Monday Briefing: Typhoon Vongfong, Hajj 2014

Declan Selleck 8 October, 2014

080CT2014: Typhoon Vongfong is making its way toward the U.S Northern Northern Mariana islands of Guam, Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. Typhoon Vongfong notably increased in strength between 0300 and 0900 UTC on 070CT, north of Yap and had maximum sustained winds of 120 Kts and gusts of 145 kts. Vongfong is expected to reach Super Typhoon status within 24 hours. Meteorologists forecast it will continue moving west-northwest for 36-48hs and then turn north and begin to weaken. There are currently no NOTAMs detailing any closures or restrictions. Tropical Storm Simon is currently off the West coast of Mexico and is continuing to weaken as it makes its way towards landfall. It is not affecting operations.

080CT2014: Hajj 2014 Routes and temporary regulations have been implemented ahead of the 2014 Hajj season. All flights originating from West and Central West Africa have a set of dedicated routes. Operators must advise the following FIR's a minimum of 10 days in advance of the intended operations and include full aircraft details, schedule, and RVSM approval status: Algiers, Accra, Brazzaville, Dakar, Jeddah, Kano, Khartoum, N'Djamena, Niamey, Roberts, and Tripoli. For a full list of requirements and route details please refer to the AIP Supplement.

Exxx/Europe The deadline set by the European Commission for operators to be ADS-B compliant has been delayed until June 8th, 2016 for new aircraft and June 7th, 2020 for aircraft being retrofitted.

UKFV/Yevpatoria Center has published a new list of route closures extending till the 30th of December, a geographical representation of the closures can be found here.

BGGL/Sondrestrom FIR has published new addresses for the Rescue Coordination Center (AFTN BGGHYCYX, Email:rcc@naviair.dk, Telephone/Fax +299363318/+299363319), Communications Center (AFTN BGGHYFYX, Telephone +29936330428), and Flight Information Center (email fic@navair.dk, Telephone/FX +299363304/+299363309)

HECC/Cairo advises that all flight plans must be submitted in the proper format as outlined in the AIP no later than 150 mins prior to estimated time of block and no earlier than 24 hrs prior to estimated time of block.

SBGR/Sao Paulo General aviation and airlines preforming cargo charter or cargo operations must inform airport officials (+551124454313) prior to operation who the handling company will be and intended time on the ground. Aircraft falling into category A-B must advise at least 6 hrs in advance, aircraft falling into category C-E at least 24 hrs in advance, until the 15th of Dec.

MYEM/Governors Harbour has no JET-A or AVGAS available until the 30DEC.

MMSD/Los Cabos will only be open for government and humanitarian flights from 1300-2359 until 08OCT; may continue.

Mexico CAA reminds operators to carefully review that their flight plan complies with active airways, NOTAMS, and military exclusion zones before filing. Failure to do so will result in the flight plan being rejected.

URSS/Sochi Ahead of the 2014 Russian Grand Prix the airport advises that operators planning on flying into Sochi from the 6th of Oct until the 16th of Oct will require to obtain an arrival and departure slot from the airport authority. Cargo operators will have disclose the full details of the cargo contents to secure a slot.

Any operator in excess of 30 mins either prior to ETA or after ETD will require a new slot, failure to do so will result in a fine. Parking limitations will also be imposed during this time, aircraft with an MTOW of 35-70 tons are allowed to park for a maximum of 30 mins, all heavier aircraft are allowed up to 2 hrs.

DNMA/Maiduguri is now closed to all civil air traffic due to the increased security concerns.

West Africa/Ebola Update. Advice is against all non-essential travel due to the outbreak of the Ebola virus. Efforts to contain the outbreak are resulting in critical commercial and transportation disruptions in all three countries. Cameroon Officials have closed all borders with Nigeria and suspended all passenger flights to/from Nigeria due to the ongoing Ebola virus outbreak. Cape Verde Through 21 November, officials are prohibiting entry of any foreign non-resident who has visited any country affected by the hemorrhagic fever caused by the Ebola virus in the last 30 days. Cote d'Ivoire Commercial airliners are prohibited from carrying passengers from Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria to Cote d'Ivoire due to the Ebola virus outbreak. All passengers will have their temperature checked upon arrival from any destination. Senegal Departures and arrivals from Senegal to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone are prohibited due to the Ebola virus outbreak.