

# Denmark sends extra troops to Greenland

## Copenhagen instigated move ahead of hour-long meeting with US officials

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Denmark said it was sending extra troops, aircraft and ships to Greenland, with more coming from Nato allies, hours before a meeting with senior US officials over President Donald Trump's desire to take control of the island.

The meeting, between Danish foreign minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Greenlandic foreign minister Vivian Motzfeldt and US vice-president JD Vance and secretary of state Marco Rubio, ended after

an hour. US officials did not comment on the meeting.

The governments of Denmark and Greenland had earlier announced that there would be an "expanded military presence" in and around Greenland "in close co-operation with Nato allies".

"Geopolitical tensions have spread to the Arctic . . . The purpose is to train the ability to operate under the unique Arctic conditions and to strengthen the alliance's footprint in the Arctic, benefiting both European and transatlantic security," the two governments added.

The comments came as Trump increased pressure on Copenhagen to cede control of the vast Arctic island, which is a semi-autonomous territory of

the kingdom of Denmark, to him. "NATO should be leading the way for us to get it . . . NATO becomes far more formidable and effective with Greenland in the hands of the UNITED STATES. Anything less than that is unacceptable," he wrote on Truth Social yesterday.

The meeting between Vance, Rubio, Rasmussen and Motzfeldt was the first between the three countries since Trump expressed his interest in buying the world's biggest island in 2019.

The US operates the sole military base in Greenland but has cut back its troop levels on the island significantly from more than 10,000 during the cold war to about 150 at present.

Trump has lashed out at Denmark for using dogsleds to patrol the remote and unpopulated north-east of Greenland against the potential Chinese and Russian threat.

"NATO: Tell Denmark to get them out of here, NOW! Two dogsleds won't do it! Only the USA can!!!" Trump wrote in a second post yesterday on Truth Social.

Denmark announced in October that it would spend \$4.2bn on increasing Arctic security, including two new military units, a joint Arctic command headquarters in Greenland's capital of Nuuk, two ships, maritime patrol aircraft, drones and radar units. It also said it would boost its fleet of F-35 fighter jets to 43, costing another \$4.5bn.

Denmark and Greenland said the increase in military presence would involve aircraft, ships and soldiers – including from Nato allies.

They added that the military exercises to take place this year could include guarding critical infrastructure, providing assistance to local authorities and receiving allied troops and deploying fighter aircraft and ships around Greenland.

Motzfeldt said it was a "core priority for the government of Greenland that defence and security in and around Greenland are strengthened".

Denmark has received strong messages of support from most European members of Nato.