



Techno Gizmo

Capt. Mack Coker (foreground) learns how to use the Global Procedure Designer with the help of Iain Hammond, a systems engineer for MacDonalD Dettwiler. The GPD is a new software-based program providing terminal instrument procedures specialists with a better evaluation of obstacles and terrain in the arrival and departure path for aircraft.

GLOBAL PROCEDURE DESIGNER

USAFE ensures clear routes for aircraft

What is the Global Position Designer?

The software allows the terminal instrument procedures specialists to provide a better evaluation of obstacles and terrain in the arrival and departure path for aircraft.

How does it work?

Determining obstacles used to entail tedious calculations taking hours or even days to do by hand. The new software-based system can provide a more complete evaluation of obstacles and terrain in a fraction of the time. By comparison, the software that TERPs specialists use now for obstacle and terrain evaluation can evaluate up to about 10,000 obstacles, but the new system can evaluate 23 million terrain and obstacle points, so it is much more thorough and correct.

What is the benefit?

An example of a new procedure being developed using this software will give aircrews the capability of flying down to 50 feet above the ground (without sight of the ground), as they maneuver for landing in bad weather.

What does the future hold for GPD?

Although this system is primarily being used at Ramstein AB, Germany, and USAFE's terminal instrument procedures facility is the first organization in the world to implement the new system, the Global Procedure Designer program has been in development nearly seven years and is going to be released to all Air Force major commands after specialized training has been completed.

source: Tech. Sgt. Mona Ferrell / USAFE News Service