



Thule, Greenland

ATom Deployment Guide

(revised March 2018)

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BEFORE ARRIVAL

TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

Greenland officially belongs to Denmark who has oversight on the facilities run primarily by the United States Air Force. A valid personal passport (and sometimes depending your country of origin a visa) is required for travel to Greenland.

All visitors to Thule require a valid passport for entry. US Citizens and US Nationals do not require a visa and may enter and leave freely. Citizens of the UK and EU countries also do not need visas.

All other international passport holders intending to visit Thule should confirm their visa requirements. Keep your passport safely stored and carry a photocopy of your passport with you at all times.

Additionally, each person bound for Thule should make sure to bring his or her driver's license, or PIV type badge (e.g. NASA hard badge or a CAC card). Thule protective services will require you to present this upon arrival to the base.

CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

You should be up to date on routine vaccinations while traveling to any destination. See <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/greenland> for more details.

MONEY

US dollars are accepted on Thule Air Base. Major credit cards are accepted at the North Star Inn (see Lodging section for more details) and at the Base Exchange (BX).

Everyone should make sure they bring a minimum of 50 USD to Thule. There are no ATMs on base. Small amounts of cash (availability varies greatly) can be obtained at the BX checkout counter only when paying with a debit (ATM) card. Upon check in at the North Star Inn, you will be given a dining card to use at the base's dining hall. There are machines in the hotel and at the dining hall you must use to put funds on the card. These machines only accept US dollars (no credit cards).

SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 17	Friday, May 18	Saturday, May 19
≈ 14:45 arrival from Lajes	Instrument access	≈ 14:00 departure to Anchorage

DAILY SCHEDULE

While work and aircraft access schedules will generally follow normal business hours (08:00-16:00) schedule details and updates will be posted to the list serve and posted on the ATom website -

<https://espo.nasa.gov/atom>.

SITE ORIENTATION

Upon arrival, all personnel will deplane and make a short walk to the hangar (likely Hangar 8) where Thule protective services will be standing by. Unlike last year, heavy-duty parkas will not be available for pick up in the hangar. Be prepared with your own cold weather gear.

Everyone who holds a CAC card or a NASA PIV badge will be immediately processed through and may call for a cab to the North Star Inn.

All others will be shuttled to the main terminal and must present their driver's license to receive a base pass. At the time of writing, ESPO is working on a way to expedite this process.

ESPO SITE SUPPORT

Name	Phone	E-mail
Dan Chirica (Site Manager)	+1 925 640 0463	dan.chirica@nasa.gov

PER DIEM

Current Per Diem rates as set by the Department of Defense

<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/perdiemCalc.cfm>

Locality	Maximum Lodging	Local Meals	Local Incidental	Maximum Per Diem	Effective Date
THULE AB	210	54	14	278	09/01/2007

* All rates are in US Dollars

LODGING

All ATom participants will stay at the North Star Inn (Bldg. 100): This is the only hotel type lodging accommodation in the air base. The North Star Inn has 100 individual rooms; shared bathrooms are located on every floor and on each side of the building. The cost is \$44/night.

The North Star accommodations include TV, microwave, small refrigerator, and limited Internet capabilities. ESPO will provide its own Internet connection for ATom personnel. User name and login information will be provided upon your arrival.

ESPO will provide the North Star Inn with your reservation information based on the information you provided on the ESPO database. Please ensure that the information is accurate and up-to-date. Proceed to the front desk upon arrival to provide payment information.

Washer and dryers are located in the community bathrooms on each floor.

TRANSPORTATION

Taxi services are free, quick and easy to/from anywhere on the base, 24 hrs./day. The base taxi number is 2300 from any base phone. Walking to from the chow hall to the hangars and to the hotel is the only real option with taxi service always available when very cold. Distance between anywhere on the airfield is within one half mile.

ELECTRICAL POWER

Power on base is U.S. standard 120 V, 60 Hz.

COMMUNICATIONS

INTERNET

Wi-Fi will be available at the North Star Inn and in the Hangar. There are no data limits, but network speed is limited to a max of 4 Mbps. With multiple users, you should anticipate degradation in speeds.

We recommend turning off data roaming on any mobile device while in Thule as data roaming rates are prohibitively expensive.

VOICE AND TEXT

For AT&T customers calls placed or received while in Thule are charged at \$3.00 per minute while for Verizon customers they are \$1.79 per minute. Text messages cost vary depending on the service provider. Rates can vary widely depending on your plan. Expect long latency times for regular calls.

- The Greenland country code is 299
- To call a U.S. number while in Thule enter the plus sign, then 1 then the 10-digit phone number

The use of Voice over IP calling (e.g., Wi-Fi calling, Skype, FaceTime, etc.) works in Thule but quality varies with number of concurrent users on the Wi-Fi network.

AIRCRAFT ACCESS

Thule has several large hangars. ESPO has requested one of the larger hangars, Hangar 8. Office space is limited but located internal to the hangar. Overflow of office needs can be accommodated on the hangar floor. ESPO will provide wireless Internet capabilities for the hangar. Login information will be provided by ESPO upon arrival.

SHIPPING

There are no viable shipping options to or from Thule.

HEALTH

Medical services are located adjacent to the Dundas chow hall and hotel.

Emergency number is 911.

STORES/RESTAURANTS

The Dundas Buffet Restaurant (chow hall) is located adjacent to the North Star Inn. The method of payment at the Dundas buffet is by prepaid meal cards. The North Star Inn will provide you with meal cards to which you must add money at the entrance to the buffet *at cash machines*. Meal prices are \$2.77 for breakfast and \$5.09 lunch or dinner. Meals are also available at the Top of the World (TOW) Club (restaurant/bar) after regular dinner hours.

Dundas Buffet Restaurant Hours of Operation

	Monday thru Friday	Sat/Sun and Holidays
Breakfast	0500 - 0800	0700 - 0900
Lunch	1100 - 1300	1000 - 1300
Dinner	1700 - 1900	1700 - 1900

TOW Club Hours of Operation

Monday	1600 - 2200
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	1600 - 2200
Thursday	1600 - 2300
Friday	1600 - 0300
Saturday	1100 - 0300
Sunday	1600 - 2200

A military store (AAFES Thule Exchange or BX) is available. This small store contains a variety of Danish and American food items, personal care items, cleaning and laundry supplies, office products, and a few electronics and video items. A barbershop is also located in the same BX. Thule airbase also offers a very nice fitness facility and a bowling center.

UPON DEPARTURE

Preflight for the departure to Anchorage will begin at 11:00 (approximately three hours prior to takeoff).

You are responsible for obtaining the food you want to take on the outbound flight. An option will be to pay for an additional breakfast and take it to-go. There will be containers and bags made available for the Atom group.

WEATHER

Temperature in Thule ranges from -40F in the coldest months to 60F in the summer. The coldest weather hits at the same time as the sun starts coming up over the horizon (late February to early March). In late April, the sun remains above the horizon 24 hrs. Winds can range from 30 to 100 knots during the arctic winters.

Arctic winter storms are divided into these classifications: Storm Normal, Storm Alpha, Storm Bravo, Storm Charlie, and Storm Delta. Storm Delta represents the most serious threat to life and property. Two factors (visibility and temperature) are assessed to determine the applicable storm conditions. When any two of these three factors are present, the appropriate storm condition is declared.

- Storm Condition Normal - Business as usual.
- Storm Condition Alpha - Initial warning of a potential Arctic winter storm. No danger exists at this point; however, all personnel should prepare for storm conditions.
- Storm Condition Bravo - All pedestrian traffic will use the buddy system (two or more people traveling together). All personnel must stay on approved roads. If you are traveling alone in a vehicle, it must have a comm radio or use the buddy system.
- Storm Condition Charlie - All non-essential base facilities close. Return to quarters. Pedestrian traffic is prohibited. Call the base taxi or use the base shuttle bus service if dedicated vehicles are not available.
- Storm Condition Delta - All personnel are restricted to the buildings in which they are located at the time a Storm Delta is declared. Absolutely no pedestrian or vehicular travel is permitted. Only emergency vehicles will operate during this condition and only at the direction of the Base Commander.

All year long, Thule weather is like weather in many northern states, unpredictable. It can rain, sleet, snow, and be very sunny and warm all in one 24-hour period. Always be prepared and expect the unexpected. For your protection, storm shelters (phase shacks) are located at short intervals along the roads leading to off-base worksite locations. Each shelter is heated and stocked with emergency food, water, bedding, and a telephone. They are for use by anyone caught in a sudden storm condition. Remember, these shelters are for emergency use only!!!

The dining hall and BX will be closed if conditions are Storm Condition Charlie or Delta. If Storm Condition Charlie or Delta lasts more than 24 hours, meals ready to eat (MREs) are distributed to everyone on base. Keeping a provision of snacks in your room is highly encouraged.

Cold Weather Gear – While at Thule you will have to supply your own cold weather gear. Expect temperatures to reach -30 degrees and very windy. A proper jacket, flannel or wool shirts, insulated boots (no tennis shoes!), gloves, hat (should cover ears), insulated pants, thermal long underwear, quality alpaca or wool socks, etc. are required. Since everyone must pack frugally, layering is advisable.