# **Navigation and Flight Planning**

## Objective

To ensure the applicant learns the elements of navigation and flight planning and can plan a VFR cross country properly.

### Purpose

The entire point of learning to fly is going somewhere! Airplanes are great ways to go to far away places quickly. However, unlike driving a car, navigating in an airplane is considerably more complex. This lesson introduces pilots to the terms and concepts used in air navigation, as well as the basics of planning VFR cross countries, using pilotage, dead reckoning, radio navigation, and more.



Schedule	Equipment
<ul> <li>Ground Lesson: 60 minutes</li> <li>Student Q&amp;A: 20 minutes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Airplane POH</li> <li>VFR Sectional Charts / Plotter / E6B</li> <li>Electronic Flight Bag (EFB) Software</li> <li>Nav Log / Scratch Paper</li> <li>Whiteboard / Markers (optional)</li> </ul>
Student Actions	Instructor Actions
<ul> <li>Ask any questions, receive study material for the next lesson.</li> <li>Watch linked video.</li> <li>Review listed references.</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Deliver the ground lesson (below).</li><li>Answer student questions.</li></ul>

#### **Completion Standards**

- Student can explain the following concepts:
  - Heading, Course, Track, True vs. Magnetic Headings
  - Magnetic Variation, Compass Deviation, Wind Correction Angle
  - How to use an EFB to Plan a VFR XC Course -or- How to use a Plotter and E6B
  - How to select suitable VFR Navigation Checkpoints, VFR Cruising Altitudes, and Fuel Stops
  - Pilotage, Dead Reckoning, and Navigation Logs
  - How to compute fuel, performance, and endurance figures
  - How to quickly compute diversions using "rule of thumb" calculations, and lost procedures
  - How to obtain a weather briefing, how to file and use a VFR flight plan, and make a go/no-go decision

References

- FLY8MA.com Flight Training "Ep. 114: X/C Navigation Log | VFR Cross Country Nav Log Calculations"
   YouTube <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94vSzPU7TDw</u>
- FAA-H-8083-25C (Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge) Chapter 16, Page 2-8 [Aeronautical Charts/Latitude Longitude], Chapter 16, Page 8-10 [Effect of Wind], Chapter 16, Page 11-12 [Basic Calculations], Chapter 16, Page 12-17 [Pilotage/Dead Reckoning], Chapter 16, Page 17-22 [Flight Planning/Charting the Course/VFR Flight Plans], Chapter 16, Page 34-35 [Lost Procedures/Flight Diversion]
- FAA-S-ACS-6C (Private Pilot ACS) Area VI Task A, Area VI Task C, Area VI Task D
- FAA-S-ACS-7B (Commercial Pilot ACS) Area VI Task A, Area VI Task C, Area VI Task D
- FAA-S-ACS-25 (CFI ACS) Area II Task I

#### **Ground Lesson Outline**

- Navigation Terms
  - Heading, Course, Ground Track, True Airspeed, Ground Speed, etc.
  - Magnetic Variation, Compass Deviation, Wind Correction Angles
- Aeronautical Charts
  - Latitude/Longitude Lines, Isogonic Lines, Scale
  - Spot Elevations, Contour Lines, Maximum Elevation Figures, Obstructions
  - Airports, Depictions of Landmarks/Ground Features, Depictions of Airspace
  - Importance of using the proper and current aeronautical charts
- Plotting a Course (Pen and Paper)
  - Using a Plotter and E6B, Winds Aloft / Weather Data
  - True Course +/- WCA -> True Heading +/- Variation -> Magnetic Heading +/- Deviation -> Compass
    - Performance Charts Endurance, Performance, Fuel Consumption Calculations and Fuel Stops
      - Selecting an Altitude, VFR Cruising Altitudes § 91.159
      - Power vs Fuel Consumption, VFR Fuel Requirements § 91.151
    - Selecting Landmarks and Alternates, Planning for Emergencies
- Planning an XC Using an Electronic Flight Bag (ForeFlight)
- Fundamentals of Pilotage and Dead Reckoning
  - Landmarks Lakes, Airports, Distinctive Roads, etc.
  - Checkpoints and Nav Logs Importance of a Nav Log
    - Estimation of Time (behind schedule or ahead of schedule)
- Fundamentals of Radio Navigation
  - VORs, DME, and GPS
- Diversion to an Alternate
  - "Rule of Thumb" / Rough Calculations -> Time, Distance, Fuel
- Lost Procedures VOR Triangulation, Use of GPS, Climb, Confess, etc.
- Inflight Interception Procedures See Supplement
- Go/No-Go Decisions
  - Weather Briefing, ADM (PAVE/Good Judgement)
  - NOTAMs Call a weather briefer!
- VFR Flight Plans
  - Purpose, How to File

#### **Common Errors**

- Misunderstanding the relationship between True and Magnetic Course and Heading
- Inability to use a plotter or E6B to create a VFR Nav Log -or- Inability to use an EFB to effectively plan an XC
- Selection of inappropriate or inadequate visual checkpoints
- Failure to identify location using pilotage

# Ground Lesson Supplement

• Heading vs Track - Airplanes fly within the air, which is nearly always moving. Simply pointing at a ground landmark and flying 'towards' it will result in the airplane flying a longer, curved path. As an airplane flies through the air, in order to track a straight line, called a *course* line, they must fly at an angle relative to the line which counteracts the effects of the wind. This is called a **wind correction angle**, or WCA.



• Latitude and Longitude - Course lines are measured relative to lines of longitude.



• **Magnetic Variation** - Magnetic North is not coincident with True North, creating *magnetic variation*. *Isogonic lines* are lines of equal magnetic variation.





• **Compass Deviation** - Caused by large magnetic disturbances present in the airplane cockpit, depend on the heading. Corrected by using a *compass deviation card* (affixed to the compass)



• Wind Correction Angle - Corrects for wind drift.



• Cruise Performance

# **CRUISE PERFORMANCE**

CONDITIONS: 2400 Pounds Recommended Lean Mixture (See Section 4, Cruise)

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S.L.

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-112 -KTAS

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#### • Charts and Plotting a Course

#### • E6B and Plotter





• VFR Checkpoints



- Flight Planning using an EFB (ForeFlight)
  - Laying out the course and creating waypoints



- Setup Performance Profile and Select a Cruising Altitude
  - **Performance Profile** Numbers must be derived from POH. Usually involves converting "Time, Fuel, and Distance to Climb" values to Gallons per Hour units.
  - **Cruising Altitude Selection** ForeFlight will consider winds aloft and aircraft performance to determine the headwind/tailwind, time, and fuel required for each altitude.
    - Make sure you set your Estimated Time of Departure (ETD) accurately!
    - Ensure you consider cloud height forecasts!

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• Investigate Airspace along your route - Long press on airspace to display important details about the airspace, analogous to looking in the VFR Chart margins or legend.

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#### • Review the Calculated Nav Log in ForeFlight

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- An abbreviated NavLog is available on the main UI
  - Headings displayed are Magnetic, and already account for calculated winds aloft!
  - There is also a more detailed traditional Nav Log available in the **Flights** tab.
    - Touch the 'Send To' icon and then select 'Flights'
    - You can also file a VFR Flight Plan using the generated information!

### • Always Remember, Garbage In = Garbage Out!

• You must supply accurate performance data, ETD, etc!

#### • Review the ForeFlight support article -

https://support.foreflight.com/hc/en-us/articles/360012904193-What-do-the-items-in-the-Flights-page-NavLog-mean



KGNV		Navlog KORL to KGN	V		<b>₫</b>
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#### Route

2840N08151W OCF

RAIM (5° Mask, With Baro-aid)

RAIM: No outages predicted

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-TOD-	DCT	360	002	6500	НЗ	307/005	+11	120	117	12	19	8.2	7.3		0:06	0:12	0:43	
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SUMMARY & TIMES		FUEL & WEIGHTS		NOTES			
PIC	Ryan C Binns	Block Fuel	15.5 g	Out	In	Block time:	
Souls on board	1	Taxi Fuel	1.2 g	Out.		DIOCK time.	
Tail	N781BG (C172)	Flight Fuel	9.7 g	Off:	On:	Flight time:	
Profile Full Throttle - Max RPM Lean Mixture @ 6500' - Min RPM 500 fpm	Full Throttle - Max RPM Lean Mixture	Reserve Fuel Min: 5.8 g	5.8 g	Charte		Hobbs time:	
	@ 6500' - Min RPM 500 fpm	Alternate Fuel	0.0 g	Start:	Stop:		
Fuel Flow	9.2 g/hr	Extra Fuel	0.0 g	Start:	Rem:	Fuel used:	
Distance	95NM	Additional	0.0 g				
ETD	6:00 PM EDT /	Payload	200 lbs	Signature:			
	2200Z	ZFW	1839 lbs				
ETE	0h55m	тоw	1925 lbs				
ETA	6:55 PM EDT / 2255Z	ELW	1874 lbs				
Route	2840N08151W OCF						

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Prepared by: Ryan Binns (rvancbinns.com/flying), March 2020 (Updated April 2024) Editable versions available at binnsflightservices.com/cfibinder

## **Visual Intercept Signals**

Fighter Aircraft:	Meaning:	Intercepted Aircraft:
Approaches pilot-side of aircraft and matches speed and heading.	You have been intercepted.	(Daytime) Rock wings to acknowledge.
(Nighttime) Will also flash navigation lights.		acknowledge.
Initiates a slow, level turn.	Follow me. Fly this way.	Match heading and follow. Continue on heading in direction of fighter.
Initiates abrupt turn across nose; may dispense flares.	Warning! Turn now in direction of fighter.	Immediately match heading and follow.
Circles airport, lowers landing gear, and	Land at this airport.	Lower landing gear (if equipped) and land on runway.
(Nighttime) Will also turn on landing lights.		If airport inadequate, raise landing gear (if equipped) while flying over runway and flash landing lights. Continue to circle airport between 1,000-2,000 feet until fighter signals to follow to alternate airport.
Performs the breakaway maneuver.	Fighter understands intercepted aircraft's	If cannot comply, switch on and off all available lights at <i>regular</i> intervals.
	intentions.	If in distress, switch on and off all available lights at <i>irregular</i> intervals.

# Approach & Identification

Typically two fighter jets approach from the rear. One fighter flies around to make visual contact with the pilot. This may also be conducted with a law enforcement helicopter.



## Fly This Way

A slow turn by a fighter jet indicates that you should follow in the same direction. Be cautious of wake turbulence.



#### Breakaway Maneuver

Fighter jets will abruptly break away from pursuit when they understand your intensions.

