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**Operations**

**RED FLAG - ALASKA**



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**1. Purpose.** RED FLAG-Alaska (RF-A) exists to ensure the Commander-in-Chief has well trained, equipped, and integrated combat forces from all branches of service ready to deploy into a combat arena. RF-A provides a means to train the force with proven technology, the most current tactics, and a unique opportunity to practice integrated force employment.

**2. Mission.** The RF-A mission is to conduct tactical military exercises comparable and complementary to those of RED FLAG-Nellis (RF-N). RF-A applies joint and combined war-fighting doctrine in a dynamic scenario that exploits leading edge technologies and trains all elements of the war-fighting team (United States, allies and coalition forces). RF-A's reputation is anchored in its ability to:

2.1. Provide a forum for face-to-face exchange of ideas and lessons learned between Joint, Combined, and Coalition forces.

2.2. Combine available assets to create the most realistic air, ground, space and information operations (IO) threat environment for combat training in the following major focus areas: Survivability, Effectiveness, Sustainability, Tactics, Access, Air Dominance, Joint/Coalition Integration.

2.3. Provide off-station training for units before/after or separate from RED FLAG normally called DISTANT FRONTIER. Units can coordinate training support for air space, ranges, threats and aggressors to enhance unit level training.

**3. Competencies.** RF-A has adopted two complementary competencies to ground the focus of every Airman and the planning and programming efforts of the organization.

3.1. Adversary Replication. Coordinates and supports a unified “Red Force” ready to oppose the United States and its Coalition Partners during training exercises.

3.2. Advanced Scenario Development. Provide in-depth, joint, integrated, and composite training scenarios and state-of-the-art venues for full-spectrum wartime training for combat-ready units from the USAF, USA, USN and USMC.

**4. Supporting Organizations.** RF-A is core to the 354th Fighter Wing’s purpose at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska (PACAF). Organized as a combat wing, the 354 FW is comprised of 354th Operations Group (OG), 354th Maintenance Group (MXG), 354th Mission Support Group (MSG) and 354th Medical Group (MDG).

4.1. The 354 OG plans and executes RF-A through the 353d Combat Training Sq (CTS) and its Detachment 1 at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. The 18th Aggressor Sq (AGRS) provides professional air adversaries, the 353 CTS provides surface adversaries, while the 354th Operations Support Sq provides airfield support services.

4.2. The 354 MXG is comprised of the 354th Maintenance Sq and 354th Aircraft Maintenance Sq. The 354 MXG’s primary mission is to maintain the assigned aircraft serving as aggressors. Their secondary mission is to provide facilities and support to deployed exercise aircraft as able.

4.3. Standard base operational support is achieved primarily through 354 MSG and 354 MDG operations.

4.4. Indirect support is provided primarily by 3WG and 11 AF at Elmendorf AFB and RF-N units (USAF Warfare Center and 57 WG) at Nellis AFB, Nevada.

**5. Core Resources.** Key to the near and long-term success of RF-A are critical resources for which the 354 FW is charged with sustaining.

5.1. Recognized as a national training asset, the Pacific Alaska Range Complex (PARC) is dedicated to serve the needs of RF-A.

5.2. Eielson AFB is home to the ANG’s 168th Air Refueling Wing (168 ARW). The 354 FW’s large storage capacity for aircraft fuel coupled with the 168 ARW’s KC-135 Tankers generates an inherent, nearly unlimited in-garrison air refueling capability.

5.3. Aggressors. F-16s (18 PAA, Block 30) are assigned to operate as an air adversary force. This force is charged with sustaining the ability to replicate potential threats from simple to complex tactics, formations, and weapons capability. When not actively engaged, Aggressor assets are available to RF-N, other Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) directed exercises, and to perform "road shows" in a TDY status.

5.4. Airfield. Eielson AFB's strategic importance is predicated on its ability to maintain and operate an airfield comprised of a 14,530 feet runway; a parking ramp that can support over 150 fighter and heavy aircraft, with hydrant refueling capabilities.

5.5. Joint Mobility Center. Eielson is home to the only joint mobility processing center within the interior of Alaska. It has the capability to simultaneously receive or deploy up to nearly 700 transient troops and their cargo.

5.6. Classified Operations. Eielson AFB has the facilities to work with and protect classified information and equipment. The 353 CTS will serve as the primary custodian.

**6. Exercise Operational Capabilities/Assumptions.** RF-A support agencies will ensure all measures are taken to create/sustain the following operational capabilities:

6.1. The 353 CTS will conduct 3-5 RF-A (or comparable) exercises per year with programmed growth to support up to 6 exercises per year.

6.1.1. Annually conduct at least one COAL WARFIGHTER (CW) exercise.

6.1.2. As directed by ALCOM, support Exercise NORTHERN EDGE.

6.2. The following base operations support will also be developed/sustained:

6.2.1. Host up to 2,000 exercise participants (1,400 at Eielson AFB and 600 at Elmendorf AFB).

6.2.2. Though Eielson has a capacity to support a large number of fighter and large airframe aircraft, resources are not without constraints. Therefore, 353 CTS RF-A standard operating procedures and specific exercise special instructions (SPINS) will detail assumptions to be integrated into every exercise reception plan.

6.2.2.1. Security. Eight security forces personnel are deployed into Eielson with specified individual equipment items to integrate with 354th Security Forces Squadron (SFS). An additional two SFS personnel are deployed for each Protection Level 1 or 2 asset for close-in security.

6.2.2.2. Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants (POL). 15-25 personnel are deployed into Eielson based on planning factor of 1 person per 3 fighters rounded-up to the highest sortie count at the turn, and a 1 to 1 ratio for heavy aircraft; with R-11 trucks and their dispatch is provided by 354th Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS).

6.2.2.3. Vehicles. RF-A has access to a fleet of support vehicles for use by transient units, however, during larger size exercises, rental vehicle augmentation is also required.

6.2.3. Units deployed to RF-A will provide Deployed Forces Staff and augmentees for the 354 FW. Augmentees are normally required for Security Forces, POL, Munitions, and Force Support. The number and type of augmentees will be determined at planning conferences depending on type and number of units/missions/events planned.

6.3. Temporary Duty. When not engaged in RF-A exercise events, 353 CTS and 18 AGRS capabilities will be available to local contingency operations, RF-N or other JCS directed exercises.

6.3.1. Plan/program for up to six road shows per year in the RF-A off season (this is IAW the Aggressor CONOPS dated 10 Oct 06).

6.3.2. Road show deployments/redeployments will capitalize on dual role tankers to the maximum extent possible. Road show deployments will normally last 2-3 weeks.

6.4. Exercise Scenarios. At user discretion, RF-A will present scalable scenarios ranging from a high-threat scenario to a medium threat scenario to an OIF-like, low-threat/permissive environment.

6.5. Joint Capabilities. RF-A will develop the infrastructure and robust capability to exercise the integrated joint force. Additionally, RF-A will develop the capability to adapt to and exercise evolving joint doctrine focused primarily at the tactical level, but potentially spanning into operational levels of warfare.

6.6. Network Capabilities. RF-A will develop and maintain the capability to exercise a fully-networked Joint Force, for example Link-16, Situational Awareness Datalink (SADL) and other Blue Force Tracker (BFT) systems.

6.7. Air Operations Center (AOC) Command and Control Integration. RF-A will develop the capability to integrate key AOC command and control (C2) operations cell capabilities into RF-A exercises.

6.8. Aggressor Capabilities. RF-A will provide a capable, high-threat adversary encompassing aircraft, surface-to-air missiles, information operations, and space operations.

6.8.1. Air threats. RF-A will provide forces to replicate a full range of adversary weapon systems, and capabilities.

6.8.2. Surface-to-air missile threats. RF-A will maintain capability to meet changes in threats.

6.8.3. Information Operations threats. RF-A will provide forces to highlight and exploit Blue force information operations-related vulnerabilities and critical weaknesses.

6.8.4. Space Operations threats. RF-A will provide forces to highlight and exploit Blue force vulnerabilities and critical space based capability weaknesses.

6.9. Intelligence Signal Reconnaissance (ISR) Integration. RF-A will develop the capability to fully integrate ISR platforms into exercise scenarios in order to exploit Joint force familiarity and interoperability, to include Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Rivet Joint.

6.10. Live, Virtual, Constructive Integration. RF-A will develop the capability to exploit the future growth in development with Live, Virtual, Constructive (LVC) threats.

6.11. Coal Warfighter Integration. RF-A incorporates CW capabilities into exercise operations.

6.12. USJFCOM Accreditation. RF-A will maintain USJFCOM accreditation in Close Air Support (CAS), Offensive Counter Air (OCA), Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) and Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD). RF-A will seek USJFCOM accreditation in additional Joint force-related areas.

## **7. Command & Control.** 353 CTS and its Commander:

7.1. Serves as principal adviser on matters pertaining to RF-A or other similar contingency exercises. Coordinates on matters of mutual interest and refers matters of disagreement to 354 OG/CC, 354 FW/CC, 11 AF/CC and/or COMPACAF for resolution.

7.2. Exercises command and control over military operations as assigned or directed by 354 FW/CC and 11AF/CC.

7.3. Responds to 354 OG/CC, 354 FW/CC, 11 AF/CC, and COMPACAF for administration of RF-A in accordance with the tasks assigned by those commanders.

7.4. Represents 354 FW/CC and 11 AF/CC in the interdepartmental, inter-service, and international activities associated with RF-A exercises.

7.5. The 353 CTS is responsible for the following activities:

7.5.1. Overseeing safe employment and providing realistic war skills training for participating units.

7.5.2. Continuous research and application of development and acquisition projects that improve the effectiveness of aircrew training through threat simulation and instrumentation systems by creating combat-like environments and providing feedback on aircrew performance.

7.5.3. Coordinating long-range exercise plans and requirements with MAJCOM, NAF, US military sister services, foreign military services and contractor personnel to support RF-A or other similar training exercises within the 11AF AOR.

7.5.4. Executing and providing plans, programs, critiques, and feedback to Air Force and Joint service agencies regarding tactical employment and training. Advise the Deployed Forces (DF)/CC regarding operational and training effectiveness.

7.5.5. Coordinating operations, maintenance, and munitions facilities and support for deployed aircraft and personnel at Eielson and Elmendorf AFBs.

7.5.6. Developing long range plans ensuring modernized target arrays, electronic warfare assets, instrumentation systems and updated range infrastructure.

## **8. Adopted Form.**

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*.

MARK W. GRAPER, Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander

**Attachment 1****GLOSSARY OF TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS***Abbreviations and Acronyms*

**AFI**—Air Force Instruction  
**AFPD**—Air Force Policy Directive  
**ALCOM**—Alaskan Command  
**ANR**—Alaskan NORAD Region  
**CW**—Coal Warfighter  
**COMALCOM**—Commander, Alaskan Command  
**COMPACAF**—Commander, Pacific Air Forces  
**FW**—Fighter wing  
**IADS**—Integrated Air Defense System  
**IAW**—in accordance with  
**NORAD**—North American Aerospace Defense Command  
**OPCON**—operational control  
**OG**—Operations Group  
**SAM**—Surface to Air Missile  
**USAF**—United States Air Force  
**WG**—Wing

*Terms*

**Mission**—All necessary elements of the organization's mission and duties

**Command**—The relationships if applicable between: The Air Force components and the unified command that runs it. The organization and other AF organizations, government agencies, US Military Services, and the armed forces and government agencies of other nations.

**Responsibilities**—Mission elements assigned by unified commanders, specified commanders, or higher authorities. Define the commander's responsibility for executing those elements of the mission.

**Organization Chart**—Self-explanatory