

Virtual Royal Air Force



Letter of Agreement between VATSIM Italy (VATITA) and virtual Royal Air Force (vRAF) to establish operating policies and procedures for Exercise Spring Flag

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Version	Change(s)
1.0.0	New Document
1.0.1	Squawk codes brought inline with VATEUD free codes

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Purpose

This Letter of Agreement between VATSIM Italy (VATITA) and virtual Royal Air Force (vRAF) is to establish operating policies and procedures for Exercise Spring Flag

Establishes

Provision for usage of dedicated Special Use Airspace within the Rome FIR/UIR during Exercise Spring Flag

Introduction

“Spring Flag” is an air combat and ground attack exercise based from Decimomannu Airbase on Sardinia.

This LOA has been developed to establish procedures for these exercises.

Cancellation

This LOA will remain in effect until replaced by a revision that has been mutually agreed upon by both parties, or until it is cancelled by either party, with a minimum of thirty (30) days notice provided.

Distribution

- vRAF Staff
- vRAF Pilots
- VATITA Staff
- VATITA Controllers
- VP VSOA – For Reference

Policies

Neither party can dictate or strike to change either parties policies and guidelines set forth within their charters. Additions, modifications and deletions to this LOA shall be done per mutual agreement by both VATITA and the vRAF.

Contacts

The primary contacts relating to this LOA are:

- vRAF – Deputy Commander In Chief (Operations) [Operational Contact]– dcinc_ops@vraf.org
- vRAF – Air Officer Commanding [Document Signatory] – aoc@vraf.org
- VATITA– VATITA director [Signatory & Operational Contact] – director@vatita.net

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Provision for usage of Special Use Airspace within the Rome FIR/UIR

In accordance with applicable VATSIM and VATSIM Special Operations Administration policies, this document establishes procedures for the use of the below listed Aerodromes and annotated Special Use Airspace (SUA) between VATITA, herein “The Controlling Agency”, and the virtual Royal Air Force (vRAF), herein “The Using Agency”:

- The Following SUAs (Locations indicated on chart at Appendix A)
 - **Danger Area LID040A**
 - **Danger Area LID040B**
 - **Danger Area LID114A**
 - **Danger Area LID114B**
 - **Restricted Area LIR39**
 - **Restricted Area LIR59**
 - **Restricted Area LIR110**
 - **AAR Corridor Alpha**

Planned squawk code and frequencies

For ease of identifying traffic involved in operations, a block of squawk codes has been set aside.

- Exercise aircraft: 6320 – 6377

All aircraft will be required to contact the appropriate civil ATC authority where applicable. Whilst operating within the exercise areas, aircraft must maintain radio contact with the exercise commander or any AWACS aircraft via a discrete frequency. Should a non-participating aircraft not be able to remain clear, this must be passed to the exercise commander / AWACS aircraft immediately.

Any aircraft wishing to transit between exercise areas through controlled airspace must be pre-coordinated by the exercise commander /AWACS and, where requested, must establish contact with the civil controller.

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1. The controlling agency is the owner of the referenced SUA and controlling authority for the listed aerodromes
2. The controlling authority shall grant temporary unrestricted use of the referenced SUA to the using agency for the purposes of conducting tactical military flight operations
3. The using agency will reserve use of the SUA by providing notification to the controlling agency of intended dates and times of usage. This notification will be made to director@vatita.net a minimum of 7 days before the intended use of the SUA.
4. During the dates and times when the airspace is in use by the using agency and when military aircraft are present, ATC will issue clearances to divert civilian IFR traffic clear of the active SUA, unless the flight has been co-ordinated with the Controlling AWACS/Exercise Commander, if this is the case the aircraft will be cleared to cross the SUA and restrictions may be placed on any ongoing military activity within the SUA until the crossing traffic is clear.
5. The Using Agency may provide Range Control, provided by vRAF GCI, to provide advisory services for participating aircraft within the active SUA. Range Control will also monitor the airspace for civilian traffic and advise participating aircraft to cease tactical operations until the area is clear.
6. Aircraft operating within the SUA are considered under MARSAS* rules at any time within the SUA. ATC will not provide IFR services to military aircraft operating under MARSAS* procedures.
7. No Fast Jet aircraft belonging to the using agency will be permitted to enter any Controlled Airspace without prior permission from the controller responsible for that airspace, or, if a controller is not online, prior announcement on UNICOM.
8. It is recognized that certain training operations and training aircraft require high speeds. At no time will military aircraft exceed Mach 1.0
9. Crews conducting flights within the SUAs will maintain radio communication with an appropriate controlling agency and/or AWACS.
10. Flight plans of crews participating in the exercise will contain the remark OPR/vRAF BRITMIL/EX SPRING FLAG.

For the Controlling Agency:
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VATITA - Italian VACC Director
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For the Using Agency:
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