Airspace and ATC

- Identifying airspace on maps
- Rules for operating in different airspace types
- Communicating with Air Traffic Control (ATC)
- Monitoring aircraft communications

Controlled vs. Uncontrolled

- "Controlled" means ATC services available
- Alpha is above 18,000 feet.
- Bravo, Charlie, Delta associated with airports
- Echo away from airports
- Golf airspace has no ATC services
 - Foxtrot airspace not used in US

Charts

- "Sectional Aeronautical" and "Terminal Area"
- View for free on the web:

https://skyvector.com/

- Can also purchase from numerous retailers, both on-line and local flight schools
- Apps on smartphones and tablets with free charts:

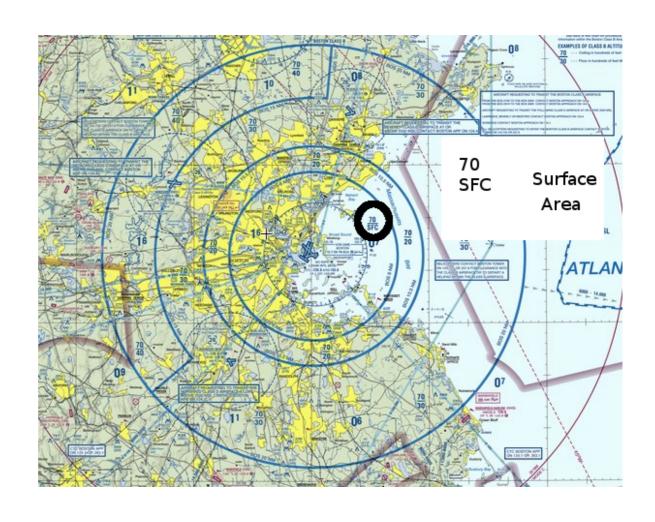
FltPlan Go iFlightPlanner





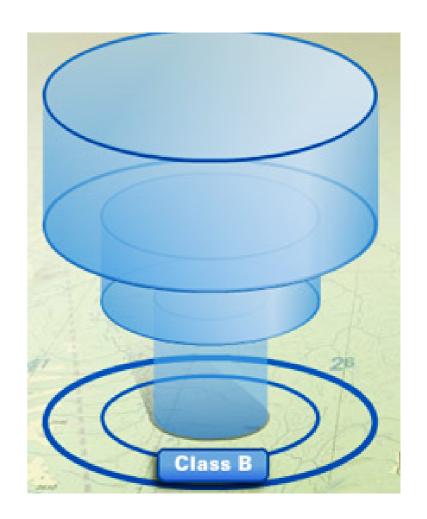
Bravo Airspace

- Wide blue line
- Up to 10,000'
- Boston (BOS) at right
- 8 nautical mile (nm) inner ring
- 30nm veil



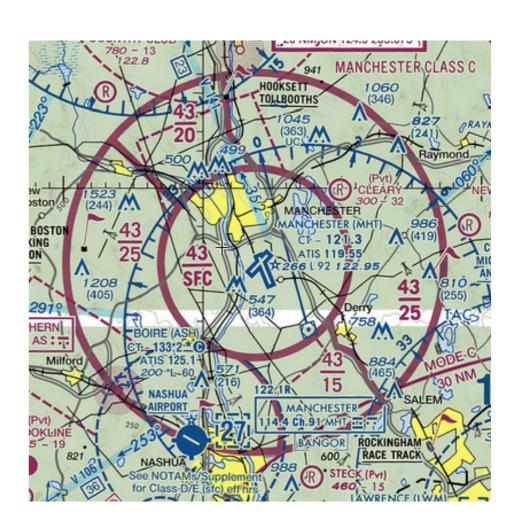
Bravo Airspace

- 3D view at right
- "Wedding cake"
- Major airports
- Each is different



Charlie Airspace

- Wide solid magenta line
- Up to 4,000'
- Inner ring at Manchester (MHT) at right is 5nm radius
- 10nm shelf area
- 20nm outer area



Charlie Airspace

- 3D view at right
- Layered design



Delta Airspace

- Thin, dashed blue line
- Surface up to 2,500'
 AGL normally
- 5nm radius
- Worcester (ORH) at right has area cut out for Spencer



Delta Airspace

- 3D view at right
- Simple cylinder



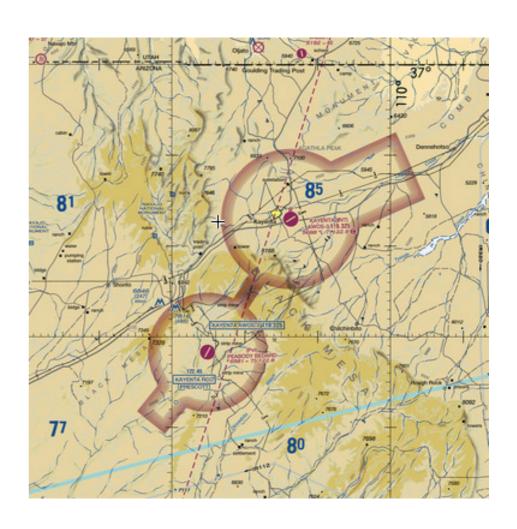
Echo Surface Area

- Dashed, thin magenta line
- Outlines a runway approach (14 at ASH at right)
- Requires ATC permission
- Extends up to 700 AGL



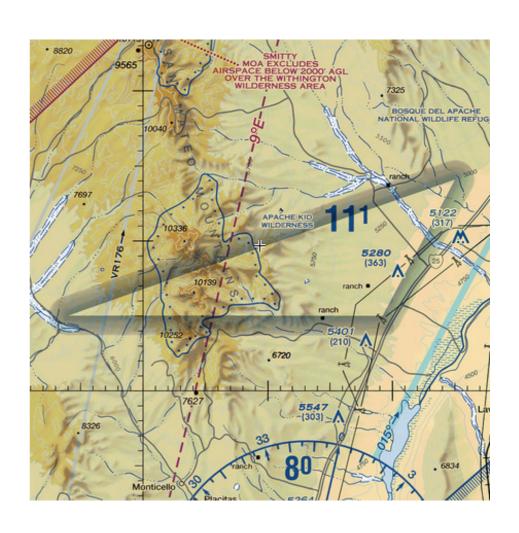
Echo at 700'

- Thick magenta shaded lines
- Usually associated with airports
- Does not require ATC permission
- ... but should use caution



Echo at 1200'

- Thick blue shaded lines (rare)
- Most places have Echo at 1200' AGL
- Echo starts at 14,500
 MSL otherwise
- Echo also above 60,000 feet



General Rules

- If multiple types, then most restrictive applies.
- If no upper limit given, then it extends to the next defined airspace above.
- Be careful about Above Ground Level (AGL) versus Mean Sea Level (MSL) distinction.
- Need to look at the map carefully; many places differ from norm due to local issues

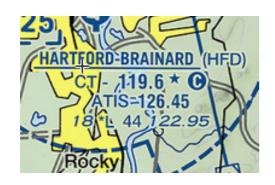
Controlled Surface Areas

- ATC permission required to operate in surface area of B, C, D, E airspace
- Cannot get permission from Flight Service, tower, or ATC
- Geo-fencing is not FAA-certified
- Waiver from 107.41 or authorization is currently required

https://faadronezone.faa.gov/

Part-Time Towers

- Many control towers are part time, indicated with asterisk by frequency on map.
- Schedule in Chart Supplements (former A/FD). https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/digital_products/dafd/
- Airspace reverts to Echo (to surface) when tower closed – still need ATC permission.



RCO 122.2 (BRIDGEPORT RADIO)

BRADLEY APP/DEP CON 119.0 CLNC DEL 11
TOWER 120.5 (1130-0200Z‡) GND CO
AIRSPACE: CLASS D svc 1130-0200Z‡ oth
VOR TEST FACILITY (VOT) 108.2

Special Use Airspace

 No UAS in Prohibited or Restricted areas https://sua.faa.gov/





Other Special Use

- Warning, Alert, and Military Operating Areas (MOAs)
- Military Training Routes (MTRs)
 - Four digits: no segment over 1500' AGL (VR1005)
 - Three or fewer digits: 1500' AGL and above (IR23)
- Controlled Firing areas are not on maps







Notices To Airmen (NOTAMs) and Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs)

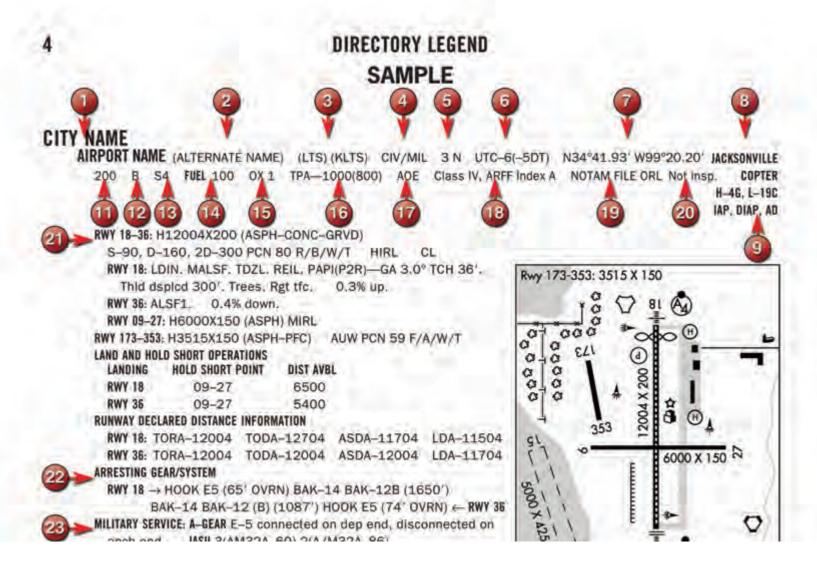
- NOTAMs contain important information
- Must check before each flight: https://notams.aim.faa.gov/notamSearch/
- Flight Service System (FSS) gives current, not published NOTAMs
- Key type: Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR)
- Can also check with FAA's B4UFLY app



Airports

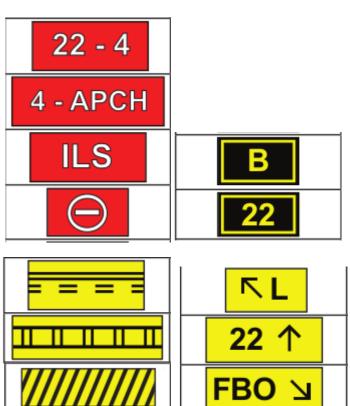
- Over 19,700 airports, 800 commercial
- Detailed information in the Chart Supplements: https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/flight_info/aeronav/digital_products/dafd/
- Map symbols include a wealth of information
- Good unofficial source of information: http://www.airnav.com/
- Must not interfere with manned operations at airports
- Large airports have SIDA (badge) requirements

Chart Supplements



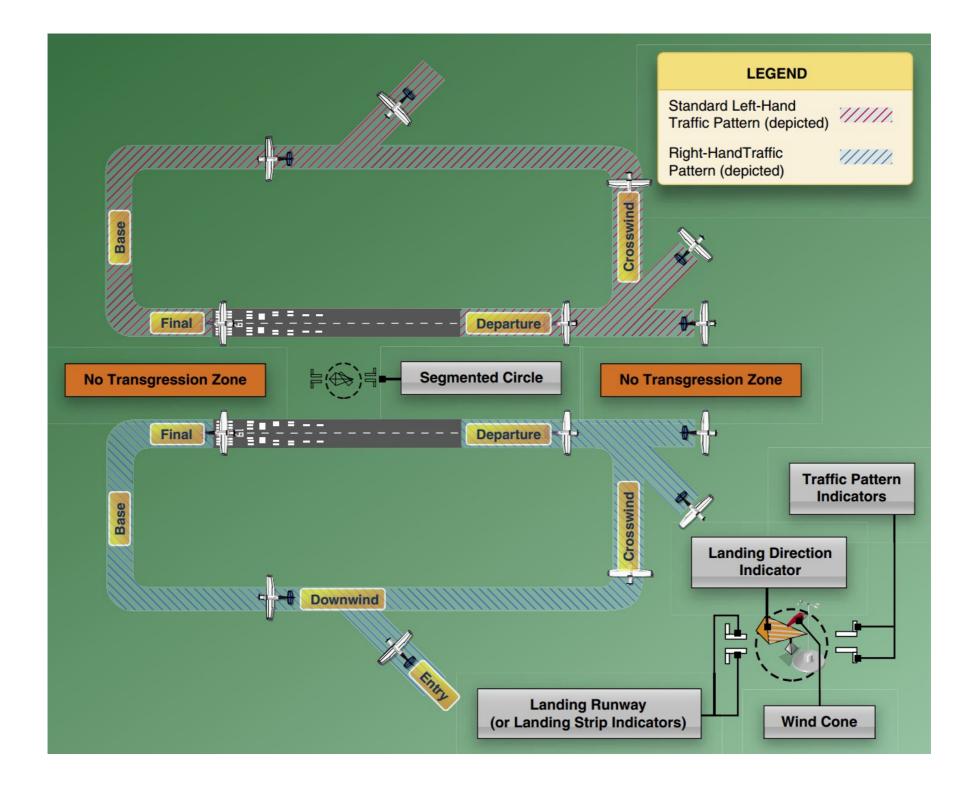
Airport Signs

- White-on-red: mandatory
- Yellow-on-black: location
 "black square, you are there"
- Black-on-yellow: information
 - Boundaries
 - Directional / destination



Runways

- Named by magnetic direction, 01 through 36
- Selected usually by direction of wind
- Each has two names 14/32, 09/27
- If multiple, then "Left," "Right," or "Center"
- May use off-by-one numbers



Radio Communications

 Common Traffic Advisory Frequency (CTAF) position report (untowered)

"Podunk Traffic, Red-and-White Skyhawk, midfield, left downwind, runway 2-7, Podunk."

Pilot call to ATC (towered)

"Metro Tower, Piper 12345, 10 east at 2 thousand 500, inbound with Alpha"

Letters and Numbers

Alpha	Bravo	Charlie	Delta	Echo	Foxtrot	Golf	Hotel	India
Juliet	Kilo	Lima	Mike	November	Oscar	Papa	Quebec	Romeo
Sierra	Tango	Uniform	Victor	Whiskey	X-Ray	Yankee	Zulu	Zero
One	Two	Tree	Four	Fife	Six	Seven	Eight	Niner

Locations

- Important landmarks are on maps
- Best: use airport or navigation aid (navaid) plus distance and direction
 - two mile radius at 2-5 miles on the Manchester 2-0-5 radial
- Can use GPS coordinates with ATC
 - 4116N/07334W
- Use skyvector, Google maps, smartphone apps
- Will need to be able to read printed charts on test
 - Find latitude/longitude from tic marks