



## US Cancels Red Flag

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### Why in News

Recently, the **U.S. Air Force** has cancelled the **Phase-I of Red Flag** due to the **COVID-19** outbreak.

- It is a **Pacific Air Forces-sponsored exercise** meant to provide realistic training in a simulated combat environment over the **Joint Pacific Alaska range complex**.
- It is USA's **flagship multilateral air exercise**.

### Key Points

- The **Red Flag Alaska 20-1** was scheduled to be held in Alaska from 30<sup>th</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.
  - It has been cancelled owing to the **travel restrictions** imposed by the U.S. Department of Defence.
- The **Indian Air Force** (IAF) was also to take part in the exercise with its Sukhoi Su-30 fighter jets.
  - The IAF joined Red Flag for the first time in **2008 in Nevada**.
  - It has deployed **Su-30MKI, Jaguar strike aircraft**, the **Il-78 tankers** and the **C-17 strategic airlift aircraft** in the exercise.
  - However, it had said it would not take part in every edition of the **biennial exercise** because of the high cost involved.

**Source: TH**