

Golden Eagle FlightPrep Update

Keeping your Database and Program Current

As a pilot you know that the currency of your data is what keeps you out of TFRs, keeps you on the airways, and keeps you going to open facilities. It also helps keep you out of the FSDO after a ramp check didn't go so well! You have the opportunity to keep your Golden Eagle database current with easy steps. We'll list and explain them for you in this article.

One of the features of Golden Eagle is the UTC clock display in the lower right corner of the main display. Built directly into the program and the database are calendars with knowledge of the governmental release dates.

When you first start Golden Eagle, the program looks to the system clock and then the database effective dates. If the database is within the effective dates, the program updates the TFRs over the Internet and you can start planning using known current information. If the database is expired, you'll see a warning message. (See display at right)

By clicking on the Update button, the program will take you to the Upgrade screen where you can download an update your database, download an entirely new program install image file, or purchase optional database or program functions. We recommend you take a few moments and explore the various options.

Help/Check for Updates

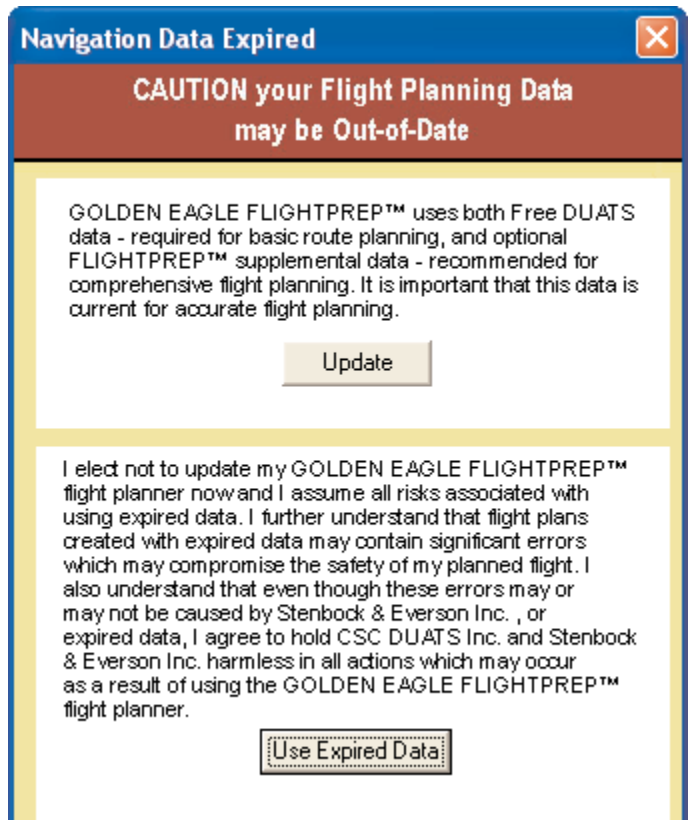
This menu opens the order page where you can select a data update that will include the latest program update also. This menu choice takes you to the same place as the Update button for expired data takes you.

Help/Update Now

If you have selected automatic update, then Golden Eagle FlightPrep will check during startup to see if a new program has been released. This will only happen if a program release happens in between data cycles, otherwise you will receive the latest program when you download the most up to date data set.

Approaches, Raster Charts, & Upgrade Tab Functions

The Golden Eagle program is the replacement for the old Cirrus weather briefer and planning program. Golden Eagle provides all the same services and offers many other additional functions and information sources like Approach Plates, Enroute, Sectional, and WAC raster charts. You may learn about these optional services using the Approaches, Raster Charts, or



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New TFR Presentation

When you start GEFP, the program automatically retrieves all of the TFRs in the FAA system. If you have TFRs and labels selected on the Preferences selection table, they are prominently displayed on the navigation chart. It is highly recommended that both the TFRs and TFR labels be selected because of the chance of missing separate but overlapping TFRs on the lower level chart displays. With this upgrade, you can place the "Map Router Mode" pointer on any part of the TFR boundary and you will get the FDC NOTAM text for that TFR.

A refresh option has also been added. This provides the user with the ability to update the display list of TFRs available at any time during the planning stage. The "Update TFR" function is located in the drop down menu under "Chart." The refresh will be faster than a complete load, as it only updates any changes that have occurred since you started your GEFP session. Additionally, in the same drop down menu is the option to select a list of all available TFRs. This list provides TFRs by issuing FAA facility and FDC year/number. Example: By clicking on ZSE 4/5500 in the list you will be provided with the text for the TFR describing FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS FOR SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, JUNE 17, 2004.

Most of the time the complete text can be displayed simply by clicking on the graphical diagram of the TFR displayed on the chart. However, occasionally the text is too large for the pop-up text box and should be reviewed by selecting the specific NOTAM from the list.

Search Tool Feature

The Search tool is accessed by selecting the first entry on the chart pulldown menu or by the binocular icon located at the left on the toolbar menu. Search permits you to enter any known identifier, facility or city name. Golden Eagle FlightPrep will return as many matches as it can find. When matches are listed, you can:

- <Add to Route> (Adds into the route list at the insertion pointer)
- <Info> (Gets extended information from the online FlightPrep web server)
- <Locate> (This will center the chart view on the searched item)
NEW - We have added a flashing cursor to pinpoint the desired location
- <Close> (This closes the Search window)

Improved Flight Planning

In Golden Eagle FlightPrep you have a choice of flight planners, the GEFP Planner which runs locally in your PC or the DUATS online flight planner which runs on the main DUATS server.

The GEFP Planner is easy to use. With "Chart" tab selected, fill in departure and destination located in the upper left corner of the display. Select Properties and fill in the blanks. Here you will need to select a pilot and aircraft from their respective databases. If you have not created these databases, you will need to do so before you proceed. In the form "Flight Properties" you are provided access to create or modify both pilot and aircraft data using the "Edit" function. Once the "Flight Properties" form is completed proceed with creating a route of flight.

There are five flight planning options:

1. DIRECT will produce a great circle route
2. VOR to VOR will provide the most direct using VORs with an occasional Low Airway
3. GPS/LORAN will produce a great circle route with waypoints
4. Low Airways uses the Low Airways
5. Jet Airways uses the Jet Airways

The selected method will draw the route on the chart and produce a list of waypoints. To view the flight log produced by the GEFP Planner, select the "Reports" tab and select the "Flight Log" button.

GEFP also supports the DUATS online flight planner that has been in DUATS for years. Selecting this option now allows you to use aircraft performance profiles you have stored in the main DUATS server as well as creating new profiles locally. On line profiles can be used by selecting "Online" and putting the # of the profile you want to use in the box.

"Local Profile" allows for as many profiles as you want and they are stored locally. Simply create them in your local aircraft database. Local aircraft profiles selections are made using the drop down "Aircraft ID" box. You can also create and edit local profiles using the "Edit Aircraft" function in the form. This new feature allows you to store as many profiles as you want.

In addition to the 5 flight planning options in the GEFP planner, the DUATS Online Flight Planner has a "User Defined" option.

NEW - Both planners will produce a route overlay on the navigation chart. And, you can make point and click changes to the route and have these changes reflected in the text route in the flight plan filing form.

Map Ruler Mode Tool

The pointer with the ruler icon located in the toolbar in the chart tab will provide direction and distance. To use the tool, click on the icon and then position the pointer on a starting position. Now left click the mouse and drag to the desired location. Keeping the left mouse button depressed, when you stop you will see the direction and distance appear in a text box.

Latitude/longitude, Distance and Time displays

In the lower right hand corner of the Golden Eagle FlightPrep there are three items displayed - Latitude/longitude, Distance and Time. The Latitude/longitude represents the location of the last position of the pointer used in the charts. This works in with the pointer in any one of its five modes - map move (hand icon), router (pointer icon), ruler (pointer with ruler icon), zoom in (magnifying glass with +) and zoom out (magnifying glass with -).

The Distance shows the cumulative distance in your currently selected route-of-flight. This is recalculated automatically every time you add or delete elements in your route of flight.

The time shows the current UTC, however this is calculated from your local computer clock and not the central DUATS server and is only provided for UTC conversion convenience. Be aware that the accuracy of this time is dependant on the accuracy of your local PC clock and how you set it.

