

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
PHOENIX TERMINAL RADAR APPROACH CONTROL
3500 E SKY HARBOR BOULEVARD
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85034-4400

ISSUED: November 14, 2012

EFFECTIVE: December 14, 2012

Phoenix Terminal Radar Approach Control LETTER TO AIRMEN NO. 12-02

SUBJECT: Air Traffic Operations in the Vicinity of Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (IWA)

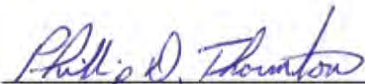
CANCELLATION: This Letter to Airmen cancels Phoenix Terminal Radar Approach Control Letter to Airmen NO.12-01 issued January 18, 2012.

The Phoenix Terminal Area is home to a large general aviation community in addition to a large professional pilot flight training industry. During peak periods, the airspace surrounding Phoenix is some of the busiest in the nation, with several thousand aircraft movements per day in the terminal area.

Air traffic volume and complexity in the east valley, near Chandler, Arizona has increased markedly over the past several years. This airspace includes the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (IWA), several practice areas and areas known to contain aerobatic flight activity. IWA is a small hub commercial service airport. During calendar year 2011, approximately 520,000 passengers boarded commercial aircraft at IWA. This is a 25% increase over the previous year. In addition, general aviation flight training activity remains the larger percentage of aircraft operations.

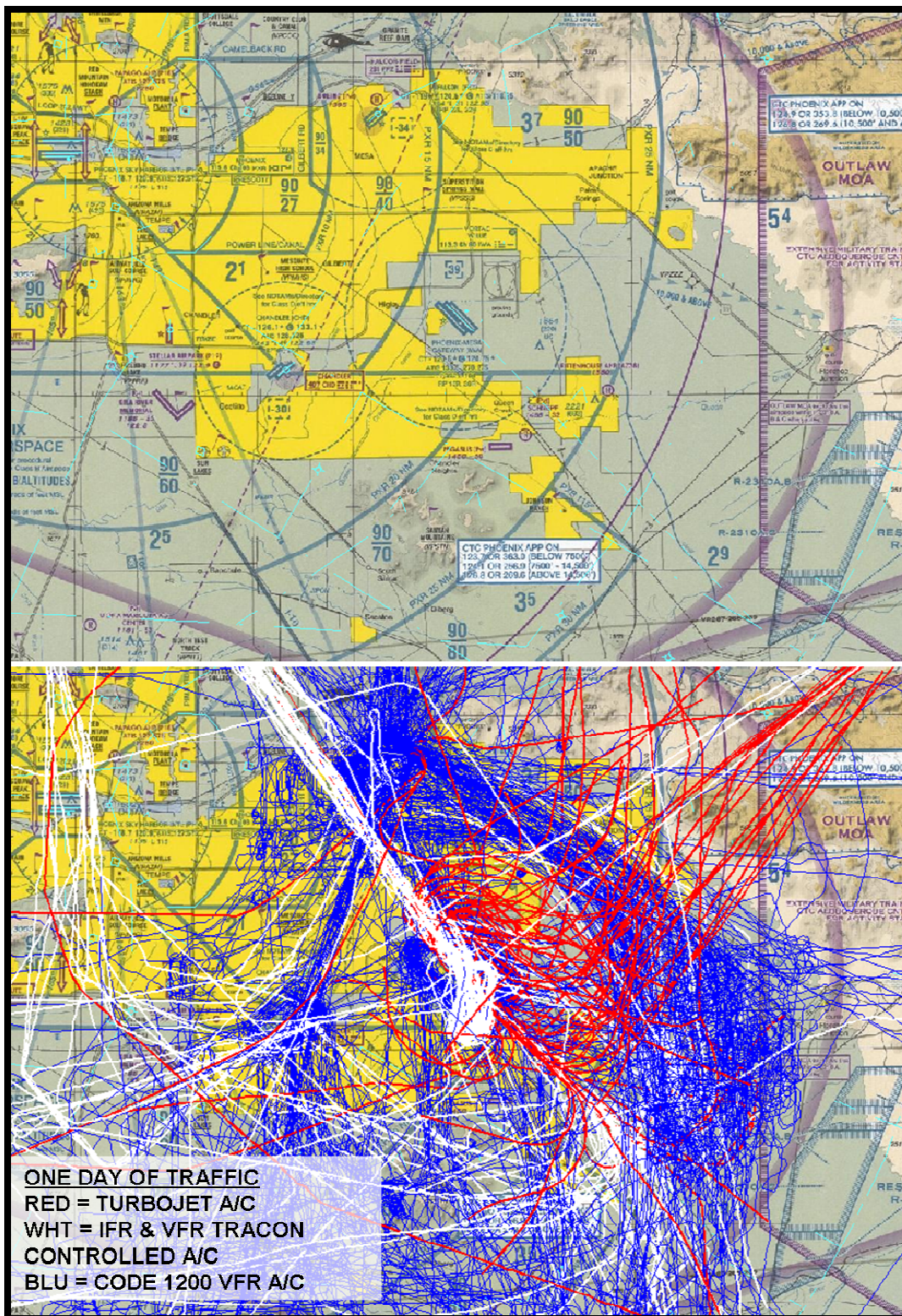
The Phoenix Airspace Users Working Group assigned an ad-hoc workgroup to periodically review activity and safety in this airspace, identify any safety issues, and recommend mitigation strategies if possible. As one of the mitigation strategies, the ad-hoc group has recommended the information on the following pages be re-disseminated to airmen.

Questions regarding the content of this Letter to Airmen may be directed to Operations Support Manager, Phoenix Terminal Radar Approach Control, (602) 306-2514.

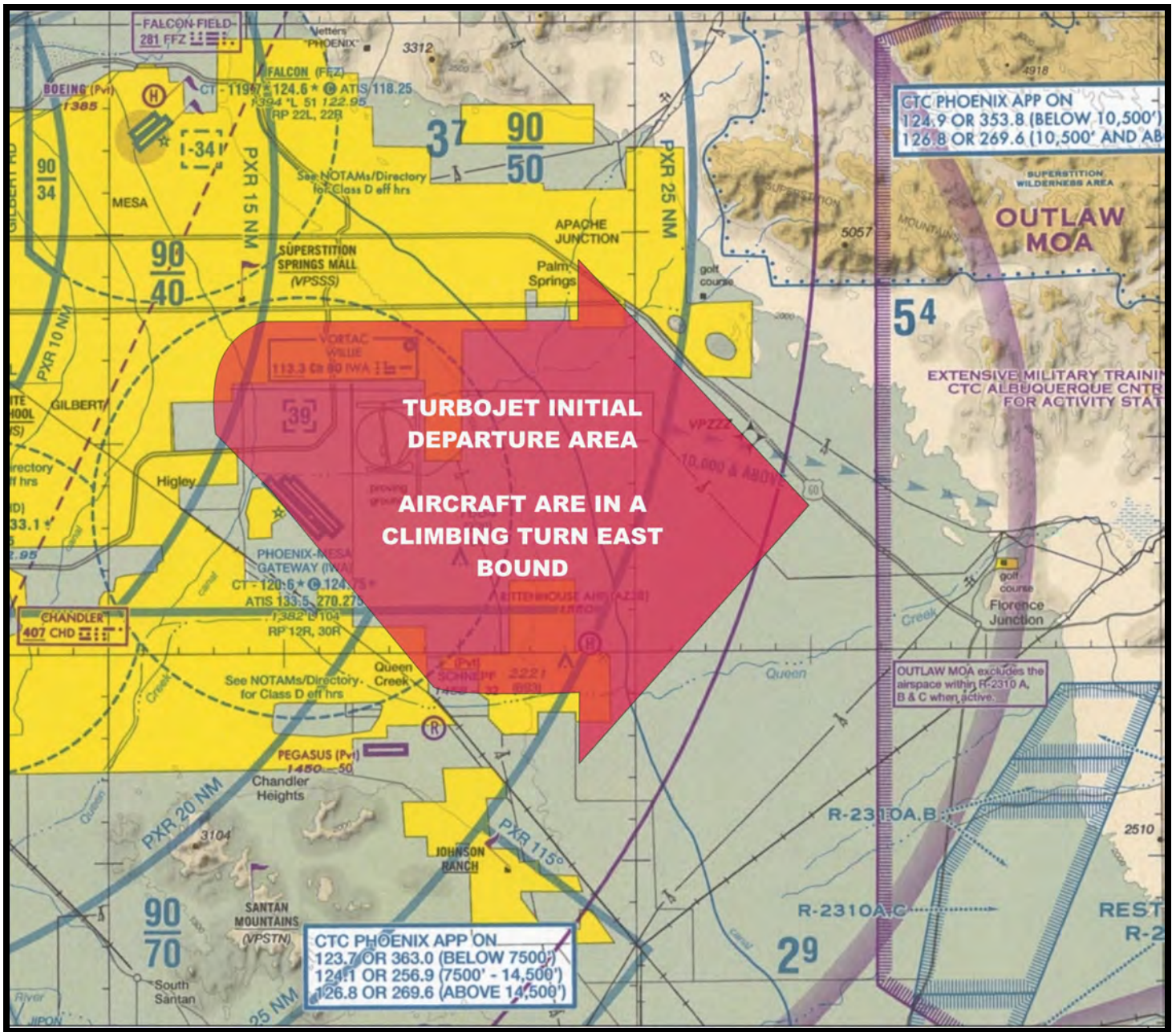


Phillip D. Thornton
Air Traffic Manager
Phoenix Terminal Radar Approach Control

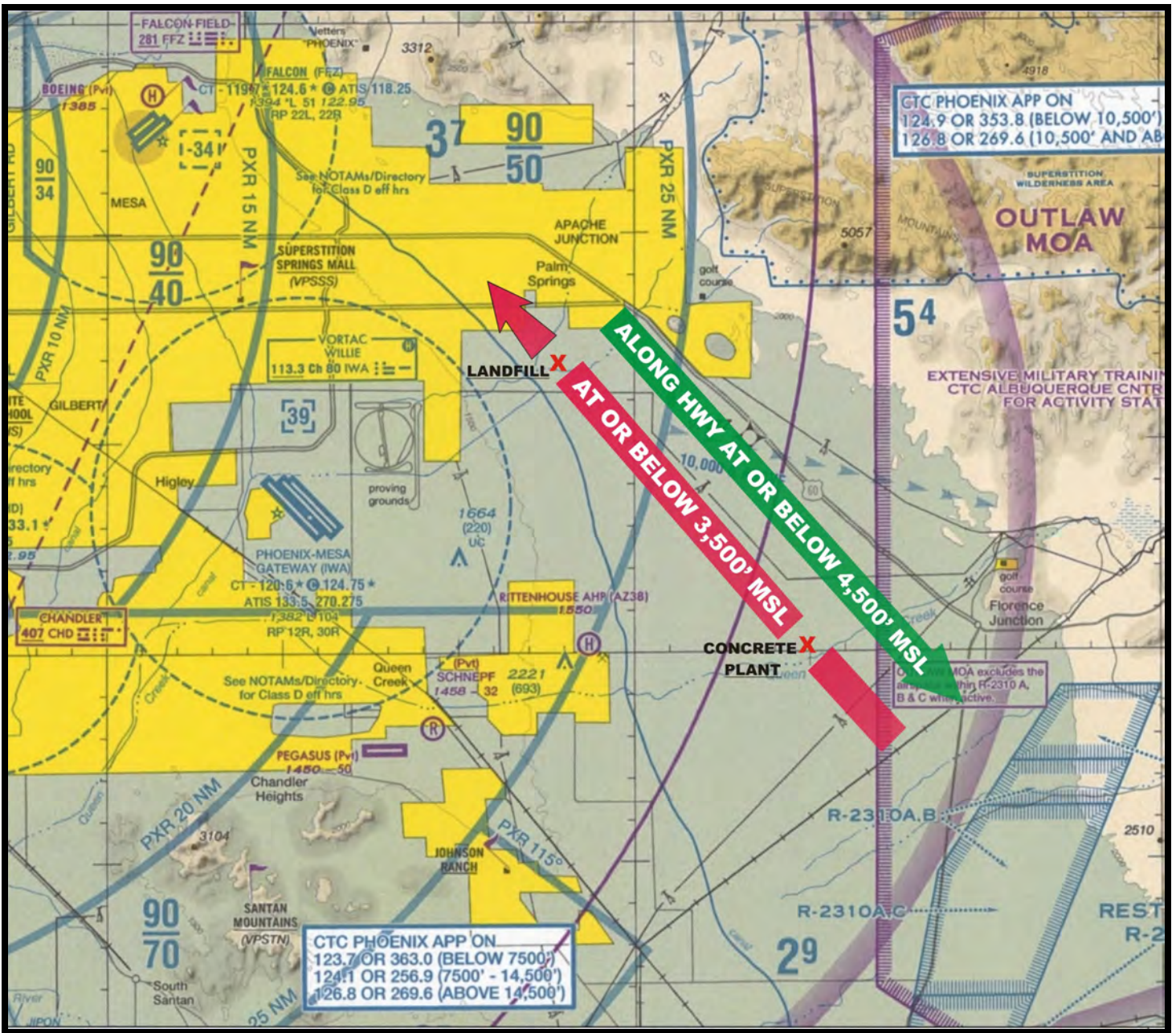
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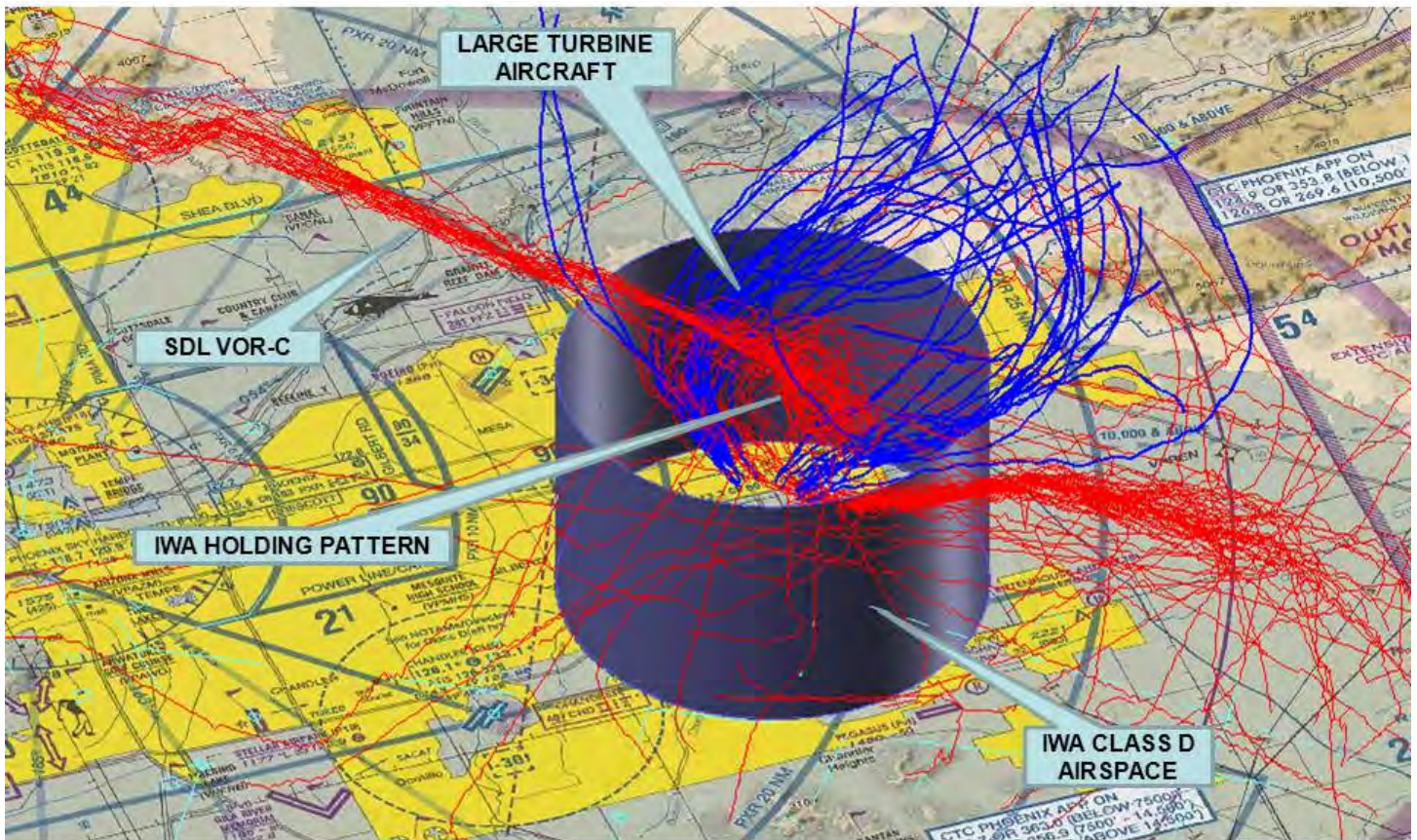
Pilots operating in the airspace near IWA should be aware of the density of air traffic operations in the area. Approximately 800 aircraft operations a day transit the airspace depicted above at or below 5,000' MSL (excluding Phoenix Sky Harbor traffic). The blue tracks indicate VFR aircraft squawking 1200, red tracks depict large turbine aircraft arriving or departing IWA, and white tracks represent other aircraft being provided air traffic services by Phoenix TRACON.



The area highlighted above depicts where VFR aircraft are most likely to encounter high performance aircraft arriving and departing IWA and other aircraft in the instrument approach traffic pattern controlled by Phoenix TRACON.



Some members of the flight training community are now using specific routes to practice areas at altitudes that avoid large turbine-powered aircraft.



Aircraft that are practicing holding over the IWA VOR or flying the SDL VOR-C approach need to be aware of large turbine powered aircraft departing IWA.