

Traffic Advisories



Traffic Advisories

If you are flying IFR, or VFR and are receiving Flight Following, ATC will provide you with traffic advisories for any aircraft which will pass in close proximity, generally about 5 miles laterally or within 1,000 feet vertically, from your position.

Traffic Advisories

The advisory will include the traffic's:

- Position
- Direction
- Trend (climbing, descending)

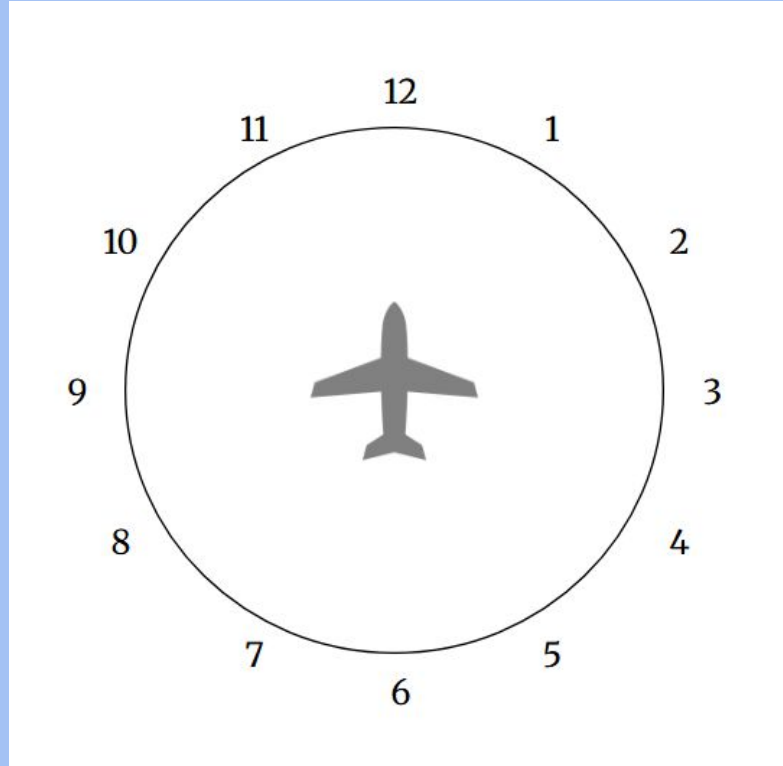
And if known,

- Type
- Altitude

Position Report

An aircraft's position is given in reference to the 12 clock positions, with twelve o'clock being straight ahead, six o'clock directly behind, three o'clock directly off the right wing, and nine o'clock directly off the left wing.

Position Report



Position Report

Keep in mind, however, that Air traffic Controllers can only see your course, or track.

They do not know if you are applying a wind correction angle in order to maintain a certain course.

As a result, 12 o'clock to the controller is in reference to the direction your aircraft is tracking, and not necessarily from the direction the nose of the aircraft, or your nose for that matter, is pointing.

Position Report

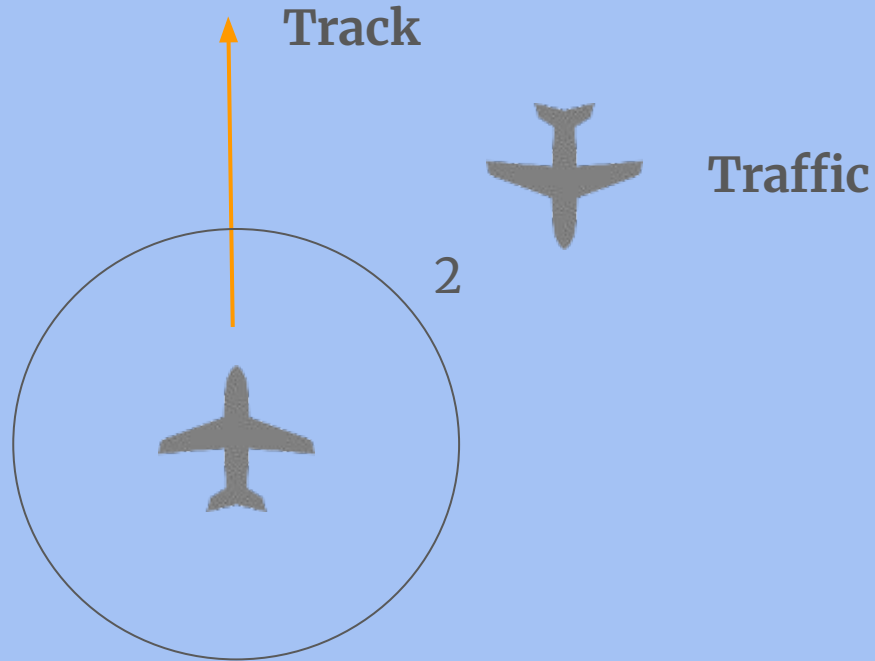
Example:

Your course is 360 degrees, but the wind is from the west such that you have a 10 degree left with correction angle, resulting in a heading of 350.

ATC issues traffic at 2 o'clock. This is in reference to your course of 360 degrees, so you would have to look at your 2 to 3 o'clock to see the traffic.

Position Report

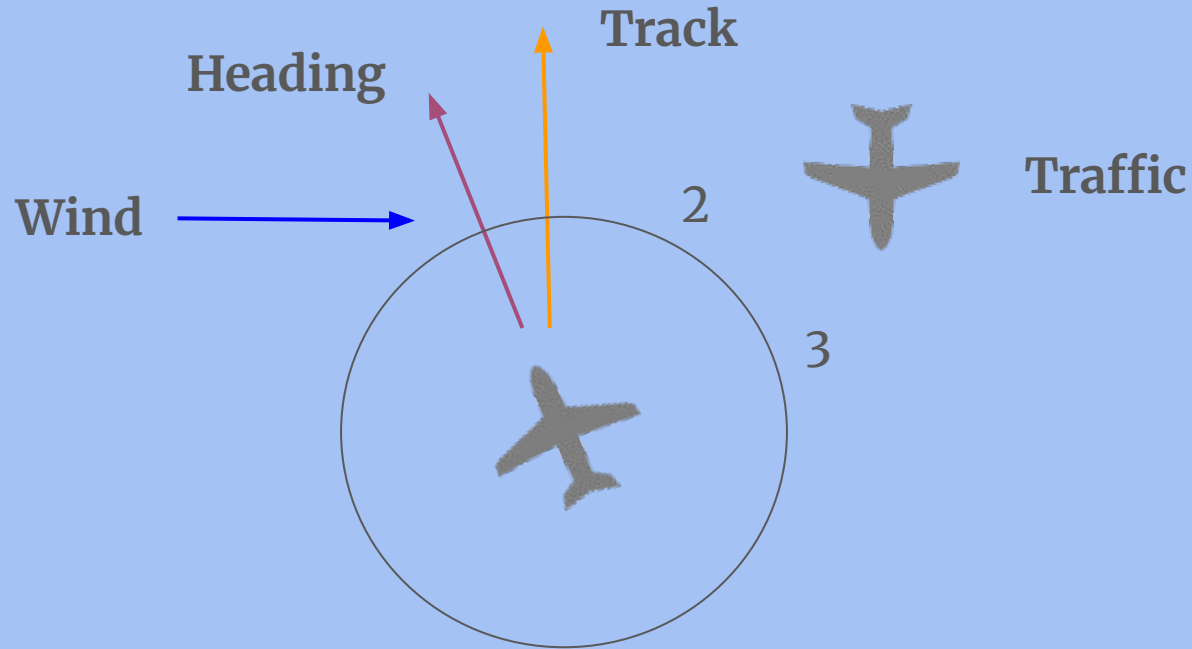
What the controller sees...



“Skyhawk 571JA, traffic 2 o’clock...”

Position Report

Actual Position of Traffic...



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The difference between the direction traffic is called to you by ATC and its actual location may be further accentuated if you are in a turn.

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A full traffic advisory would sound something like this...

Controller:

“Skyhawk 571JA, traffic right side, two o’clock, eight miles, one thousand feet above, south bound, Barron.”

Pilot:

“Skyhawk 571JA, traffic in sight.” or...

“Skyhawk 571JA, no joy.”

Traffic Advisories

When the traffic has cleared your area, ATC will advise,

“Skyhawk 51JA, traffic no longer a factor.”

Traffic Alert!

In the event ATC believes you are in very close proximity to traffic which could result in a collision, a Traffic Alert will be issued...

Controller:

“Traffic Alert! Skyhawk 571JA, turn left/right immediately!”

or..

“Traffic Alert! Skyhawk 571JA, climb/descend immediately!”

Questions?

