

Red Flag 14-2 Nellis Air Force Base

March 4, 2014

RED FLAG 14-2 took place from March 3 to 14 2014 at Nellis Air Force Base. Nellis AFB and the TTR provide a unique training environment that cannot be replicated anywhere else. The Nellis Range complex is located northwest of Las Vegas and covers an area of more than 15,000 square miles. Within these facilities any threat can be realistically trained for including air defense, cyber and space.

The RED FLAG exercise is one of a series of advanced training programs administered by the United States Air Force Warfare Center and Nellis AFB and executed through the 414th Combat Training Squadron. According to the USAF, the mission is to maximize the combat readiness, capability and survivability of participating units by providing realistic training in a combined air, ground, space and electronic threat environment while providing for a free exchange of ideas between forces.

Participants included:

- 142nd Fighter Wing, 123rd Fighter Squadron, F-15Cs, Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore.
- 96th Test Wing, 40th Flight Test Squadron, F-15Cs, Eglin AFB, Fla.
- 4th Fighter Wing, 336th Fighter Squadron, F-15Es, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.
- 388th Fighter Wing, 4th Fighter Squadron, F-16CMs, Hill AFB, Utah
- 2nd Bomber Wing, 96th Bomb Squadron, B-52H, Barksdale AFB, La.
- 20th Fighter Wing, 77th Fighter Squadron, F-16CJs, Shaw AFB, S.C.
- 552nd Air Control Wing, 965th Airborne Air Control Squadron, E-3C, Tinker AFB, Okla.
- 57th Wing, 66th Rescue Squadron, HH-60s, Nellis AFB, Nev.
- 23rd Wing, 79th Rescue Squadron, HC-130Js, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.
- 57th Wing, 64th Aggressor Squadron, F-16Cs, Nellis AFB, Nev.
- 57th Wing, 65th Aggressor Squadron, F-16Cs, Nellis AFB, Nev.
- Carrier Air Wing 5, Electronic Attack Squadron 141, EA-18Gs, Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan
- NATO AWACS, E-3As, Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany

Foreign Participation:

- Belgian Air Force F-16AMs and C-130
- Royal Danish Air Force F-16AMs
- Royal Saudi Air Force F-15S

Blue Air, Interdiction, SEAD, Command & Control, Refueling and SAR aircraft numbered over 100. Red air was provided by the 64th and 65th Aggressor Squadrons as usual.

RED FLAG was created in 1975 in response to the need for better combat training as evidenced by unacceptable kill ratios during the Vietnam war. The exercises offered USAF pilots and weapon systems officers the opportunity to fly 10 realistically simulated combat missions in a safe training environment with measurable results.

RED FLAG has expanded to incorporate all spectrums of warfare to include command and control, real-time intelligence, analysis and exploitation, and electronic warfare. Night missions have also been added to each exercise. RED FLAG gives aircrews and air support operations personnel from various airframes, military services and allied countries an opportunity to integrate and practice combat operations.

For RED FLAG 14-2, mass launches occurred twice each day - starting around Noon and then the night launches at 7PM.

On March 6th, we were brought out to the runways before noon and were ready to catch the first launches. In addition to the RED FLAG participants, there were launches and recoveries of UAE F-16Es which were participants on the concurrent Green Flag exercise. Soon the RED FLAG aircraft were launching on both runways - F-15s, F-16s, F-22s, E-3s, a couple of tankers, C-130s and a pair of B-52s. The scheduled EA-18Gs never did appear at Nellis but could have launched from another location. Other interesting activity included some F-35 flights, although they were not RED FLAG participants.

Here are some photos from the March 6th. For more photos visit our Red Flag 14-2 Gallery at www.JetImagesOnline.com :

Many thanks go out to the 99th ABW Public Affairs Office for organizing the media day and for their assistance.

F-15E from Seymour Johnson AFB



64th AGRS Viper launches:



NATO E-3A taxiing to the active runway:



B-52 launches with the Las Vegas skyline in the background:



Belgian F-16 launches on the right side:



KC-135 recovers at the end of a mission:



Royal Danish Air Force F-16AM:



Aggressor Eagle launches on the left:



Viper launch close up

