, strengthened surveillance at sea and relevant operational conditions. A financial framework is reserved for societal resilience in the Faroe Islands.



Three new Arctic naval vessels will cover the Navy's tasks at sea.

New arctic patrol vessels

The Danish Defence currently patrols the waters surrounding the Faroe Islands and Greenland with THETIS-class patrol vessels that are reaching the end of their operational lifespan. There is a need to procure new arctic patrol vessels.

Procurement of three new arctic patrol vessels

- Three new arctic patrol vessels will ensure operational robustness.
- The new vessels will be able to fulfil tasks around Greenland more efficiently and flexible as well as carry helicopters and drones.
- The existing patrol vessel project is reoriented to focus on arctic patrol vessels.
- The vessels can undertake surveillance and assertion of sovereignty, as well as public authority activities such as search and rescue, police support, research, marine environmental preparedness, etc.
- Due to the current security situation, the Danish Defence's frigates will assume a more prominent role in the North Atlantic.
- Options for maintaining and servicing the Danish Defence's maritime platforms in Greenland will be analysed. The options in the Faroe Islands will also be clarified.
- The replacement of other patrol vessels, including the KNUD Rasmussen-class and environmental protection vessels, will be analysed and subject to a later decision.
- A plan for the fleet of the Danish Navy will be presented in March 2025, setting the direction for future development.



Total budget for military capabilities to strengthen surveillance, assertion of sovereignty, etc.

DKK 11.8 billion

The Danish Defence's presence in the Arctic and North Atlantic

The Joint Arctic Command's facilities in Nuuk will be improved to enable the Danish Defence to operate under more secure conditions and undertake an increased number of tasks related to surveillance, assertion of sovereignty, supporting allies, search and rescue etc.

Increased presence in the Arctic and North Atlantic

- Improvement of the physical security of the Joint Arctic Command facilities in Nuuk and reinforcement of the Joint Arctic Command with additional personnel.
- A dedicated effort emphasizing recruitment and retention of personnel with a particular focus on local recruitment.
- Conditions for the Danish Defence personnel stationed in Greenland will be analysed in close collaboration with Naalakkersuisut and will be finalized as input to the second agreement later in 2025.
- The ability of the Danish Defence to handle relevant military activity at Kangerlussuaq Airport will be improved.
- Greenlandic symbols and language on signage on the Danish Defence's buildings, installations etc. will be made more visible.
- Efforts to reduce the environmental consequences of the Danish Defence's activities on local communities, nature and the environment will be increased.
- The future presence and activities of the Danish Defence in Kangerlussuaq will be analysed in time for the results to be included in the second agreement.



Economy: **DKK 340 million**



Strengthened surveillance of the seas, airspace, and large land areas.

Enhanced deployment and communication capabilities

The Danish Defence operates over large distances in the Arctic and North Atlantic. The increased military and civilian activity in the region requires improved capabilities in air transport, satellite communication and patrolling.

Air transport and surveillance

- The Danish Defence currently performs inspection, surveillance and transportation tasks in the Arctic with CI-604 Challenger aircrafts. The Challenger aircrafts are near the end of their operational lifespan and need to be replaced.
- The opening of new airports across Greenland means new opportunities for establishing partnerships with airlines regarding inspection, surveillance, and transportation.
- The agreement reserves funding to utilize these opportunities through cooperation. A model for cooperation must be developed by mid-2025.
- Funding for leasing aircrafts to fulfil the Challenger’s tasks outside the Arctic and North Atlantic, including passenger transport, Frontex-related tasks and surveillance in the Baltic Sea.

Satellite communication

- The ability of the Danish Defence to communicate by satellite will be strengthened by procuring equipment for handling satellite data. This will enable the Danish Defence to communicate faster and more securely in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

Coastal radars

- The agreement provides additional funding for two coastal radars in Greenland, which were part of the Arctic Capability Package Agreement from 2021.
- Local partners and companies will be used where possible.
- The coastal radars contribute to maritime safety with improved monitoring of maritime traffic.

Seahawk helicopter simulator capacity

- The options for upgrading The Danish Defence’s Seahawk simulator capacity to cover larger parts of Greenland will be explored.

Special Operations Force Sirius

- The Arctic special operations force Sirius is strengthened to increase the presence of the Danish Defence in Northeast Greenland.
- An improved effort to increase the Greenlandic intake in the Sirius special operations force will be made in cooperation with the Government of Greenland.



Total economy:

DKK 2.3 billion





Eight extra spaces on the Arctic Basic Training Programme

Cooperation on intelligence and research

Cooperation on intelligence and research will be strengthened to respond to the current security situation.

Strengthened cooperation on intelligence

- The number of intelligence briefings from the Danish Defence Intelligence Service (DDIS) in the Faroe Islands and Greenland will be increased. Relevant products from DDIS will be translated into Greenlandic.
- Competence building programmes aimed at decision-makers and authorities in the Faroe Islands and Greenland to strengthen cooperation on defence and security.

Strengthened cooperation on research

- Improved research efforts on defence and security policy issues in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

 Economy: **DKK 31 million**

Increased enrollment in the Arctic Basic Training Programme

The Arctic Basic Training Programme is aimed at youth in Greenland. Among other things, the programme provides competencies to carry out rescue and emergency response tasks in Greenland. There has been great support for the programme, that strengthens the robustness of the emergency response in Greenland.

Additional recruits in the Arctic Basic Training Programme

- Yearly enrollment on the Arctic Basic Training Programme will increase from 22 to 30.
- This enables more young people in Greenland to acquire skills within rescue and emergency response tasks in Greenland.
- Options of expanding the programme with a drone module where students can develop skills in operating small drones will be analysed.

 Economy: **DKK 95 million**





Civil societies must be prepared for environmental incidents, natural disasters, and accidents at sea.

Stronger societal resilience

The geopolitical situation and changes in the current risk assessment amplifies the need to strengthen societal resilience in the Faroe Islands and Greenland in cooperation with local authorities.

It is crucial that initiatives in this agreement benefit the Faroe Islands and Greenland to better prepare the civil societies.

The capabilities and initiatives included in the agreement will strengthen the Danish Defence's ability to support the police, emergency response and civilian authorities.

When implementing the agreement, it is important, that investments create local jobs and support businesses in Greenland.

It is particularly important that the agreement is implemented in recognition of the linguistic, cultural, and local conditions that apply in the Faroe Islands and Greenland.



Economy: **DKK 132 million**



Measures to strengthen societal resilience, The Danish Defence's mission and local anchoring

Robustness and security

The Danish Emergency Management Agency will support the emergency management authorities in Greenland with advice and development of risk scenarios etc.

Critical infrastructure

The options for detecting threats to critical underwater infrastructure in the Kingdom are analysed. The analysis should be finalised in the spring.

Enhanced nuclear preparedness

Enhanced nuclear preparedness by establishing an additional stationary measuring station in Greenland.

Launch of the SIRENEN

The mobile-based alert system SIRENEN will be rolled out in the Kingdom of Denmark for the benefit of citizens in Greenland.

The Greenland Guardians

The Greenlandic reporting service *The Greenland Guardians* is strengthened so that the service can better support local emergency preparedness.

Cyber security

Improved consultation on cyber issues aimed at the Faroe Islands and in Greenland.

North Atlantic submarine communications cable

The options of establishing a North Atlantic submarine communications cable that can provide infrastructure for enhanced surveillance and communication will be analysed. The analysis will be completed during 2025.

Economy for enhanced societal resilience

DKK 53 million is allocated to strengthening broad societal resilience in the Faroe Islands. The specific measures will be discussed with the Government of the Faroe Islands.

Training Greenlandic drone pilots

The possibility of offering Greenlandic emergency response organisations a course on handling smaller drones will be explored.

Greenlandic Rangers

An analysis will be completed in consultation with Greenlandic authorities on whether to establish a new unit for *Greenlandic Rangers* under the Danish Defence.



The locations and number of icons are not specified exactly due to security and other reasons.

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.



SIRENEN

The SIRENEN 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.

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.



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