RWI SITREP 017 — 28–29 October 2026 (the CFB Gagetown fire)

Window **28 Oct 06:30 → 29 Oct 12:00 UTC**, following SITREP 016; at CFB Gagetown the window is 03:30 ADT 28 Oct → 09:00 ADT 29 Oct. 218 sites. Thermal: NASA FIRMS watch runs of 28 Oct 20:21, 29 Oct 01:02 and 10:05; GOES-19/18 fire product over Gagetown, every 5–10 minutes, 28 Oct 00:00 → 29 Oct 05:56 (tasks T20261029-1204-beaf and the incident pull); a FIRMS area pull over Gagetown for 28–29 Oct (task T20261029-1207-9c4c). Imagery: the 28 Oct daily pickup and a 12-hour ad hoc pickup to 29 Oct 11:26, the first on the new cloud mask; Sentinel-2 plates from the public archive. Flights: military ADS-B samples and city MILAIR; ships: AIS. Times UTC unless marked.

REPORTER LEADS — things in our data that no public reporting explains yet. Leads, not findings: each needs a reporter to confirm or kill it.

L1. CFB Gagetown: heat detected for about three hours on 28 Oct, still warm the next morning — DND has not said what burned or why

Inside one open, road-ringed clearing in the east of the training area, 45.741–45.755 N, 66.238–66.272 W. GOES-19: first heat 15:46 UTC (12:46 ADT), peak 112 MW at 18:26, last detection 18:41 (15:41 ADT), all through gaps in 85 % cloud. VIIRS: 35 daytime pixels over about 1.3 × 2.7 km on five passes; two more pairs at night, 29 Oct 06:57 and 07:16 UTC (1–2 MW).

Why it is a lead: DND says a fire is burning in the northeastern part of the training area, is being monitored and is no threat to the public; it suspended training there and banned drones, but gave no size, start time or cause. The satellites give the start, the peak and the spread, and show heat still on the ground about 12 hours after the last daytime detection. A late-October burn would fall outside the base's published spring burning programme (April–May); DND has not said either way. For context: eleven days earlier, four soldiers died in the CFB Wainwright range fire (RWI-HC-001); nothing in our data links the two.

What would settle it: DND / 5th Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown: what was burning in that clearing — range firing, an impact area, a prescribed burn — when was it reported, and is it out? The next clear Sentinel-2 or Landsat pass will show the scar against the clear image of 27 Oct (G1). (Plate G1, G2)

L2. Djibouti: a first-time hot spot beside the main road between Chabelley and the PLA base

11.556–11.557 N, 43.050–43.052 E; 28 Oct 10:04 (S-NPP, 1.0 MW) and 10:24 (NOAA-20, 5.0 MW), daytime. About 3.6 km north of SITREP 016's lead at Chabelley and 2.8 km south of the PLA base box.

Why it is a lead: No detection within 1 km in 180 days of data. It fell outside the new Djibouti site boxes, so the alert filed it under the wide Djibouti box as routine. The pixels sit at the edge of a built-up strip north of the road (D1). A small daytime fire; the data cannot say what burned.

What would settle it: The next clear Sentinel-2 pass (the 28 Oct 07:46 image was taken two hours before the detections). Anyone on the ground on that stretch of road. (Plate D1)

L3. Western Libya: a night fire on the Zawiya coast, 7 km east of the refinery

32.793–32.795 N, 12.770–12.774 E, on the coastal dune strip between the beach and farmland; 27 Oct 23:56 (NOAA-21, 3.4 MW), 28 Oct 00:35 (S-NPP, 2.5 and 1.3 MW), 00:52 (NOAA-20, 1.7 MW).

Why it is a lead: Not the refinery flare, which is 7 km west and burns every night; nothing at this spot in the 21–27 Oct pull. Three passes in an hour. They fall in SITREP 016's window but the FIRMS watch first recorded them at 20:21 on 28 Oct; its 05:21 and 05:49 runs did not.

What would settle it: Local reporting from Zawiya or Janzur for the night of 27–28 Oct. A clear Sentinel-2 pass: 28 Oct 10:01 was half cloud over the spot (Z1). (Plate Z1)

L4. Djibouti: the recurring burn spot north of the Chabelley runway (carried from SITREP 016, L1)

0.5–0.9 km north of the western end of the Chabelley Airfield runway; burned 4 May, 22 Jun, 6 Jul and 26 Oct 2026.

Why it is a lead: Still unexplained. The clear Sentinel-2 pass of 28 Oct 07:46 shows no obvious new dark patch at the 26 Oct detection (D1), but a 375 m pixel leaves room for a scar just outside the square. No new heat there in this window.

What would settle it: CJTF-HOA / Camp Lemonnier public affairs: is there a waste-burning, disposal or training-fire site at or beside Chabelley, and who runs it? (Plate D1)

L5. Carried forward, unchanged: leads from SITREPs 008–015 with no status recorded (SITREP 016 did not carry them)
015-L1 Polish Air Force Gulfstream 0001 at Rzeszów (27 Oct); 014-L1 the Arava fire (27 Oct); 013-L1/L2 Wainwright (no RCAF search aircraft seen; Top Aces Alpha Jets 20–26 Oct); 012 Turkish A400Ms at Al-Watiya (2–3 Sep), SPAR75 at Chièvres (26 Oct), night fires west of Zawiya and south of Sabratha; 009/008 Yevpatoria night detections (24–25 Oct), the Khiam fire (25 Oct), the Sevastopol outage (25 Oct).
Why it is a lead: Nothing in this window settles any of them; each stays open until reporting or imagery does.
What would settle it: As in the original reports.

1. Bottom line

1.1 **Satellites detected a fire at CFB Gagetown for about three hours on 28 Oct.** GOES-19 saw heat from 15:46 to 18:41 UTC (12:46–15:41 ADT) through gaps in heavy cloud, peaking at 112 MW at 18:26; five VIIRS passes between 16:22 and 18:41 put 35 fire pixels across a 1.3 × 2.7 km patch inside one open, road-ringed clearing in the east of the training area (G1). Low heat was still there at 06:57–07:16 UTC on 29 Oct. DND confirms a fire in the northeastern part of the training area; it has not given size, start time or cause (lead L1). It is the first heat on the base in 60 days apart from two pixels about 11 km northwest on 22 Sep. **CORRELATED**

1.2 **Djibouti.** The clear 28 Oct 07:46 Sentinel-2 pass shows no obvious scar at the Chabelley spot (L4, plate D1) or, on a quick look at the raw chips, in the Ambouli wadi (no plate). A new spot burned the same morning beside the main road between Chabelley and the PLA base (L2). Still no heat at the PLA base or Doraleh. The Douda dump burned again at night (22:01, 22:59), as usual. **NOT IN NEWS**

1.3 **Other heat.** Front-line fires near Zaporizhzhia by day on 28 Oct (2.5–8.5 MW at 47.65–47.68 N, 35.68–35.78 E) and smaller ones at night (0.4–1.5 MW at 47.59 N, 36.22 E) **PARTIAL**. Western Libya: the Zawiya refinery and Mellitah flares as every night, and one new coastal spot 7 km east of the refinery (L3) **NOT IN NEWS**. Southern Lebanon: two tiny night pixels (0.3 MW) at 33.05 N, 35.50 E on 28 Oct 22:52 **PARTIAL**. El Obeid, Sudan: one daytime pixel (3.3 MW) on 28 Oct 11:47 **PARTIAL**. Routine: Ras Laffan, Bandar Abbas, Abqaiq, Kharg, the cement kiln south of SHAPE, the Port of Los Angeles refinery flares (still flagging, as SITREP 016 said they would until marked routine), one night pixel just south of Military Ocean Terminal Concord. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

1.4 **Imagery.** 17 site-passes (about 12 Sentinel-2 scenes) in the window, most cloudy; no Sentinel-1 or Landsat pass at any site. Larger changes on usable passes: Zawiya 28 Oct 10:01 (0.17; re-scored with the new mask 0.08 — mostly cloud, plate Z1), NATO Geilenkirchen 28 Oct 10:46 (0.11), Baltiysk 28 Oct 09:55 (0.10 on a scene 90 % cloud overall; 0.08 with the new mask) and NWS PIN-3 Lady Franklin Point (27 Oct 19:35, late-listed, 0.65; possibly snow); none checked by eye yet. The new cloud mask (pipeline 0.8.1) went live at 11:22 UTC on 29 Oct; in its first run, baselines the old mask called fully clear scored 86–90 % clear at Rzeszów, Reno, the Las Vegas Janet terminal and March ARB — the cumulus it was built to catch. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

1.5 **Flights.** A Ukrainian government A319 (UR-ABA, UKN1157) on the ground at Rzeszów at 08:50 UTC on 28 Oct, with an RAF C-17 (ZZ174) on approach. SAM987, a USAF C-37, landed at Nellis around 16:23–16:29. An Indian Navy MH-60R (IN770) around North Island, Point Loma and Camp Pendleton on 27 and 28 Oct, and an Antonov An-124 (UR-82027) at Vandenberg on 27 Oct (Watches). An Italian military AW169 (MM82196) flying as UN263 (UNIFIL) over southern Lebanon. Nothing logged near Gagetown, which no ADS-B site watch covers. City MILAIR: nothing unusual. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

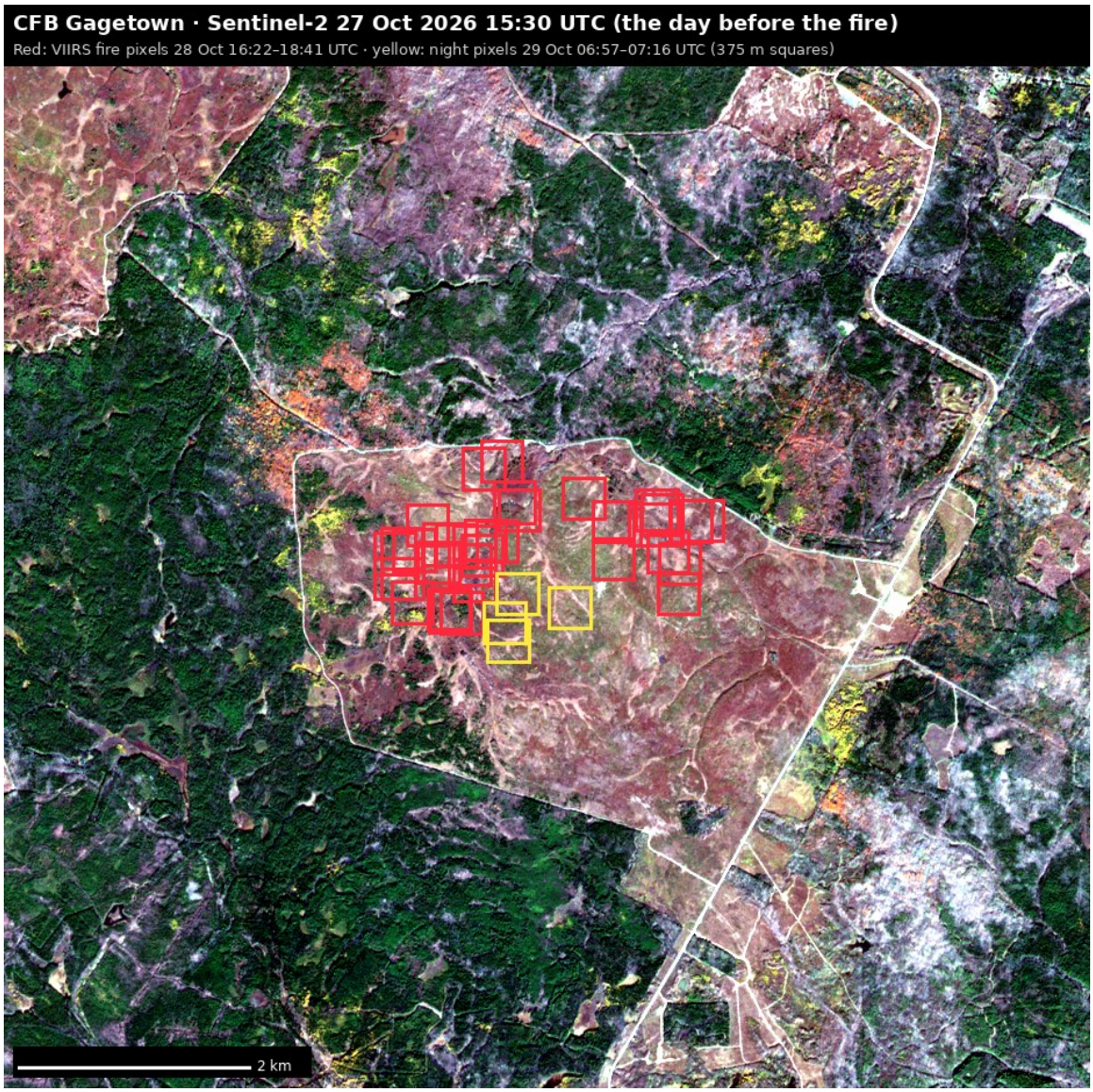
1.6 **Ships.** RWI-TRK-008 (HMCS Ville de Québec, Den Helder): the North Sea log has one report from MMSI 316127000 — a Canadian number, named “NATO WARSHIP” — moored at the Den Helder naval base at 06:23 UTC on 28 Oct, at the berth the track watches (7 minutes before this window opened). Not yet tied to the ship; the log has gaps, so a departure could be missed. Also: the Peruvian Navy's Tacna moored at Norfolk; “CDN WARSHIP 430” at Halifax. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

1.7 **Watches.** The 28 Oct issues (flights of 27 Oct): six Janet aircraft (five 737s, one King Air) on the range shuttle (Vegas); nothing out of pattern (Mojave); the An-124 at Vandenberg (Central Coast); the Indian Navy MH-60R (San Diego); Central Valley farm burning (NorCal). Wilco Watch: no new clear optical pass since 12 Oct. No 29 Oct issues yet. Night lights: no new nights since 25 Oct. Dark ships: none. **NOTHING TO MATCH**

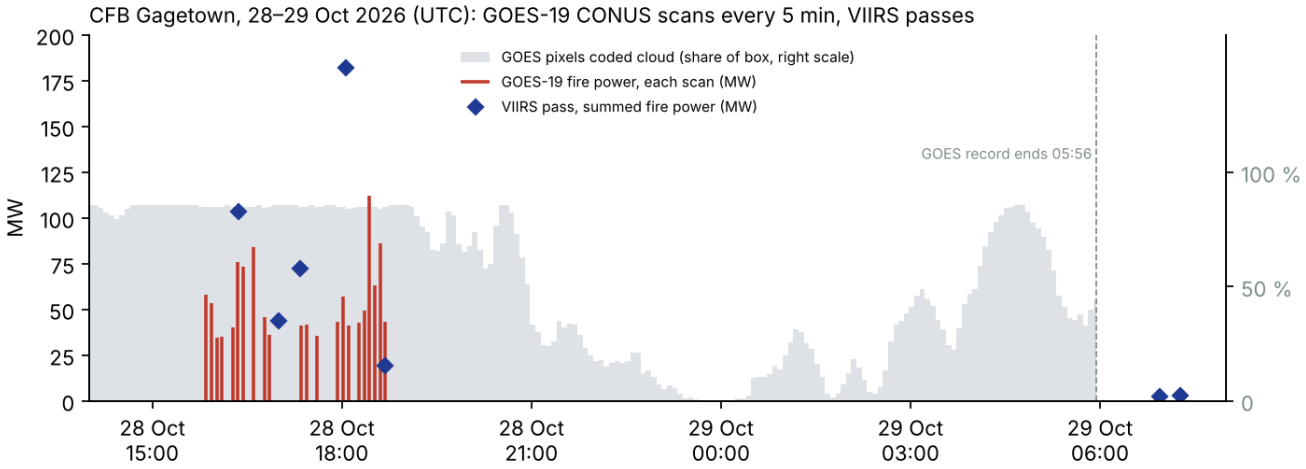
2. CFB Gagetown: the fire, measured

2.1 **What the satellites saw.** GOES-19 (GOES-East) images the base every 5–10 minutes with pixels about 3 km across at this latitude; VIIRS passes a few times a day with 375 m pixels. GOES-18 (West) saw nothing. Through the fire about 85 % of the GOES box was coded cloud, so GOES saw the fire through gaps: its gaps in the record are cloud, not the fire stopping. The same cloud had covered the box since 14:40, so an earlier start cannot be ruled out. Cloud cleared through the evening (none by 23:41, back to 85 % by 04:30) and GOES saw no more fire to 05:56 on 29 Oct.

Time (UTC, 28 Oct)	Sensor	Pixels	Fire power	Read
15:46	GOES-19	1	—	First heat (low-probability code)
15:50–15:51	GOES-19	1	52–58 MW	First measured fire power (12:50 ADT)
16:22	VIIRS NOAA-21	6	104 MW total, 30 max	The FIRMS watch flagged it from this pass (run 20:21)
17:00 / 17:20	VIIRS S-NPP / NOAA-20	7 / 9	44 / 72 MW total	
18:04	VIIRS NOAA-21	12	182 MW total, 32 max	Most pixels and highest fire power
18:26	GOES-19	1	112 MW	GOES peak
18:41	GOES-19 / VIIRS S-NPP	1 / 1	43 / 19 MW	Last daytime detection (15:41 ADT)
29 Oct 06:57 / 07:16	VIIRS S-NPP / NOAA-20 (night)	2 / 2	1–2 MW each	Still warm, about 12 h later



G1 · CFB Gagetown, Sentinel-2 27 Oct 15:30 UTC, the clear pass the day before the fire, with every VIIRS fire pixel of 28 Oct (red) and the night pixels of 29 Oct (yellow). All fall inside one open, road-ringed clearing.

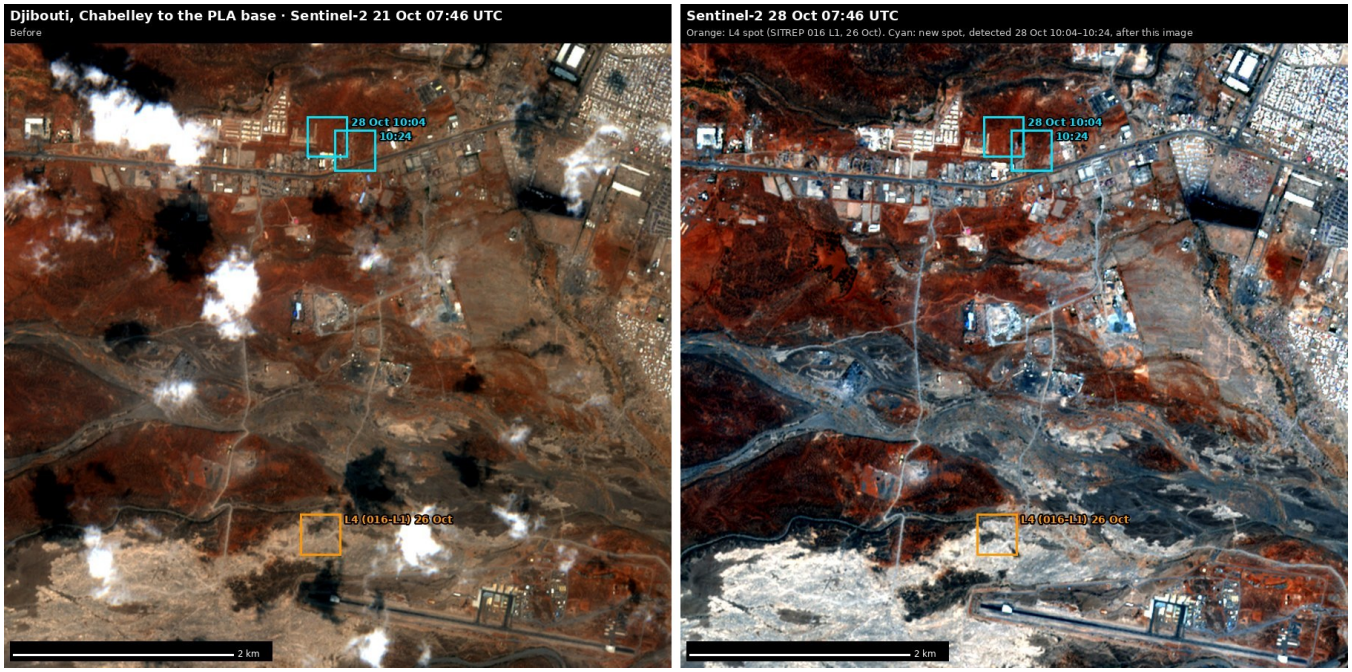


G2 · Fire power over Gagetown: GOES-19 each scan (red bars), VIIRS passes (blue), and the share of the GOES box coded cloud (grey).

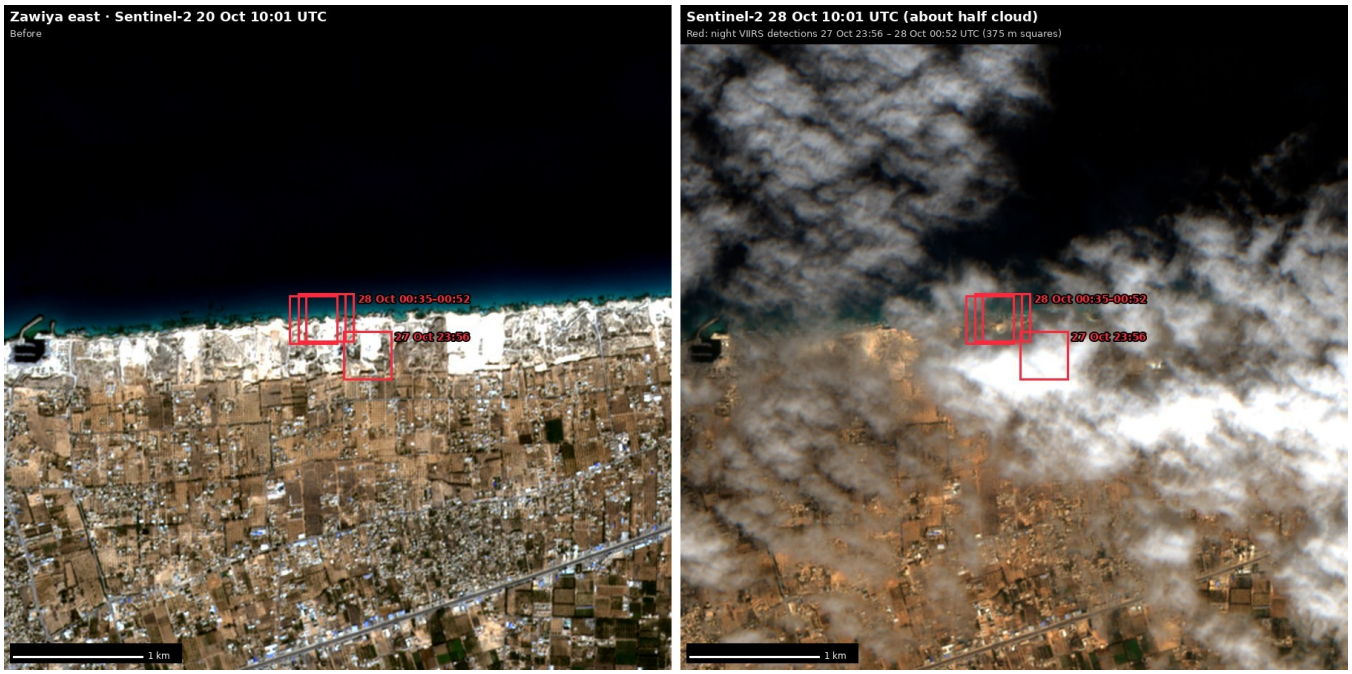
2.2 **Where.** The pixels sit in an open heath clearing ringed by a track, in the east of the training area, about 7.6 km south of an abandoned airfield and 15–17 km east of the named ranges (Vimy, Mons, Batoche). DND describes the fire as in the northeastern part of the training area. What the clearing is used for is not in our data; calling it a range or an impact area needs a DND source.

2.3 **Limits.** A VIIRS pixel is 375 m and a GOES pixel about 3 km here, so 1.3 × 2.7 km is the spread of the detections, not a burned area. The Sentinel-2 burn index on the clear 27 Oct pass already shows “burned” ground a day before the fire — 3.7 km² on the 28 % of the box the incident pull could compare with 12 Oct, 11 km² on 72 % in a re-run against the same baseline: autumn browning. A burn area must wait for a post-fire pass compared with 27 Oct. FIRMS and GOES cannot tell flaming from smouldering. There has been no Sentinel-2, Landsat or Sentinel-1 pass over the base since the fire (pulled at 12:13 UTC on 29 Oct). The VIIRS granule pull for the base failed for every near-real-time granule from 27 Oct 05:48 (the download lost its Earthdata login; fixed in pipeline 0.8.3, pending); the figures here come from FIRMS, which is unaffected.

3. Djibouti and Zawiya plates



D1 · Between Chabelley Airfield (bottom) and the PLA base road (top), Sentinel-2 21 and 28 Oct 07:46 UTC. Orange: the 26 Oct detection at the Chabelley spot (L4, SITREP 016 L1). Cyan: the new spot of 28 Oct 10:04–10:24 (L2), two hours after the right-hand image.



Z1 · The Zawiya coast 7 km east of the refinery, Sentinel-2 20 Oct and 28 Oct 10:01 UTC (half cloud), with the night detections of 27–28 Oct (L3).

4. Live questions

4.1 When did the Gagetown fire start and how big did it get? Measured: first heat 15:46 UTC (12:46 ADT), peak 112 MW at 18:26, daytime detections over 1.3 × 2.7 km. Cloud covered 85 % of the box from 14:40, so an earlier start cannot be ruled out. Burned area: open until a clear post-fire pass.

4.2 Was it a prescribed burn or range activity? Open — L1. Our data cannot tell; a late-October burn would fall outside the published spring programme.

4.3 Is it out? No daytime detection after 18:41 on 28 Oct; low heat at 07:16 on 29 Oct. Not out in our data as of 07:16 UTC; the next VIIRS passes will say.

4.4 Any heat at the Chinese base in Djibouti? Still none.

4.5 DND: no military members in the fire area; training there suspended; drones banned. Nothing in our data bears on these; parked. No ADS-B aircraft were logged over the base (no site watch covers it).

4.6 House check (read 29 Oct 12:20 UTC): primerogueinc.com/blog has the CFB Wainwright series (range control logs, the Pairs Range images, the 3:16 weather-station time) and nothing on Gagetown, Djibouti or Zawiya. This SITREP adds the measured Gagetown timeline and footprint.

5. Follow-ups

5.1 Gagetown: the first clear Sentinel-2 or Landsat pass after 28 Oct, burn index against 27 Oct; the next VIIRS night passes; DND notices (L1).

5.2 Djibouti: next clear Sentinel-2 over the new spot (L2) and Chabelley (L4).

5.3 TRK-008: check MMSI 316127000 against public registries.

5.4 Pipeline: the VIIRS near-real-time granule read error; the daily pickup did not list the clear Djibouti pass of 28 Oct 07:46; no pickup covered 28 Oct 18:49–23:26; the FIRMS watch did not run between 05:49 and 20:21 on 28 Oct, which delayed the Gagetown flag by about four hours; the first custom tasks ran (Gagetown GOES and FIRMS) but the task's imagery step failed on an argument bug, fixed for the next release.

How to read the news tags: **CORRELATED** reporting confirms an event at that place and time · **PARTIAL** reporting in the area/period but not a clean match · **NOT IN NEWS** we see something the news does not (a lead, not a finding) · **NOTHING TO MATCH** nothing notable in our data to match.

Components and plates

Component	Plate	Why not, if none
CFB Gagetown fire	G1, G2	No post-fire optical or radar pass yet; G1 is the day before
Djibouti new spot; Chabelley (L2, L4)	D1	
Zawiya coast (L3)	Z1	28 Oct pass half cloud over the spot
Zaporizhzhia, southern Lebanon, El Obeid pixels	—	Ongoing conflict-area heat at known fronts; no clear pass at those times
Flights (Rzeszów, Nellis, San Diego, Vandenberg)	—	Transponder sightings only; listed in the Watches and track logs
TRK-008 AIS report; Tacna at Norfolk; CDN WARSHIP 430 at Halifax	—	AIS messages only; no clear imagery of the berths in the window
Ambouli wadi (no scar)	—	Checked on the raw 21 and 28 Oct chips only; outside D1
Baltiysk, NATO Geilenkirchen, NWS PIN-3 change scores	—	Pickup plates only (data/2026-10-28/); not yet checked by eye
Port of LA flares, Concord pixel, Douda dump, routine flares	—	Routine or single small pixels; listed in the FIRMS watch

Sources

• NASA FIRMS (VIIRS S-NPP / NOAA-20 / NOAA-21, MODIS; near-real-time), RWI FIRMS watch and area pull (task T20261029-1207-9c4c). NOAA GOES-19 and GOES-18 ABI fire product (FDCF/FDCC), NOAA Open Data on AWS (task T20261029-1204-beaf, 28 Oct; incident pull data/incidents/cfb-gagetown-2026-10-21-pass29, 28 Oct 12:00 → 29 Oct 05:56). Copernicus Sentinel-2 L2A (Element 84 / AWS), 20, 21, 27 and 28 Oct 2026. adsb.lol military feed; aisstream.io.
• Department of National Defence notice, reported by The Canadian Press: “Fire at New Brunswick military base not threat to public: defence officials”, CTV News Atlantic and National Observer, 28–29 Oct 2026.
• Base Gagetown spring burning programme notices (published annually, April–May).
• Prime Rogue Inc., primerogueinc.com/blog (CFB Wainwright series).
• RWI SITREPs 008–016; RWI-HC-001 (CFB Wainwright); RWI Area Watches and Wilco Watch, 28 Oct 2026.