SUBJECT: WMU Aerobatic Practice Area

DATE: June 8, 2015

This FIF establishes a No-Fly Area when WMU’s Aerobatic Practice Area is active.

WMU has received authorization from the FAA to operate an aerobatic practice area (APA) above the Southwest quadrant of the Battle Creek DELTA airspace. The APA covers the lateral dimensions as depicted on the accompanying diagram and extends from 3,500’ MSL up to and including 7,000’ MSL. The APA has been established to allow upset recovery, spin and basic aerobatic training while providing the pilots a waiver of FAR 91.303 (c) and (d). While the APA can be used anytime during daylight hours, it is only “active” when pilots coordinate its use with Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Air Traffic Control.

When flight crews are conducting upset, spin and aerobatic training the customary and relatively simple practice of See-and-Avoid becomes increasingly complicated, both for the aircraft conducting the unusual flight activities and also for non-participating aircraft. For this reason, all WMU pilots operating VFR and not operating under the FAA’s waiver provisions shall avoid the APA airspace (3,500’ MSL up to and including 7,000’ MSL) unless they can definitively determine that the APA is not active. Effective ways to determine that the APA is not active are:

- Querying BTL Air Traffic Control
- Utilizing Flight Following from AZO Air Traffic Control
- Querying the SOF/Dispatch about the active status of the Super Decathlon
- Operating between the hours of sunset and sunrise