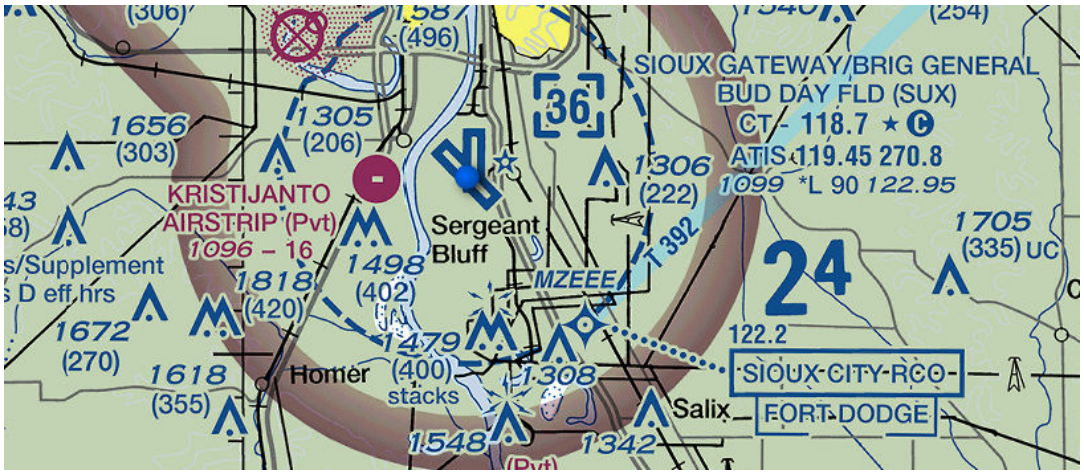
Maximum Elevation Figure (MEF)

Reading terrain and obstruction data on a sectional chart

Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Sectional chart excerpt: Sioux Gateway / Brig. General Bud Day Field (SUX), Sioux City, Iowa

What the Maximum Elevation Figure tells you

Each 30-minute by 30-minute quadrangle on a sectional chart carries a large bold number - the Maximum Elevation Figure (MEF). It is shown in thousands and hundreds of feet MSL. In this excerpt the **2^4** means 2,400 feet MSL. The MEF represents the highest known feature in that quadrangle - terrain or an obstruction - rounded up to the next 100 feet, with an added buffer for possible uncharted obstacles. It is a quick safety check: a remote pilot flying at or below 400 feet AGL uses the MEF together with obstruction symbols to understand how terrain and towers stack up against the flight ceiling.

Practice questions

1. What is the Maximum Elevation Figure shown in this quadrangle, in feet MSL?

   _____

2. The obstruction near Sergeant Bluff is labeled 1498 (402). What is its height above ground level, and what is the elevation of its top in MSL?

   _____

3. What is the field elevation of Kristijanto Airstrip, and is it a public or private airport?

   _____

4. What is the control tower (CT) frequency for Sioux Gateway (SUX)?

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