Centennial Airport
Flight school practice areas

A PowerPoint Presentation
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The Denver metro area airspace is very complex and congested.

Centennial airport itself has been ranked either the 29th or the 3rd busiest airport or general aviation airport, respectively, in the U.S.

In order to safely utilize the airspace in the Denver metro area a pilot must be aware of its particularities and requirements.

More specifically, the airspace to the south of Centennial airport, in particular the areas that the local flight schools use as practice areas can be extremely crowded and utilized by very diverse users.

It hosts several flight schools which operate sorties throughout the day and night.
In order to reduce the chance of collision between aircraft, and particularly flight school aircraft, an organized system has been developed for these aircraft.

It consists of specific routing out to and in from both the southwest and southeast practice areas.

Furthermore, it establishes geographically bounded and easily recognizable boxes within which aircraft can maneuver with a higher level of certainty that they are the sole occupant.

Their presence is announced on a common frequency (122.75).

Remember, nothing within this plan relieves the PIC from his responsibility of “See and Avoid” as prescribed by FAR 91.119.
In the following slides, we will present the elements important to the application of this system. These include:

- specific geographical landmarks
- routes
- entering methods
- exiting methods
- communications
Here is a section of the Denver Terminal Area Chart that contains most of Centennial’s practice areas.

Let’s take a look at some of the major landmarks that are fundamental to our practice areas.

We’ll use both this view as well as sections that show more detail of both the Southeast and Southwest practice areas.
Here is a Centennial airport.
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This is the town of Parker.
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Watch out for KOA Tower. It’s tip is 6520’ msl.
Here is a Centennial airport.

This is the town of Parker.

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Parker road is fundamental to the southeast practice area. It is also called highway 83.
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This is the town of Parker.

Watch out for KOA Tower. It’s tip is 6520’ msl.

Parker road is fundamental to the southeast practice area. It is also called highway 83.

Highway 86 is important as well.
C-470 heads west from our airport.
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I-25 runs north and south just to the west of the airport. Notice that a shelf of the Class B airspace conforms to it.
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I-25 runs north and south just to the west of the airport. Notice that a shelf of the Class B airspace conforms to it.

This is Chatfield Reservoir.
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I-25 runs north and south just to the west of the airport. Notice that a shelf of the Class B airspace conforms to it.

This is Chatfield Reservoir.

Notice Sante Fe rd. It is also known as highway 85.
This is a slightly blown up view of the southeast practice area.
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Here is the Pinery. It is really just a neighborhood. Look for the pond, white athletic bubble, Ponderosa high school and the large, green roofed equestrian center.
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Franktown is the small town at the intersection of highways 83 and 86.
This is a slightly blown up view of the southeast practice area.

Here is the Pinery. It is really just a neighborhood. Look for the pond, white athletic bubble, Ponderosa high school and the large, green roofed equestrian center.

Franktown is the small town at the intersections on highways 83 and 86.

Elizabeth is the “Hub” of the southeast practice area.
Here is the Pinery. It is really just a neighborhood. Look for the pond, white athletic bubble, Ponderosa high school and the large, green roofed equestrian center.

Franktown is the small town at the intersections on highways 83 and 86.

Elizabeth is the “Hub” of the southeast practice area.

This is the town of Kiowa. It serves as the eastern border of the southeast practice area.
Let’s look at the specific practice boxes within the southeast practice area.
The first is 3 Towers practice box. Notice these three towers depicted on the chart.
The 3 Towers practice box is bordered on the west by Parker road.
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To the south by hwy 86.
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To the east by 13 rd (that’s what the map calls it). It is the road that runs north out of Elizabeth.
The 3 Towers practice box is bordered on the west by Parker road.

To the south by hwy 86.

To the east by 13 rd (that’s what the map calls it). It is the road that runs north out of Elizabeth.

And the northern border is a line drawn directly east of the pond in the Pinery.
The 3 Towers practice box is bordered on the west by Parker road.

To the south by hwy 86.

To the east by 13 rd (that’s what the map calls it). It is the road that runs north out of Elizabeth.

And the northern border is a line drawn directly east of the pond in the Pinery.
Now we’ll define the Castlewood Canyon practice box.

It’s namesake is the canyon cut by Cherry creek. There is a state park there. Always be a good neighbor to the park users beneath you.
It’s border to the north is hwy 86 from Franktown to Kostroski’s private airstrip.
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The border to the east is a little challenging to see. It extends from Kostroski’s private airstrip to the “elbow” in Parker road where it turns from east/west to north/south. Also notice how the powerlines get very close to that point.
It’s border to the north is hwy 86 from Franktown to Kostroski’s private airstrip.

The border to the east is a little challenging to see. It extends from Kostroski’s private airstrip to the “elbow” in Parker road where it turns from east/west to south/north. Also notice how the powerlines get very close to that point.

The southern boundary follows the east/west section of Parker rd and Lake Gultch rd.
The western border is the line from the intersection of Lake Gulch rd. and Castlewood Canyon rd. to Franktown.
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This border is a bit nebulous. It is ok to wonder west a bit. Just don’t interfere with the approach corridor to runways 35 L & R.
The border to the east can be challenging to recognize because both points that define it are difficult to see at the same time. If you ensure that you remain west of Russelville road you will not have a problem.

While maneuvering within the Castlewood Canyon practice box, it is best to stay near Parker rd.
Now its time to define the Fairgrounds practice box. This box is named for the Elbert county fairgrounds depicted on the chart just nw of Kiowa.
The western border of the Fairgrounds practice box is the same 13 rd. running north out of Elizabeth. This is also the eastern border of the 3 Towers practice box.
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Its northern boundary is just the extension of the line drawn from the Pinery pond.
The western border of the Fairgrounds practice box is the same 13 rd. running north out of Elizabeth. This is also the eastern border of the 3 towers practice box.

Its northern boundary is just the extension of the line drawn from the Pinery pond.

The eastern border is a line drawn directly north from the town of Kiowa.
The western border of the Fairgrounds practice box is the same 13 rd. running north out of Elizabeth. This is also the eastern border of the 3 towers practice box.

Its northern boundary is just the extension of the line drawn from the Pinery pond.

The eastern border is a line drawn directly north from the town of Kiowa.

The southern border is hwy 86.
There is a row of evergreen trees that runs north to south just east of the border between 3 Towers and Fairgrounds practice boxes. This is very visible from aloft.
Now let’s define the Kiowa practice box. Its northern border is hwy 86.
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Its northern border is hwy 86.

The eastern boundary is a line drawn straight south from the town of Kiowa.
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Its northern border is hwy 86.

The eastern boundary is a line drawn straight south from the town of Kiowa.

The western border follows the road that runs south out of, and slightly east of Elizabeth. This road is named 17-21 rd. on the map.
Now let’s define the Kiowa practice box.

Its northern border is hwy 86.

The eastern boundary is a line drawn straight south from the town of Kiowa.

The western border follows the road that runs south out of, and slightly east of Elizabeth. This road is named 17-21 rd. on the map.

The southern border runs from D Bar D private airstrip to west of Comanche Creek private airstrip.
That same row of evergreen trees also helps to define the western edge of the Kiowa practice box.
The final practice box to discuss in the southeast practice area is called Elizabeth. Its northern boundary is hwy 86.
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Its northern boundary is hwy 86.

The eastern border is the road that leads south out of Elizabeth.

The southern boundary is a line from D Bar D pvt airstrip to the elbow of Parker rd.
The final practice box to discuss in the southeast practice area is called Elizabeth.

Its northern boundary is hwy 86.

The eastern border is the road that leads south out of Elizabeth.

The southern boundary is a line from D Bar D pvt airstrip to the elbow of Parker rd.

It’s western border goes from the elbow in Parker rd. to Kostroski’s pvt airstrip.
Here is the entire southeast practice area.
Now let’s look at how to fly out to the southeast practice area.

Stay to the right/west side of Parker rd. We use it as a median. Stay at least 2000’ horizontally west of KOA twr to stay in compliance with FAR 91.119.

Climb to 7800’ in order to stay under the class B shelf.
When west of the Pinery switch to the practice area frequency, 122.75. Report your position and wait for a response from other aircraft already maneuvering in the southeast practice area.

If no response, then choose a practice box and announce which you intend to maneuver in.
Climb to an appropriate maneuvering altitude.

Announce your position frequently on 122.75.
If another aircraft calls in at the Pinery, transmit your position by stating the practice box within which you are maneuvering.

The new aircraft should then choose a vacant practice box to maneuver in.

If the new aircraft is transitioning through the area, he should then transmit his intentions.
When transitioning to or from a practice box, use the borders.
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As you exit your practice box, transmit your intentions.
When transitioning to or from a practice box, use the borders.

As you exit your practice box, transmit your intentions.

Stay on the right side of Parker rd. In this case, the east side. Descend to 7500’.
When transitioning to or from a practice box, use the borders.

As you exit your practice box, transmit your intentions.

Stay on the right side of Parker rd. In this case, the east side. Descend to 7500’.

Switch to Tower frequency, 118.9, near the Pinery and prior to entering the class D airspace. Staying vigilant, follow directions from APA Tower.
This concludes our discussion of the southeast practice area.

Remember, transient aircraft may not be aware of the high volume training that occurs here. Be very alert for them.
Now let’s take a look at the Centennial’s southwest practice area.
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As we have seen previously, this is Chatfield reservoir.
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Titan rd. runs east/west. It is easy to recognize as it is the only major overpass on Sante Fe. It is also not far to the south shore of the reservoir.
Now let’s take a look at the Centennial’s southwest practice area.

As we have seen previously, this is Chatfield reservoir.

Titan rd. runs east/west. It is easy to recognize as it is the only major overpass on Sante Fe. It is also not far to the south of the reservoir.

This is the little known town of Louviers. It consists of about 4 streets and a larger town hall building.
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As we have seen previously, this is Chatfield reservoir.

Titan rd. runs east/west. It is easy to recognize as it is the only major overpass on Sante Fe. It is also not far to the south of the reservoir.

This is the little known town of Louviers. It consists of about 4 streets and a larger town hall building.

Finally, let’s note the town of Sadalia. It is in the “elbow” of Sante Fe where it turns east/west.
There are 3 different practice boxes in the southwest practice area.

The first is called Chatfield practice box.
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It is bounded to the north by C-470.
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To the east by Sante Fe.
There are 3 different practice boxes in the southwest practice area.

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It is bounded to the north by C-470.

To the east by Sante Fe.

The southern border is Titan rd.
There are 3 different practice boxes in the southwest practice area.

The first is called Chatfield practice box.

It is bounded to the north by C-470.

To the east by Sante Fe.

The southern border is Titan rd.

And the western boundary is the mountains.
The next practice box is called Louviers after the small town between Titan rd. and Sedalia.

It’s northern border is Titan rd.
The next practice box is called Louviers after the small town between Titan rd. and Sedalia.

It’s northern border is Titan rd.

It’s eastern boundary is Sante Fe.
The next practice box is called Louviers after the small town between Titan rd. and Sedalia.

It’s northern border is Titan rd.

It’s eastern boundary is Sante Fe.

The southern border is a line drawn directly west from Sedalia.
The next practice box is called Louviers after the small town between Titan rd. and Sedalia.

It’s northern border is Titan rd.

It’s eastern boundary is Sante Fe.

The southern border is a line drawn directly west from Sedalia.

It’s western border is as far west as you choose to fly.
The next practice box is called Louviers after the small town between Titan rd. and Sedalia.

It’s northern border is Titan rd.

It’s eastern boundary is Sante Fe.

The southern border is a line drawn directly west from Sedalia.

It’s western border is as far west as you choose to fly.
The final practice box to discuss is called Sedalia after the small town in the “elbow” of Sante Fe.

It’s northern border is the same line drawn straight west out of the town of Sedalia.
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It’s northern border is the same line drawn straight west out of the town of Sedalia.

It’s eastern boundary is Sante Fe rd.
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It’s northern border is the same line drawn straight west out of the town of Sedalia.

It’s eastern boundary is Sante Fe rd.

The western border is the mountains.
The final practice box to discuss is called Sedalia after the small town in the “elbow” of Sante Fe.

It’s northern border is the same line drawn straight west out of the town of Sedalia.

It’s eastern boundary is Sante Fe rd.

The western border is the mountains.

And the southern boundary isn’t necessary to define.
The final practice box to discuss is called Sedalia after the small town in the “elbow” of Sante Fe.

It’s northern border is the same line drawn straight west out of the town of Sedalia.

It’s eastern boundary is Sante Fe rd.

The western border is the mountains.

And the southern boundary isn’t necessary to define.
Now let’s look at the Southwest practice area in its entirety.
When flying to the Southwest practice area, switch to 122.75 after exiting KAPA’s airspace and before entering the practice area.

Announce your current position and your intention to maneuver in the Southwest practice area.
If no other aircraft responds, then cautiously choose and fly to a specific practice box or north & south in the entire area.
While maneuvering within a practice box:

1. Keep a vigilant watch for other aircraft
2. Listen for other aircraft announcing themselves near your location and respond appropriately
3. Frequently transmit your location with the specific practice box.
This practice box system is modeled after some of the highest volume flight training providers in the world, the U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, UND, and many others.

It primarily helps to reduce conflicts among Centennial training aircraft. However, aircraft throughout the eastern portions of Colorado are becoming familiar with this system.

As always, even with the organized system used by Centennial training aircraft, each PIC is responsible to practice good scanning habits, abide by the “See and avoid” doctrine and utilize all means to enhance flight safety.

The End