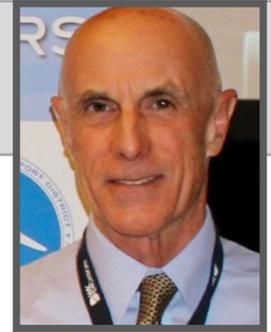


Military Training Routes (MTRs) Revisited

thin, grey lines with big consequences...



← IR292

Military Training Routes (MTRs) are members of the Other Airspace Areas family designated by the FAA which include: Local Airport Advisories; Temporary Flight Restrictions; Parachute Jump Aircraft Operations; Published VFR Routes; Terminal Radar Service Areas and National Security Areas.

Training Areas were first assigned to the Air Force in the late 1950s when aircraft were slower, turning patterns were tighter and low-level flying was not considered a useful tactic. (Source: *US Air Force Low Altitude Flight Training Air Force website AF.mil*)

Safety Update
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SCAA Board of Director
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Created by the US Department of Defense (DOD) and the Federal Administration Association (FAA), the MTR program was jointly developed solely for military use.

Most low-altitude aeronautical charts will depict military flight activities which involve high-speed flight training at low altitudes. MTR routes below 1,500 feet AGL are normally flown under VFR conditions. MTR routes above 1,500 feet AGL are developed to be flown under IFR conditions. The width of an MTR when scaled on U.S. VFR Sectionals and U.S. IFR Low Altitude Charts appear ½ mile wide. The functional width of an Active MTR can be more than 20 miles wide.

In **Military Training Routes (MTRs) Revisited – Part 2**, which will run in the next issue of *Palmetto Aviation*, we will take an in depth look at practical flight planning and risk avoidance strategies for General Aviation pilots when operating near active Military Training Routes.

MTRs are routes used by military aircraft to maintain proficiency in tactical flying. These routes are usually established below 10,000 feet MSL for operations at speeds in excess of 250 knots. Some route segments may be defined at higher altitudes for purposes of route continuity. Routes are identified as IFR (IR), and VFR (VR) followed by a number. [Figure 15-7, below] MTRs with no segment above 1,500 feet AGL are identified by four number characters (e.g., IR1206, VR1207). MTRs that include one or more Segments above 1,500 feet AGL are identified by three number characters (e.g., IR206, VR207). IFR low altitude en-route charts depict all IR routes and all VR routes that accommodate operations above 1,500 feet AGL. IR routes are conducted in accordance with IFR regardless of weather conditions. VFR sectional charts depict military training activities, such as IR, VR, MOA, restricted area, warning area, and alert area information. (Source: *Pilots Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge FAA-H-8083-25B*)



Figure 15-7. Military Training Route (MTR) chart symbols.

References:

1. FAA Flight Service / System Operations Services - National
2. Flight Procedures and Airspace – 8260.19G / FAA Oklahoma City, Okla.
3. U.S Department of Transportation – Federal Aviation Administration; Washington, D.C.