

It is said that practice makes a man perfect . It tells us about are strength and weaknesses. The more we practice the more we learn about ourselves. There is a common saying in armies “THE MORE YOU SWEAT IN PEACE THE LESS YOU BLEED AT WAR”. Abiding by this rule they train .

Military exercise are very complex mobilization and use of resources to achieve a planned goal . The objectives are chosen to represent wartime scenarios. This gives us the understanding of our logistics , weapons , soldiers and scope of any improvement .

In this article we will discuss about exercise BLUE FLAG .Blue Flag is a multinational exercise/war game organized by Israel Air force which include airforce from Poland , US, Germany , Italy, France , India and Greece. India has been a participant of the exercise since 2017. The exercise is conducted at OVDA AIR BASE in Israel In SINAI PENINSULA .



Blue Flag 2021 Patch

The aim of the exercise is to increase military friendship , trust , interoperability among the participant nations . The exercise aims at simulating realistic combat scenarios and practice to achieve the stipulated objectives . It also aims at observe , learn and develop new tactics from the experience earned .

In this exercise the participants are divided in two teams Blue team and Red team . The teams then go head on to achieve their objectives developing strategies to do so . The data collected is analysed to develop new strategies .

This year participants include USAF with its F16 and F35 jets . Israel with F16C , F15 and F35A jet , Germany with its Eurofighter Typhoon , United kingdom with its Eurofighter typhoon , France with Rafale B . Indian Contingent include mirage 2000I from No1 Sqn ‘Tigers’.

The exercise is perfect opportunity for IAF to test its upgraded mirages against 4++ generation jets like Rafale , F16 , Typoon and 5th gen F35 . It will give us understanding of new electronics and optics of the jet as well as new weapons integrated on it . furthermore it will be test of efficiency of men , material and pave way for possible changes or upgrade for material and training .IAF will also test its defensive and offensive tactic against best airforces in the world that will be a good lesson for future tactics development for possible

engagement . Training with advanced F16 will give us first hand experience on how to deal with them as our western aggressor has f16 .



AirBus A330 MRTT (RAF)



F-15 C (USAF)



F-15 C (Israel Air Force)



F-35 A (USAF)



EuroFighter Typhoon (Luftwaffe)



Mirage-2000C (Indian Air Force)



IAF at Blue Flag



IAF At Blue Flag

PLAF which almost rarely conducts bilateral exercises are very enclosed for us to study about . Recent developments shows new 5Th gen aircrafts and new sensors on existing platforms . Training with US 5Th gen platforms will give us an estimate to counter Chinese threat which are somewhat copy and comparable if not superior to US assets . With the electronic signatures existing in defence sector IAF will be able to get a good exposure to superior electronics and sensors of the Wester aircrafts like Rafale , typhoon ,f16 and f35 .

This exercise is also example of international support that India has from major world players . In past few years Military Diplomacy has yielded strategic results and good ties in international domains . with formation of quad , AUKUS and other international allied forces it is very important to indulge with allies for better understanding and trust . These exercises also help us identify any new technology that needs to be acquired or build locally and also serve as a test bed for evolving platforms. Lastly, if we aim to establish ourselves as superpower then regular participation in such exercises are important for exposure and also mark presence in a particular sphere / region.