

Kangerlussuaq Greenland Orientation

Kangerlussuaq (Søndre Strømfjord in Danish) is a settlement on the west coast of Greenland near the end of a fjord of the same name. Until the early 1990's it was home to a U.S. military base known as Bluie West Eight.

ESPO Support: The ESPO POC for the logistics in Kangerlussuaq this year's campaign is Jhony Zavaleta [+1 (650) 996-6319, Zavaleta@nasa.gov] Contact him for any questions not addressed in this orientation package.

Room and Board: OIB personnel are housed in the KISS facility, building 662 (Fig 1.) The Kangerlussuaq International Support Services (KISS) facility has double occupancy dormitory-style rooms. The cost per occupant is 300 DKK (about \$57 USD depending on exchange rate.) Bathrooms are communal. There are two communal kitchens and lounge areas available as well as a meeting room that can hold up to 10 people; the nearby hotel can accommodate up to 50 people. There is a laundry facility available at the KISS building; it is free of charge but you have to provide your own detergent, which can be purchased at the local market.



Fig 1

Dining options: include a cafeteria and several nearby restaurants, some located at the airport complex.

Internet and Email: Internet and WiFi access for OIB personnel will be provided at the KISS building and possibly in the ANG 109th building. Login details will be distributed upon your arrival via email and/or posted on the information boards in the installations. Contact ESPO personnel onsite for information. The KISS facility also features a guest computer for researchers and field staff to use on a shared basis. The KISS facility is not set up for participants to make personal long-distance calls. It is therefore best to plan on communicating from Kangerlussuaq via email. Most computers should work off 220V (bring a plug adapter and if needed a step down transformer.) Smart phones with roaming capabilities work great in Kangerlussuaq **-but at about \$19.99/Mb in download charges.** It is highly advisable to disable data roaming to avoid extremely expensive phone bills.

Transportation: Walking is the primary mode of transportation in Kangerlussuaq. OIB will have a very limited number of rental vehicles for

transportation of the science team, pilots, and aircraft crew. Shuttle buses and taxis are available for sightseeing or personal transport.

Shipping: Use the following address to have items shipped to Kangerlussuaq. Ensure plenty of time for the delivery.

CH2M HILL Polar Services
[Name / NASA Operation Ice Bridge]
Postboks 1015
DK-3910
Kangerlussuaq Greenland

Recreation and Shopping: A gym building near the KISS facility offers recreational activities including swimming, weight lifting, tennis, badminton, basketball, softball, bowling, and rowing. The cost is 20 Kroner per visit (which equals to about \$3.75 U.S. dollars). There are three retail shops in Kangerlussuaq: two souvenir shops in the airport and the Pilersuisoq, a store that offers Danish food, clothing, sporting goods, house wares, liquor, beer, and wine.

Banking: Banking facilities are not available in Kangerlussuaq. Personal and payroll checks cannot be cashed. Traveler's checks, cash (Danish Kroner), and some U.S. credit cards and debit cards are accepted. The Greenland Airport Authority Accounting Office exchanges money at a fair market rate, billing a transaction against your credit card or debit card. You also can get a cash advance of a maximum of 500 Kroner on your credit card at the Hotel Kangerlussuaq. ATM is located at the airport.

KISS, the market, the hotel, restaurants and other businesses accept Visa and Master Card credit cards (usually no American Express nor Discovery) as well as US dollars, Euros, and Danish Kroners. ATM machines are available at the airport and it is possible to withdraw any of these currencies.

Weather: (Table 1) Weather in the Kangerlussuaq area is generally cold through May, and snow is always a possibility. June, July, and August are normally temperate, ranging from 40°F to 70°F. Cool rain is common in summer months, so layer clothing to be comfortable in summer's wide range of temperatures. Arctic mosquitoes infest the coast during June and July. Mosquito nets and insect repellent are necessary at this time of year. Table I below shows average annual temperatures.

Kangerlussuaq Climate

Table I

Month	Average min. - max. temperature, °C	Relative air humidity, %	Average wind velocity, m/s	Mean precipitation, mm	Sunshine hours
January	-22 > -16	77	4	5	6
February	-24 > -18	78	2	3	58
March	-21 > -13	76	2	2	171
April	-12 > -4	73	2	8	225
May	-1 > 6	64	4	5	241
June	4 > 13	62	4	12	250
July	6 > 15	64	4	22	241
August	4 > 13	67	4	28	233
September	0 > 7	69	4	17	134
October	-9 > -3	76	4	12	82
November	-16 > -8	75	4	11	17
December	-19 > -10	78	4	4	0

Foreign Nationals: U.S. border security has been tightened in recent years, and changes in policy have placed further restrictions on people entering the U.S. from Greenland. The Visa Waiver Program does not apply to people entering the United States from Greenland via the New York Air National Guard 109th (NYANG 109th) flights. Therefore, anyone without a United States or Canadian passport must have a valid Resident Alien Card (also known as a green card) or visa in order to enter into the U.S. All field team members carrying foreign passports who want to travel to/from Greenland via the NYANG 109th must provide proof of their visa status in addition to a valid passport.

Medical & Dental Insurance: Researchers, be sure to check with your home institution to confirm you have adequate insurance for your stay in Greenland. If you are planning to travel outside of Greenland for pleasure, you may want to consider additional traveler’s insurance coverage. There is no onsite dentist with only a sporadic dentist visit for minor oral procedures. It is therefore highly recommended that all medical and dental needs be addressed before the deployment.

Hazardous Cargo: Hazardous cargo must be packed and labeled according to Code of Federal Regulations CFR-49, Air Force Joint Manual AFAM 24-204 and International Air Transportation Association Dangerous Cargo

Regulations. It is the sole responsibility of the individual shipper to make sure hazardous cargo is packaged appropriately and has the proper documentation. International Air Transportation Association and CFR-49 regulations should be followed for all hazardous shipments to Stratton Air Base. If required, military certification is completed at Stratton Air Base or in Greenland by CPS staff.

Obtain five copies of the Material Safety Data Sheet for each hazardous material being shipped. These are typically available from the vendor. Distribute as follows:

- One copy enclosed in the container.
- One copy included with the shipper's documents.
- One copy filed in the CPS Greenland office.
- One copy kept on site with the material.
- One copy given to a Greenland CPS staff member for use during retrograde shipping.

Alcohol: "From January 1st 2011 it is forbidden to bring any form of beer, wine, spirits or any other form of alcoholic drinks with you when you come into Greenland. From this date the regulations concerning tax-free import of goods to Greenland have been changed." See their website for more details and information: <http://airgreenland.com/Information/ombord/tax-free>

Items Banned in the United States: Please be aware that many items routinely found for sale in Greenland are illegal to import into the U.S. In particular, the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the importation of any marine mammal products.

Recommended Cold Weather Gear: OIB operations do not require outdoor field gear as the one mentioned below. Most of the exposure to cold weather would be when in transit to/from the aircraft and to/from the cafeteria. Nevertheless, if any type of outdoor activities during leisure time are anticipated the following might be something to have in mind (adjust accordingly):

- Insulated Parka with hood
- 1 or 2 pair Insulated bibs, Carhartt
- Wind pants, bib non-insulated
- Pile/fleece jacket
- Pile/fleece pants
- Lined wind jacket with hood
- Long underwear
- Expedition weight thermal top/bottoms
- Sleeping bag (rated to -40 degrees Fahrenheit), sleeping bag liner
- Sorel boots with spare liners (Glacier Model)

- 4-6 pairs Wool socks
- Hat, musher style with earflaps
- Hat, pile or wool cap
- Neck gaiter
- 1-2 pairs Insulated ski gloves
- Expedition mittens
- Recommended Personal Gear: Towel, a day-pack, chap-stick, sunscreen, sunglasses, water bottle, medications with copies of any prescriptions, hiking boots, batteries, reading material, toiletries. For more information: <http://www.greenland-guide.gl/kangerlussuaqtourism/>

Aircraft Parking: Figure 2 shows the location of the KISS building, the hotel and the anticipated parking location for the P3 aircraft (Fig 3, shows aircraft parked at the specified location).



Figure 2



Figure 3

Kangarlussuaq, Greenland



© 2010 Europa Technologies

Image © 2010 Asiaq

© 2010 Google

67°00'46.68" N 50°41'46.75" W elev 166 ft



Eye alt 8121 ft

Imagery Date: Jul 23, 2000