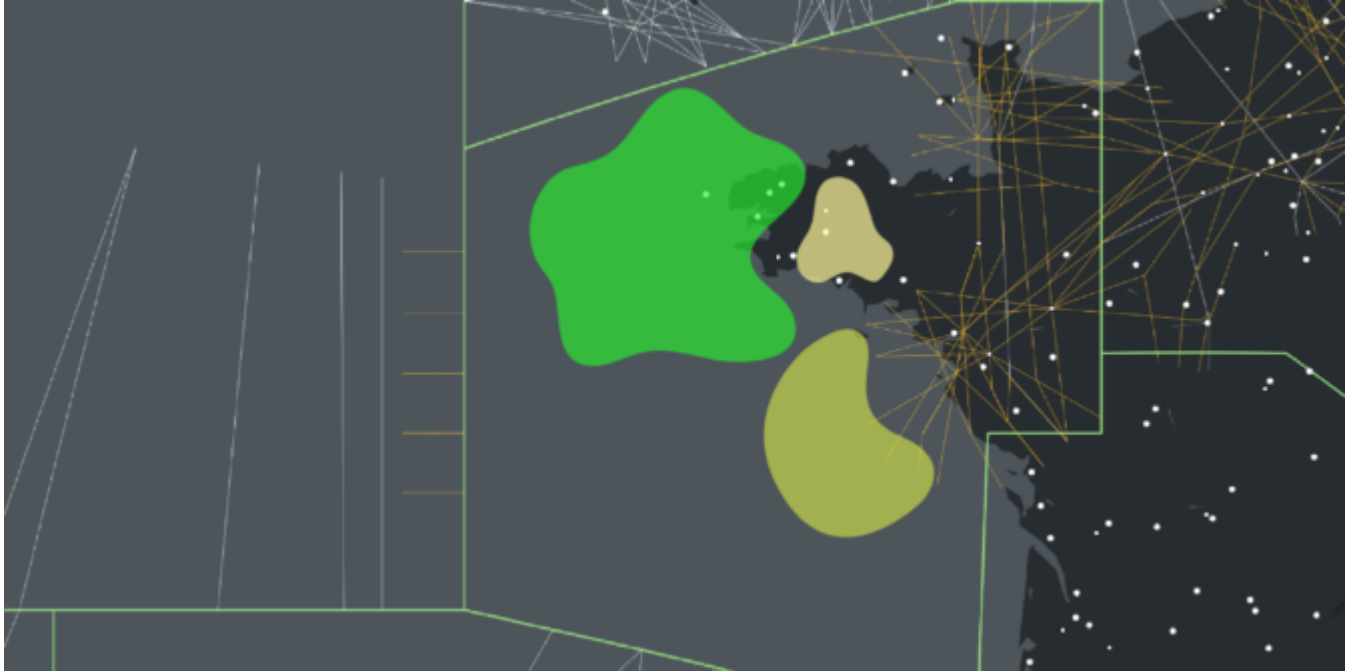


There's a blob of airspace causing issues in the NAT

OPSGROUP Team
20 June, 2022

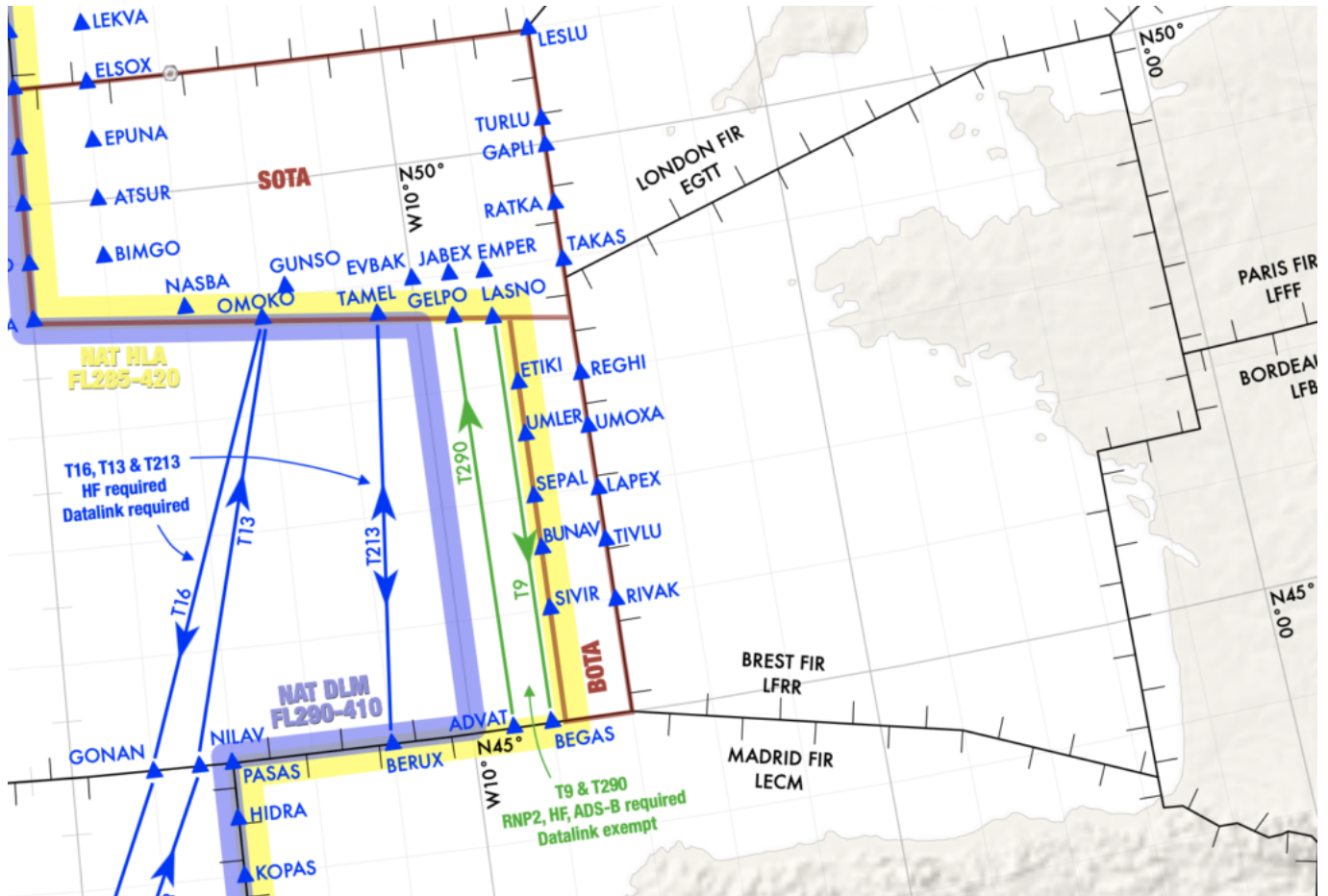


Why is there a huge blob of restricted airspace (and several smaller blobs too) **right over the spot where folk like to leave the NAT HLA?**

Thanks, France. Their big chunk of military airspace bordering the NAT, that they regularly activate, definitely does cause a lot of planning issues, so we figured we would take a look at it...

What (where) is the problem?

The problem is in the **LFFF/Brest FIR**, which as you can see below borders the NAT HLA BOTA bit. In fact, every exit/entry from the NAT into French airspace is via the Brest FIR/UIR border, so as you can imagine, a **whopping great military danger zone** just the other side of it is going to be a little in the way.



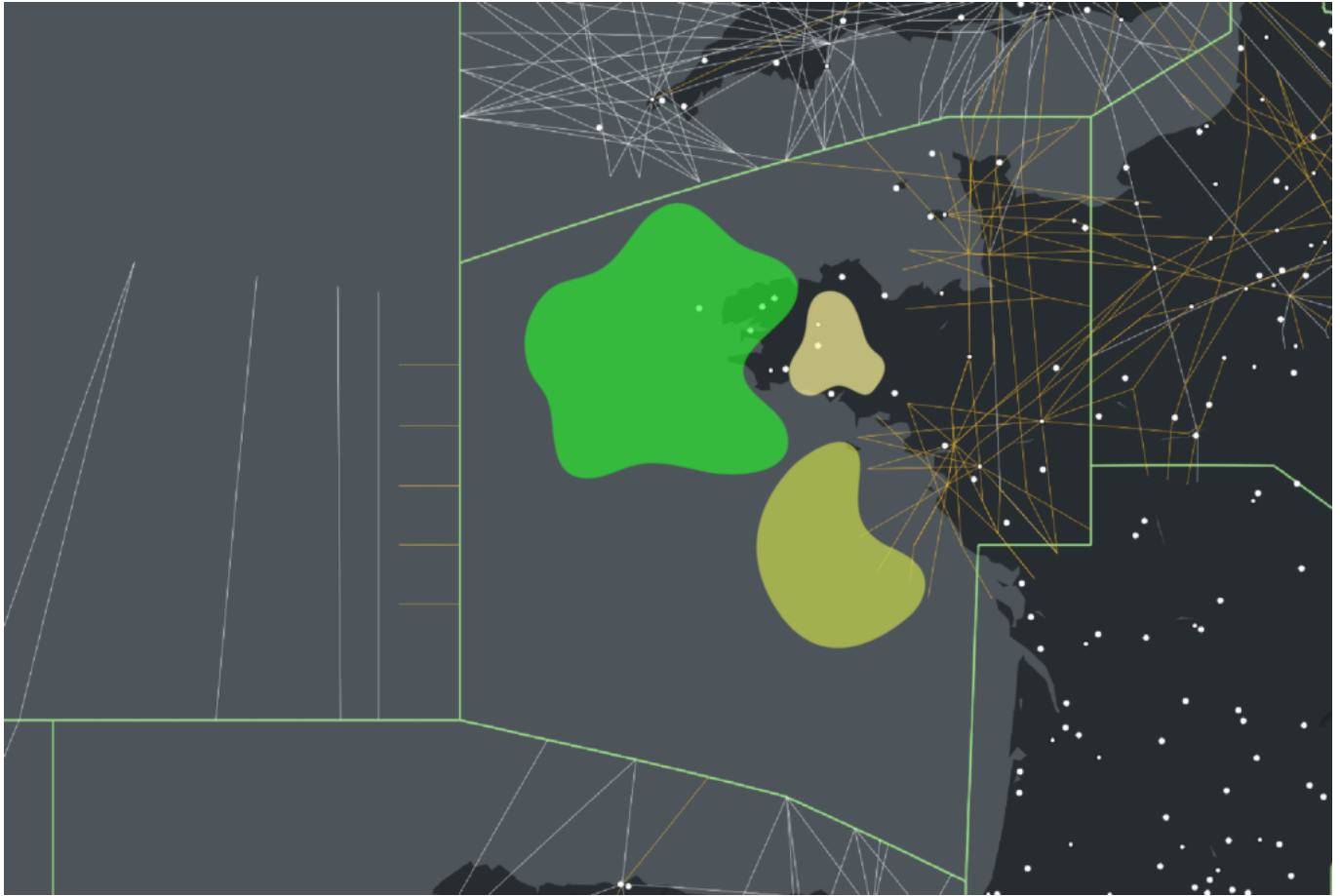
Where is Brest?

Which is exactly what the problem is.

That big danger zone means when folk submit their flight plans which have them routing over the Atlantic and into France another neighbouring places, they are getting rejected.

Sometimes, an alternative routing option is offered, but the NAT exits are way up on EGTT/London airspace which means **significantly longer routings**, which nobody wants.

There is also a bit of an issue with **the automated Eurocontrol flight planning system**. It doesn't always immediately reject your flight plan - sometimes it waits until midnight so you get a nice message in the morning, not too long before your flight which you now have to replan...

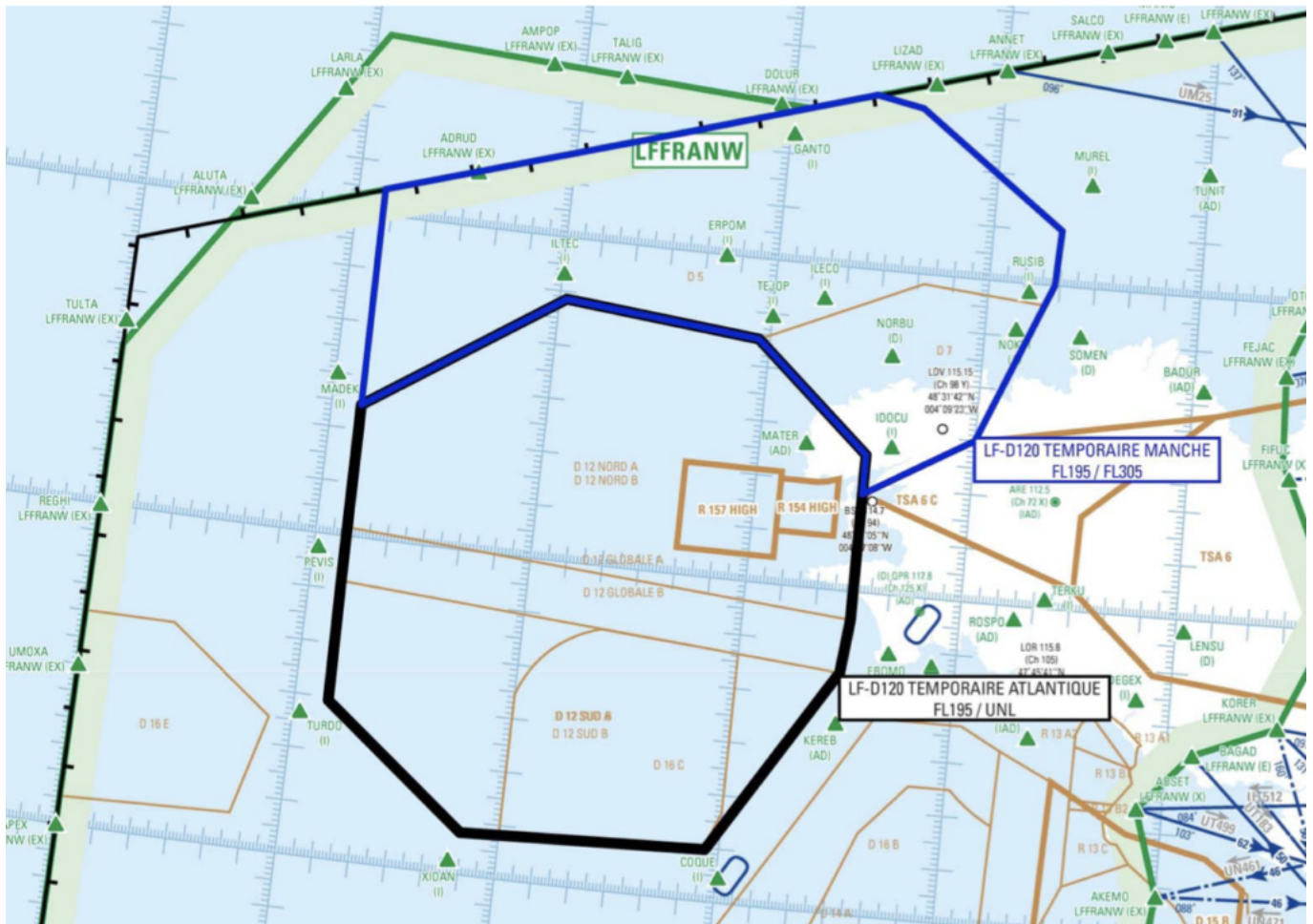


A very accurate representation of the military 'blobs'

So the military are to blame?

That might not be entirely fair, but it is down to some **active military zones** that most of these route plans seem to not be successful.

The main one we've seen causing trouble is in AIP SUP 045/22, which is valid from **24 March 2022 to 22 March 2023**. Activation of the area is possible H24, and they activate it a lot.



The Zone of NoGo (slightly more accurately shown)

You can find all the **temporary activated areas and timings** here on the French AIP SUP page.

We also saw one from June 15-23. “Ocean HIT 2022” uses the same sort of area and **irritatingly coincides with a different exercise (HYDRA) on June 20**. This means poor old EGGX/Shanwick is going to be dealing with most of the crossing traffic that day and there is likely to be a **medium impact for flights**.

What can you do about it?

Not a huge amount really. If the areas are active you aren’t going to be able to operate through them. We asked around, and folk said they’ve been doing **a lot of LIZAD and NAKID routings**. Some folk have reported simply planning higher levels and that’s apparently worked.

You can attempt to get inflight re-routings. You can also try these chaps who provide the actual time slots of activation to give you a better picture:

CCMAR ATLANTIQUE Phone : +33(0)2 98 31 82 69 / +33(0)2 98 84 49 57 (backup).



One routing option we found that isn't toooo bad

Anything else to know about?

The French and German Navy have been using some airspace in **EGGX/Shanwick** which occasionally gets in the way of some of the Tango routes.

All of the upcoming military exercises in Europe are notified through the Eurocontrol Network Operations Portal.

Initial Network Plan

Network Plan

- Headline News
- Events
- ACCs
- NAT
- Weather
- Hotspot

Network Static Map

ATFCM Measures (Scenarios)

Scenarios aim at the optimisation of capacity across the European Network of ACCs. NM Strategic Operational Planning works actively to minimise the number of ATFM regulations, consistent with the protection of ATC sectors. Find the scenario request form [here](#)

Scenario List

Network Axis Management

Involvement of ACCs in the axes processes

Read the NM Axes Meetings [Terms of Reference](#).

Network Headline News

Latest News | Ongoing News

- 09JUN 13:51 ▶ **Tactical update**
- 09JUN 06:02 ▶ **Information and NOTAMs related to Ukraine**
- 03JUN 07:23 ▶ **Network Operations Plan - Rolling Seasonal NOP - 06 June - 17 July 2022**
- 25MAY 04:41 ▶ **Ukraine Airspace not available**
- 16MAY 18:02 ▶ **LUKK (CHISINAU) SID and STAR**
- 10APR 17:49 ▶ **Derogation Process from EU Council Regulation (EU) 2022/334 of 28-02-2022**

[more](#)

Network Events

Tuesday, 14 June 2022

Month | Day

Show only starting events

Select Types

- LFRRFIR, LFBBFIR, LFMMFIR
- Military Exercise ROGUE CUP S24**
14/06/2022 00:00 - 14/06/2022 23:59
- ESAAFIR, EDWWFIR, EYVLFIR, EPWWFIR
- Military exercise BALTOPS 22**
05/06/2022 00:00 - 17/06/2022 23:59
- LPPCFIR
- Military exercise ETAP-T 2022**
07/06/2022 00:00 - 16/06/2022 23:59
- LECMFIR
- Military exercise FLOTEX 22**
13/06/2022 00:00 - 24/06/2022 23:59

[Search](#) | [List](#)

Current Network Situation

Last update: 09/06/2022 14:08

- < 15 MIN
- < 30 MIN
- < 45 MIN
- >= 45 MIN

Static Map

ATFCM Situation Data

Last update 09/06/2022 14:07

Flights

Total	28,948
Landed	14,279 (49%)
Airborne	4,654 (16%)
Expected	10,015 (35%)

Delays (in minutes)

Cumulated	80,415.0
Average/Flight	2.8
En route	64,742 (81%)



The spot to look at