

THREAT LEVEL: BLACK

DETAILS

It's time to distribute the vaccine across the United States of America. Your flight itinerary, plotted out below, starts at headquarters (the yellow square) and zig-zags the country left and right to visit all the stations (the blue squares). We've had unverified reports of hot-zones (the red squares) that you should confirm along the way.

SOLUTION

1. The plotting area is 26 by 26, suggesting that the two axes should be labelled with the letters A-Z.
2. The fact that we start at headquarters (HQ) defines how to label the axes (origin in bottom left corner).
3. Taking all the letter pairs of the stations (blue squares) gives the string LF YO VE SR TA ET AB RB VS.
4. Meanwhile, all of the hot-zones give common two-letter abbreviations. In the order they are reached, they are PM CO FM LP TN RN XL PS WC IV HR AR AI BC CD IL KO.
5. As hinted in the flavor text, all the s
Re-reading the station pairs from left the clue phrase FLYOVER STATE A
6. This suggests "flying over" those squ
zones, four are United States: Colo
(IL).
7. Reading these abbreviations in orde
path, gives the final answer, CONTR

