DIY WEATHER BRIEFING CHECKLIST

STEP 1: DRAW A LINE BETWEEN DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL AIRPORT

2: CHOOSE A ROUGH ALTITUDE. BEST GUESS FOR NOW, REFINE LATER

3: GET THE BIG PICTURE

- [ ] Radar Imagery (push play)
- [ ] Satellite Picture
- [ ] Flight Category Across Route (green, blue, red and pink dots)
- [ ] Surface Winds
- [ ] Winds Aloft
- [ ] Dew Point Spread
- [ ] Temperature
- [ ] Visibility
- [ ] Ceiling
- [ ] Freezing Level

4: GET HAZARDS TO FLIGHT: AIRMETS AND SIGMETS

- [ ] Convective (Thunderstorms)
- [ ] Icing
- [ ] Turbulence
- [ ] IFR Conditions
- [ ] LLWS
- [ ] Surface Winds > 30 Knots
- [ ] Mountain Obscuration
- [ ] TFRs

5: GET SPECIFIC: METARS

- [ ] Departure
- [ ] Arrival

6: GET THE FORECAST: TAFS

- [ ] Departure
- [ ] Arrival
- [ ] Ceiling Forecast
- [ ] Visibility Forecast
- [ ] Prog Charts
- [ ] Outlook (SIGWX)
- [ ] Convective Forecast
- [ ] 6hr/12hr Precipitation
- [ ] Icing Probability

7: GET NOTAMS

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF:

Can I maintain VFR cloud clearances?

What are the ceilings outside of 5 NM of the airport?

Who will the terrain effect my ability to maintain cloud clerances?

Are the winds outside my comfort level?

Are the winds outside the aircraft's limitations?

What are the runway conditions? Wet, snowy?

What is the runway's braking action?

How long is the runway if the conditions aren't very dood?

What is the density altitude and do I have the performance to t/o?

If the runway is more than 2,000' MSL, did I do good performance planning?

What are the freezing levels?

Do I have the performance to meet the climb gradients? (I)

If not, can I climb in visual conditions? (I)

Do I need an alternate?

What are the cloud tops?

What are the most favorable winds?

Will conditions such as smoke, sun position, or dust make it hard to acquire the runway when I arrive?

What are the winds at 3000 feet vs at the surface?

If the winds are around 180 degree different from 3000 feet to the surface, have I thought about windshear?

Will I have to land with a crosswind?

Are the ceilings such I might have to do a missed approach?

(I) = IFR