Miltech Simulations U-2

U-2 Familiarization - Groom Lake

Your first solo in the U-2: a short handling circuit north of Groom Lake, one steady recording run, a low approach with a go-around and a full-stop landing. Smooth control matters more than speed.

Item	Value
Start	Groom Lake (KXTA), P 1, engine shut down
End	Full-stop landing at Groom Lake (KXTA)
Time of day	09:00, set by the mission. Weather: live
Estimated duration	1 h 36 min
Route	12 waypoints, about 238 NM
Minimum altitude for the checks	Above 15,000 ft MSL
Recording strips	1, held for 30 seconds

Objectives

The objectives come one at a time, in this order. Each one shows its direction on screen. How the gates and strips work is under Missions.

1. **Take off**: met at liftoff, within 4.5 NM of the start.
2. **Clear the Ranch**: fly within 4 NM of the point. Climb gradually and stay clear of the terrain around the field.
3. **Climb above 15,000 ft MSL**: stay above 15,000 ft MSL for 5 seconds. This objective runs beside the route: keep following the waypoints while you climb.
4. **Handling leg west**: fly within 6 NM of the point. A smooth right turn toward the next point.
5. **Handling leg north**: fly within 6 NM of the point. Stay above 15,000 ft and avoid abrupt inputs.
6. **Set up - Steady flight exercise**: fly within 2 NM of the strip entry point, lined up on 090° true.
7. **Steady flight exercise**: fly inside the strip, 20 × 4 NM on 090° true, above 15,000 ft MSL for 30 continuous seconds.
8. **Clear strip - Steady flight exercise**: fly within 2 NM of the strip exit point before you turn. Then begin a gradual descent toward the practice approach.
9. **Practice approach setup**: fly within 6 NM of the point. Set up for one low approach over the runway.
10. **Low approach over runway**: fly within 2.4 NM of the point. Go around. Do not land yet.
11. **Confirm climb out**: fly within 6 NM of the point. Then reposition for a full-stop landing.
12. **Return to Base**: land within 4.5 NM of the field. The mission ends 15 seconds after touchdown.

Tips

- This is the best first mission: it is short, it stays near the field and it has the only practice approach in the pack.
- The minimum is only 15,000 ft, so you can fly it below the high-altitude corridor. Fly the pattern and the landing as in Flying the U-2S.
- The low approach completes when you pass within 2.4 NM of the runway point. Keep the gear down and fly a normal go-around: see Go-Around in Flying the U-2S.

Related pages: Missions · Groom Lake · U2 101 - The Basics · Flying the U-2S

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