

IAF TO TAKE PART IN 'PITCH BLACK' IN AUSTRALIA

Relevant for: Science & Technology | Topic: Defence related developments

Continuing the series of military exercises with countries in the Indo-Pacific, the Indian Air Force (IAF) will join 16 other nations, including Quad partners, later this month for Exercise Pitch Black, the biennial exercise hosted by the Australian Air Force.

About 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 nations will arrive in the Northern Territory in two weeks to commence Exercise Pitch Black 2022, the Australian Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

“With a four-year hiatus since the last Pitch Black due to the global pandemic, this year’s exercise will see a return of the combined force to Australian skies, enhancing interoperability and strengthening relationships,” it added.

Group Captain Peter Wood, PBK22 Director Engagement, said, “International participation in Ex Pitch Black, from within the Indo-Pacific region and further abroad, provides all nations’ personnel with experience in working with aircraft, systems and work practices, in northern Australia’s unique environment, that would otherwise be unfamiliar.”

The 2020 edition of the exercise was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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