

Indian Air Force at Red Flag 2024, USA

An IAF contingent arrived on 30 May 2024 at the Eielson AF Base of the USAF at Alaska, USA, to participate in the next edition of the multi-national exercise Red Flag 24. Aply supported by its Il-78 air to air refuellers and the C-17 transport aircraft, the IAF Rafale fighters took a transatlantic flight with staging halts at Greece and Portugal. Aimed to integrate aircrew in a multinational environment, Ex Red Flag is a two week advanced aerial combat training exercise.

IAF Rafale fighter jets then finally returned to India on 26 June 2024, after successful participation at Ex Red Flag in the USA. While on the return, a refuelling halt was planned at Lajes, Portugal, where Mr Manish Chauhan, the Indian Ambassador to Portugal, interacted with the IAF team and exchanged mementos. Subsequently, the contingent split into two teams and conducted a joint exercise with the Egyptian AF and Hellenic AF in Egypt and Greece respectively. While at Egypt, the Indian Rafales soared high and flew over the Great Pyramids in formation with the Egyptian Rafales. Indian Ambassador to Egypt Mr Ajit Gupte met the team and extended his best wishes.

The Greek sky saw the IAF Rafales flying with the F-16s of the Hellenic Air Force. Aimed at enhancing

international military cooperation and interoperability, this “transatlantic leap by IAF’s Rafales has opened the gates to many such enriching exercises in future”.

