

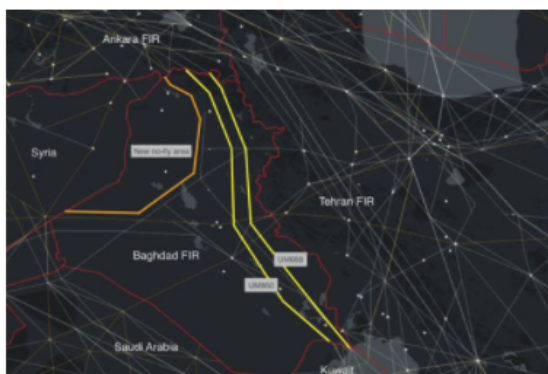
19JAN: Euro MMEL update, Iraq airspace officially open

Jamie Rose McMillen
20 January, 2018

International Ops Bulletin



That MMEL thing: here's an update



Western countries lift bans on Iraq airspace

Weekly **International Ops Bulletin** published by **FSB** for **OPSGROUP** covering critical changes to Airports, Airspace, ATC, Weather, Safety, Threats, Procedures, Visas. Subscribe to the short free version [here](#), or join thousands of your Pilot/Dispatcher/ATC/CAA/Flight Ops colleagues in **OPSGROUP** for the full weekly bulletin, airspace warnings, Ops guides, tools, maps, group discussion, Ask-us-Anything, and a ton more! **Curious? See what you get.** Rated **5 stars** by **125 reviews**.

LFZZ/France The French ATC strike has been cancelled. It was planned to take place in the Marseille ACC (LFMM) from Jan 18-21, but was averted at the last minute as unions reached an agreement. ATC services will now be provided as per normal.

LTCG/Trabzon The airport has closed to all flights until Jan 19, as they work to remove the stranded Pegasus B737 that skidded off the runway on Jan 14 and came to a stop on a muddy cliff, with its nose almost in the sea.

OTZZ/Qatar The UAE allege that on Jan 15, Qatari fighter jets intercepted an Emirates aircraft in international waters just north of the tip of Qatar. Qatar denies the claim. Following the incident, the UAE CAA published a safety alert, warning about “unannounced and hazardous military activities within Bahrain FIR in airways UP699 and P699”, which they consider to be “a potential hazard to the safety of flight.” Qatar have filed a complaint of their own with the UN, claiming that UAE military aircraft have repeatedly violated their airspace during the ongoing diplomatic crisis between the Gulf states. All this complaining on both sides is much more likely to be political wrangling, rather than any kind of genuine airspace safety issue. [\[Full story\]](#)

FIMP/Mauritius and **FMEE/Reunion** have both escaped a direct hit by tropical cyclone 'Berguita', which is passing just south of the islands as it continues to track south-westwards. FIMP reopened on Jan 18, and Reunion is set to open on Jan 19 at 0400Z.

EZZZ/Europe Last year, EASA began requiring all aircraft transiting European airspace to have an approved Minimum Equipment List (MEL) for each individual aircraft. An MEL that references the MMEL was not acceptable. EASA follows ICAO guidelines, and ICAO does not recognise MMEL as MEL. Now a joint EASA/FAA workgroup has been established, to try to sort out this mess. It looks like the FAA will soon issue a notice requiring international operators to obtain new D195 LOA's, and EASA will halt any findings for a period of 12 months to allow for these new LOA's to be issued.

OEZZ/Saudi Arabia A missile launched by Houthi rebels in Yemen was intercepted over the Saudi city of Jizan, near the Yemeni border, by the Saudi air defense system on the night of Jan 16. Houthi rebels stated that an airport in the region of Jizan was the intended target of the ballistic missile. This is the third Houthi missile to be intercepted by the Saudis in 2018 - none have resulted in casualties, but operators should consider carefully operations to Saudi Arabia.

EDDM/Munich Two big events coming up: the Davos World Economic Forum from Jan 22-26, and the Munich Security Conference from Feb 14-18. The airport will be busy for both, so best get your parking requests in early. Also bear in mind that all GA flights will need to get special permission to land at EDDM during these events. For PPR contact +49 89 975 21132 or email specialoperations@munich-airport.de

FACT/Cape Town After an unprecedented three years of drought, Cape Town has less than 90 days of water left in its reservoirs. The airport has published a Notam requiring all flights to tanker in water - don't expect to be able to uplift any at the airport for the foreseeable future.

ORZZ/Iraq Expect ORER/Erbil and ORSU/Sulaymaniyah to re-open to international traffic soon. The Kurdistan Regional Government and Baghdad have reached an initial agreement to lift an international flight ban imposed on the autonomous Kurdish region by the Iraqi central government last year. No official date set yet.

VTSP/Phuket The runway will be closed overnight from 19-00z until at least Jan 21. There are also ongoing issues with BA/GA aircraft being unable to secure parking for longer than a few hours. Most are having to drop-off pax and then reposition elsewhere.

ESZZ/Sweden ESNN/Sundsvall has become the country's second airport to have remote air traffic control, after ESNO/Ornskoldsvik made the switch back in 2015. So the local tower is now officially closed, and air traffic control service has been transferred to one of the country's national control centres. ESSL/Linköping airport will be the next one to be transferred to remote ATC later this year.

UUWW/Samara has put one of its two runways back into operation following reconstruction. The renovated strip is 3,000 meters long and 45 meters wide, and is capable of receiving Boeing 777 and Airbus A340 widebodies.

SBGL/Rio De Janeiro The annual Carnival will be taking place from Feb 9-13. Road closures and major travel disruption expected across the city. An estimated 6 million people, including 1.5 million foreign tourists, are expected to participate in the celebrations. The mayor of Rio has requested federal troops to provide support to local security forces to maintain order during the carnival period. So far, no special restrictions or procedures have been announced for SBGL airport, but it will be busy, so get your parking request in as early as possible.

HLLM/Tripoli Mitiga Heavy clashes broke out in the Libyan capital Tripoli on Jan 15, leaving at least nine people dead and forcing the airport to suspend all flights until further notice. Our advice: don't land at any airport in Libya, don't even overfly the country.

HEZZ/Egypt On Jan 13, Egyptian authorities imposed indefinite night-time curfews on areas of North Sinai province, including the cities of Rafah and Al-Arish. The Sinai region has suffered frequent terrorist attacks in the past few years. On Dec 19, militants fired artillery at HEAR/El Arish Airport in North Sinai, killing one army officer and wounding two others. There are still overflight warnings in place for the entire Sinai Peninsula below FL260.

SPZZ/Peru Airports in southern Peru are reported to be running as normal, following the 7.1-magnitude earthquake that shook the country on Jan 14, leaving at least one person dead and 65 injured in the cities of Arequipa, Ica and Ayacucho.

RPZZ/Philippines Volcanic earthquakes, rockfalls, and a number of steam-driven eruptions have shaken the summit of the Mayon volcano in the Philippines. More than 12,000 people have been ordered to leave a 7km evacuation zone around the volcano, which is located around 15km north of RPLP/Legazpi, and around 330km south of RPLL/Manila. There are warnings of destructive mudflows, and ash cloud around the volcano has been reported up to FL170.

MMTO/Toluca The runway will be closed overnight from 04-12z on the following dates in January: 20-22, and 27-29.

FQMA/Maputo The airport will be closed overnight from 21-04z for runway repair, until Feb 28.

OEZZ/Saudi Arabia has issued an extension of the policy that requires all aircraft with a destination in Yemen to first land in OEBH/Bisha – through to Apr 13. The only exceptions are the UN, Red Cross, and MSF.

MMZZ/Mexico The U.S. State Department has issued its highest “do not travel” warning for five states in Mexico: the Pacific coast states of Sinaloa, Colima, Michoacan, Guerrero, and Tamaulipas on the eastern Gulf. The advisory says that “Violent crime, such as homicide, kidnapping, carjacking, and robbery, is widespread.” This latest advisory ultimately classifies these regions at the same level of danger as Syria, Yemen, and Somalia.

URSS/Sochi The Russian Investment Forum will be taking place from Feb 13-17. During that time, charter aircraft with wingspan over 24 metres will be limited to a maximum of 2hrs on the ground. Make sure you get your slots in advance through your handler.

ORZZ/Iraq Back in December 2017, the U.S. FAA partially lifted the ban on the Baghdad FIR and started allowing U.S. operators to overfly Iraq at or above FL260. Now the three other big countries that regularly publish airspace safety information—France, Germany and the UK—have followed suit with new advice of their own. France recommends that overflights should only be on airways UM860 and UM688, and should be at or above FL320. The UK says that overflights should only be on airways UL602 to ALPET, UM860 and UM688, and should be above FL250. And Germany just say that overflights should be at FL260 or above.

TVZZ/St Vincent & Grenadines Reports of low fuel levels on the islands at the moment, so make sure you tanker in.

LIPZ/Venice The Carnival of Venice will be taking place from Jan 27-Feb 15. The general aviation terminal (GAT) is open daily 05-21z, with overtime available upon request, but bear in mind that both runways are closed for maintenance Mon-Sat 2330-0350z until Mar 24. PPR required at least 24hrs in advance – do that through your handler or call the airport PPR office direct: +39 041 260 6906. Currently there are only two large aircraft GA parking stands available at the GAT, and although parking may be possible on the commercial apron, it's not guaranteed, so best get your request in asap.

EDDK/Cologne The airport's two shorter runways (06/24 & 14L/32R) are both closed until the end of March, which is causing a few delays. And then on Jan 8, the airport had to suspend ops for a few hours due to emergency repair work which needed to be carried out on the only operational runway (14L/32R). It

should be noted that all non-scheduled and GA flights must get PPR confirmed in advance, either through your handler or by calling the airport PPR office direct at: +49 2203 40 4310.

LSZH/Zurich The World Economic Forum is on from Jan 23-26. LSZH will be congested, so apply for slots early if you're actually planning on stopping there. Earliest non-scheduled landing for a wide body aircraft without parking permission will be 1300z daily, Maximum 3 hour ground time for general aviation without parking permission. Also, you will not be able to use LSZH as an alternate to flights going to LSZS/Samedan. Note that LSZH operates from 05-21z daily, and overtime is not available – make sure you land before closing time or you'll get diverted to another airport.

HCZZ/Somalia Somalia's Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (SCAMA) regained control of Somali airspace on Dec 28, after 27 years of management by the ICAO regional office in Nairobi. The airspace will now be controlled in Mogadishu as the country has installed new air traffic control facilities at HCMM/Mogadishu Aden Adde airport.

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Emirates aircraft intercepted, Qatar complains to UN

Declan Selleck
20 January, 2018



OTZZ/Qatar The UAE allege that on Jan 15, Qatari fighter jets intercepted an Emirates aircraft in international waters just north of the tip of Qatar. Qatar denies the claim.

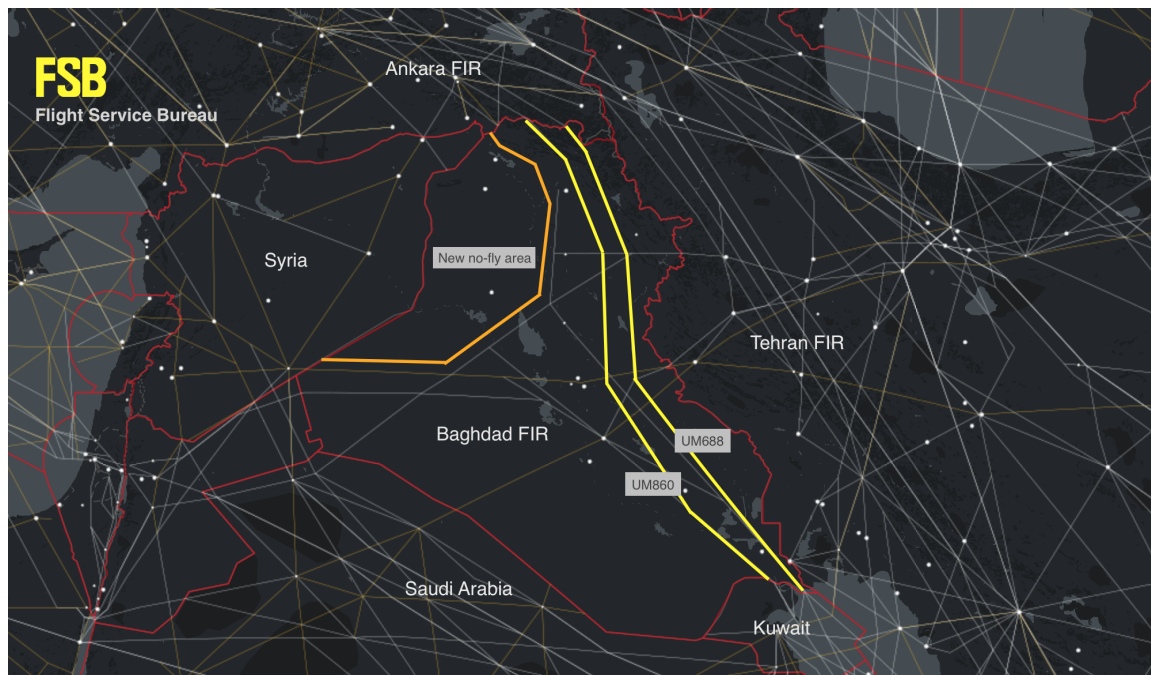
Following the incident, the UAE CAA published a safety alert, warning about “unannounced and hazardous military activities within Bahrain FIR in airways UP699 and P699”, which they consider to be “a potential hazard to the safety of flight.”

Qatar have filed a complaint of their own with the UN, claiming that UAE military aircraft have repeatedly violated their airspace during the ongoing diplomatic crisis between the Gulf states.

All this complaining on both sides is much more likely to be political wrangling, rather than any kind of genuine airspace safety issue.

Western countries lift bans on Iraq airspace

David Mumford
20 January, 2018



Back in December 2017, the U.S. FAA issued KICZ A0025/17 which lifted the full ban on the Baghdad FIR, and allowed U.S. operators to overfly the country above FL260.

Now the three other big countries that regularly publish airspace safety information—France, Germany and the UK—have followed suit with new advice of their own.

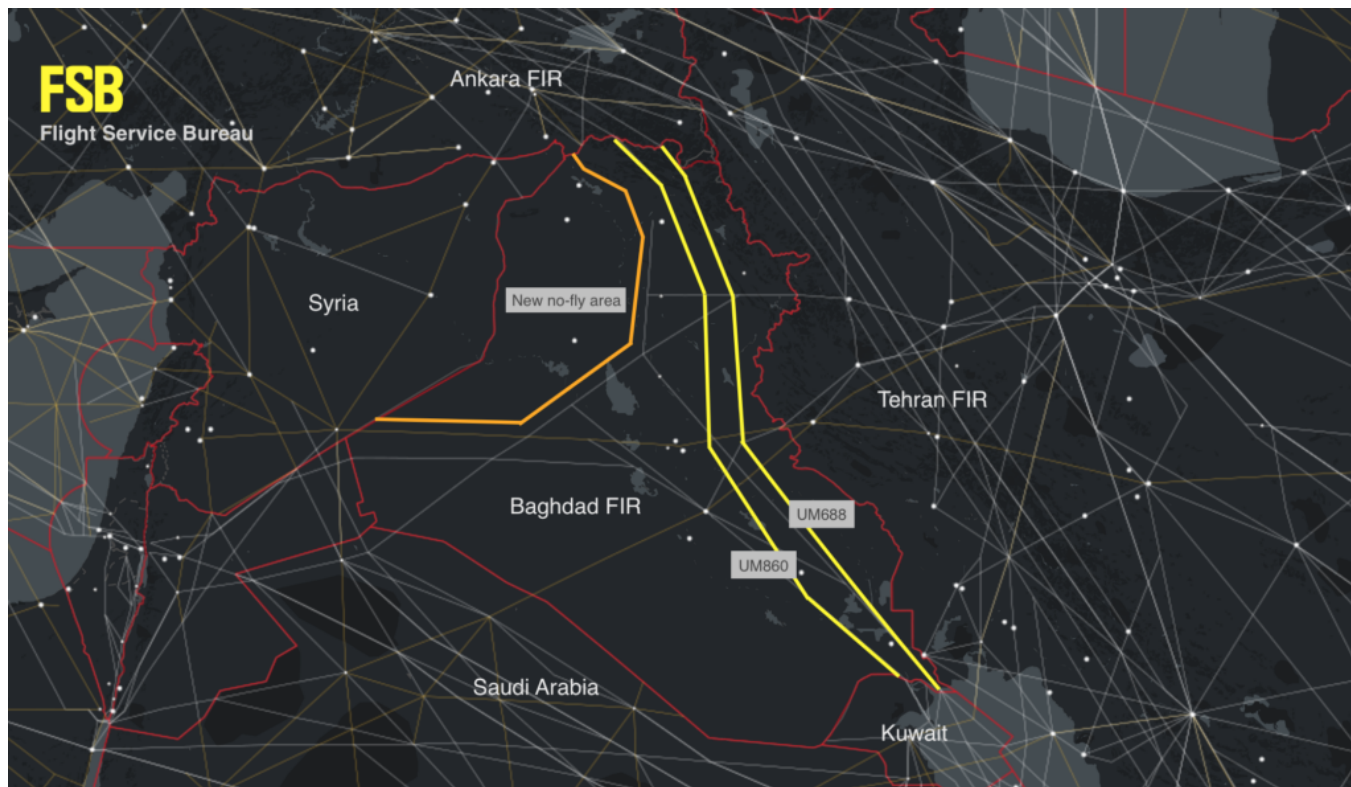
France recommends that overflights should only be on airways UM860 and UM688, and should be at or above FL320.

The UK says that overflights should only be on airways UL602 to ALPET, UM860 and UM688, and should be above FL250.

Germany just say that overflights should be at FL260 or above.

Back in November 2017, several international airlines (Emirates, Turkish) resumed Iraq overflights after their national authorities removed restrictions. With the announcement that Iraqi forces had defeated ISIS and that the country had been fully returned to government control, **the airspace risk in Iraq has reduced.**

Iraq has published a few of its own Notams with various different areas of closed airspace at lower levels due to ongoing military operations. The only one that affects the higher flight levels is in the north-west, along the border with Syria, where a no-fly area has been introduced from SFC-FL460.



However, airways UM860 and UM688 (the two main routes through the Bagdad FIR) to the east of this zone are unaffected, and now effectively open above FL260.

This means that operators will have shorter routes through the Middle East available once again. Emirates is already reported to be routing around 150 flights a day via Iraq, rather than having to take longer routes via Saudi Arabia or Iran – so expect this bit of airspace to start to get busy again soon.

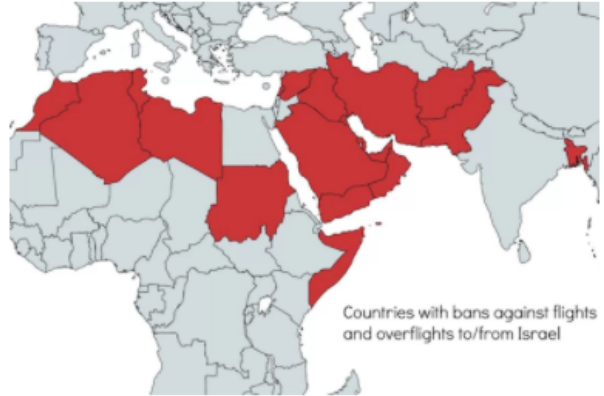
5JAN: Overflights enroute Israel, 8.33 Europe, Winter weather

Jamie Rose McMillen
20 January, 2018

International Ops Bulletin



8.33 Radios now needed everywhere in Europe



Latest list of countries that ban flights to Israel

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KZZZ/USA A front of arctic air is moving in behind yesterday's storm on the East Coast, so expect extreme wind chill values as freezing temperatures plummet even lower today. Expect continued disruption from yesterday's storm: more cancellations and ground stops, with gusting winds and snow across the northeast. KBOS is starting out with one runway and hopes to have a second runway by mid-morning. KLGA single runway operation with no major concerns until the afternoon. KJFK also single runway with secondary expected after 17z. KIAD west runway closed due to diversions from yesterday.

EGKK/Gatwick Slight change to the overnight runway closure times... The main runway (08R/26L) will be closed every night from 2230-0600z until Feb 10. During that time, the northern runway (08L/26R) will be open - the one that normally gets used as a taxiway. There's no ILS on this runway, so approaches must be DME/RNAV.

HCZZ/Somalia Somalia's Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (SCAMA) regained control of Somali airspace on Dec 28, after 27 years of management by the ICAO regional office in Nairobi. The airspace will now be controlled in Mogadishu as the country has installed new air traffic control facilities at HCMM/Mogadishu Aden Adde airport.

DTZZ/Tunisia The United Arab Emirates has said it will resume flights to Tunisia, following an agreement between the two countries to share security information. Tunisia had previously banned flights from Dubai carrier Emirates to Tunis on Dec 24 after the airline refused to carry Tunisian women. Reports suggest Emirates had intelligence that female jihadists returning from Iraq or Syria might try to use Tunisian passports to stage terrorist attacks.

FMZZ/Madagascar Tropical cyclone 'Ava' has strengthened into the equivalent of a Category 1 hurricane

off the east coast of Madagascar. It looks set to move slowly south along the coastline over the weekend, bringing heavy rain and gusting winds of over 100kts. The cyclone has already forced the closure of FMMT/Toamasina Airport, which is planning to remain shut until at least 19z on Jan 7. FMMI/Antananarivo Airport is still open and operating for now, though that may change. There is a high risk for major flooding and mudslides across the region.

MHZZ/Honduras Expect daily protests in the capital Tegucigalpa, and other urban areas, to denounce the results of the Nov 2017 presidential elections. The recent wave of protests in Nov and Dec resulted in widespread violence, looting, and roadblocks, particularly in urban areas. Government opposition have warned that civil war is possible if new elections are not held.

OIZZ/Iran Anti-government protests continue across the country, including in the capital Tehran. In some areas, police have used live ammunition to disperse crowds – according to state television, at least 22 people have been killed. Pro-government supporters are now expected to hold a series of rallies in response to the anti-government protests. Expect more gatherings and protests over the coming days, and a heightened police presence in public areas.

VNZZ/Nepal Further protests expected over the coming days in Kathmandu due to recent increases in fuel prices. On Jan 1, the state-owned oil monopoly hiked fuel prices for the third time within a month.

FMZZ/Madagascar Tropical cyclone ‘Ava’ still looks set to make landfall near FMMT/Toamasina late today, with winds gusting up to 50kts, before tracking west towards FMMI/Antananarivo tomorrow.

VVZZ/Vietnam Storm ‘Bolaven’ weakened into a tropical depression as it made landfall in Vietnam today just north of VVCR/Cam Ranh airport. Gusting winds are not expected to get any higher than around 30kts now, and the storm should dissipate over the next 48hrs.

SBFN/Fernando de Noronha The airport will be closed overnight for runway repair from 02-08z until Feb 17, then from 03-09z until Sep 9. The airport is on an island off Brazil’s northeastern coastline, and is a popular ETOPS alternate for South Atlantic crossings.

EHAM/Amsterdam KLM cabin crew based at EHAM are planning a 24hr strike on Jan 8. Should the strike go ahead, few or no KLM flights will depart from the airport that day.

UKZZ/Ukraine Biometric control systems have now been installed at all border checkpoints in the country. Foreign nationals from 70 countries that could pose a threat to Ukraine’s national security will now have to submit their fingerprints on entry. However, the list of countries does not include those in the European Union, the U.S. or other Western countries.

FMZZ/Madagascar Stormy conditions from northern Madagascar to the islands of Reunion and Mauritius over the next few days, as Tropical Cyclone ‘Ava’ sweeps in from the Indian Ocean. It’s expected to make landfall near FMMT/Toamasina late on Jan 4, with winds gusting up to 50kts, before tracking west towards FMMI/Antananarivo.

LLZZ/Israel The list of countries which have banned both direct flights and overflying traffic to/from Israel are as follows: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen.

LLBG/Tel Aviv Until Mar 22, GA aircraft are generally not permitted to land between 0330-0600z and 2201-2340z Sun-Fri. Then between Mar 23 to Oct 26, these times change to 0200-0500z, 1100-1500z and 2101-2240z.

VIDP/Delhi There have already been several cancellations and delays this week due to heavy fog. Expect intermittent fog and poor weather conditions during the ongoing winter season, which will last until Feb.

EGKK/Gatwick Slight change to the overnight runway closure times. The main runway (08R/26L) will be closed every night from 2230-0600z until Feb 10. During that time, the northern runway (08L/26R) will be open – the one that normally gets used as a taxiway. There's no ILS on this runway, so approaches must be DME/RNAV.

TNCA/Aruba The airport's only FBO has now been taken over by W Aviation, after Universal Aviation decided not to renew their 12-year lease. The new operator has announced they will invest \$1.8 million to upgrade the existing facilities at some point this year. Operating hours are still the same: 13-01z (09-21 local time). To arrange handling, email: csraruba@waviation.net

PLCH/Kiritimti Fuel is only available for scheduled flights until mid-Jan due to supply issues. Maximum uplift is 5000 litres per aircraft, so tanker in as much as possible.

EZZZ/Europe For aircraft operating in Europe above FL195, the carriage of 8.33 kHz channel spacing capable radio equipment has been mandatory since March 2007. But from Jan 4, this regulation has been extended to the lower flight levels below FL195 across various parts of European airspace. Eurocontrol have build a handy webpage that shows exactly what is required for each bit of airspace, and at what flight level: https://ext.eurocontrol.int/833/Airspace_8.33kHz_Radio.html

ORZZ/Iraq Last week the central Iraqi government extended the ban on international flights to and from ORER/Erbil and ORSU/Sulaymaniyah airports in the Kurdistan region until Feb 28. Turkey have now confirmed that traffic to/from these airports (including flights using these airports as an alternate on their FPL's) are banned from Turkish airspace

MTPP/Port-au-prince The airport will be closed for runway repair from 02-10z Mon-Fri until the end of Oct.

VGHS/Dhaka There were several cancellations and delays on Dec 28, due to heavy fog. Expect intermittent fog and poor weather conditions during the ongoing winter season, which will last until Feb.

MMTO/Toluca The runway will be closed overnight from 04-12z on the following dates in January: 13-15, 20-22, and 27-28.

VIDP/Delhi Due to Republic day celebrations, no landings or take-offs allowed daily from 0505-0645z from Jan 18-26.

KZZZ/USA The 2018 Super Bowl will be held at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis on Feb 4. The FAA estimates up to 1600 additional aircraft will be in the state for the event, and they have established a slot system to eliminate congestion and route some planes to other airports. For everything you could possibly need to know about this, and to sign up to the slot system ahead of time, head over to the FAA's special website they have created: fly2sb52.org

KSMO/Santa Monica The airport is now open again, after a 10-day closure period where work was undertaken to shorten the runway to 3500 ft. The goal is to reduce air and noise pollution by reducing overall traffic.

NFFN/Nadi The ongoing strike by some airport workers is reported to not be seriously affecting ops. Around 250 catering, baggage handling and engineering workers who were suspended due to illegal strike action are now camped outside the airport, in a peaceful protest to try to go back to work. The airport has brought in largely untrained workers to replace these staff.

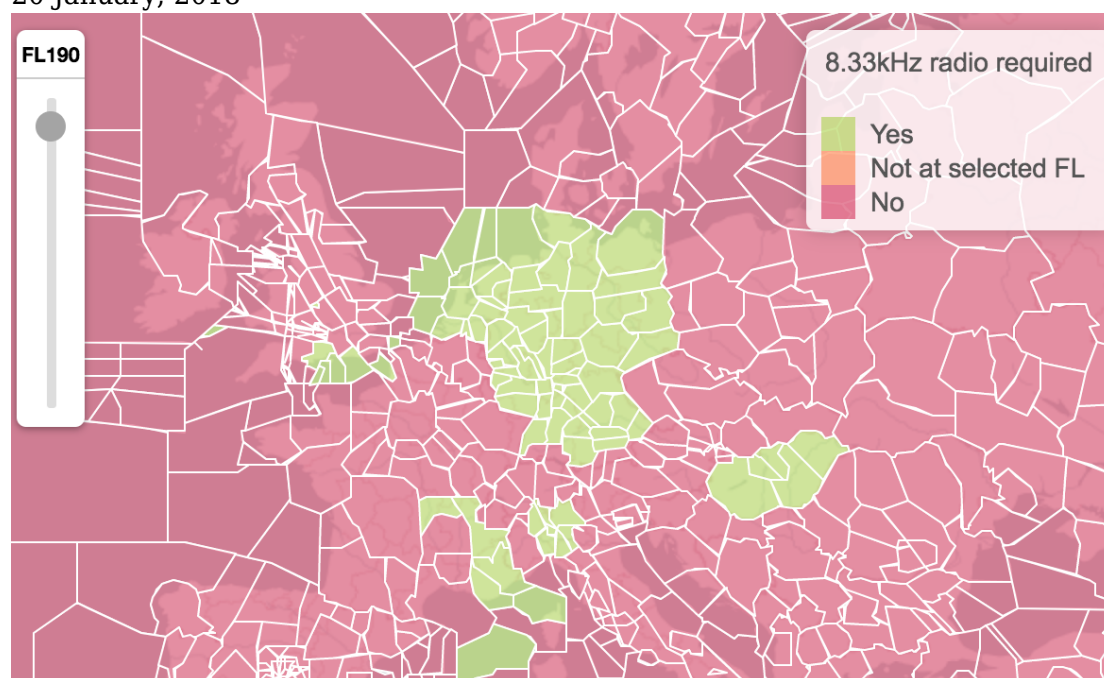
AGGH/Honiara The Solomon Islands is a bit short on fuel at the moment, as they're waiting for their next tanker to arrive. So until Jan 10, all international flights to AGGH will need to confirm their fuel requirements in advance with the fueler: tel +677 36142 or +677 22974.

WARR/Juanda The airport have extended their night-time closure of the runway for ongoing maintenance – the end date for that is now Apr 03.

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Europe now requires 8.33 VHF radios (almost) everywhere

David Mumford
20 January, 2018



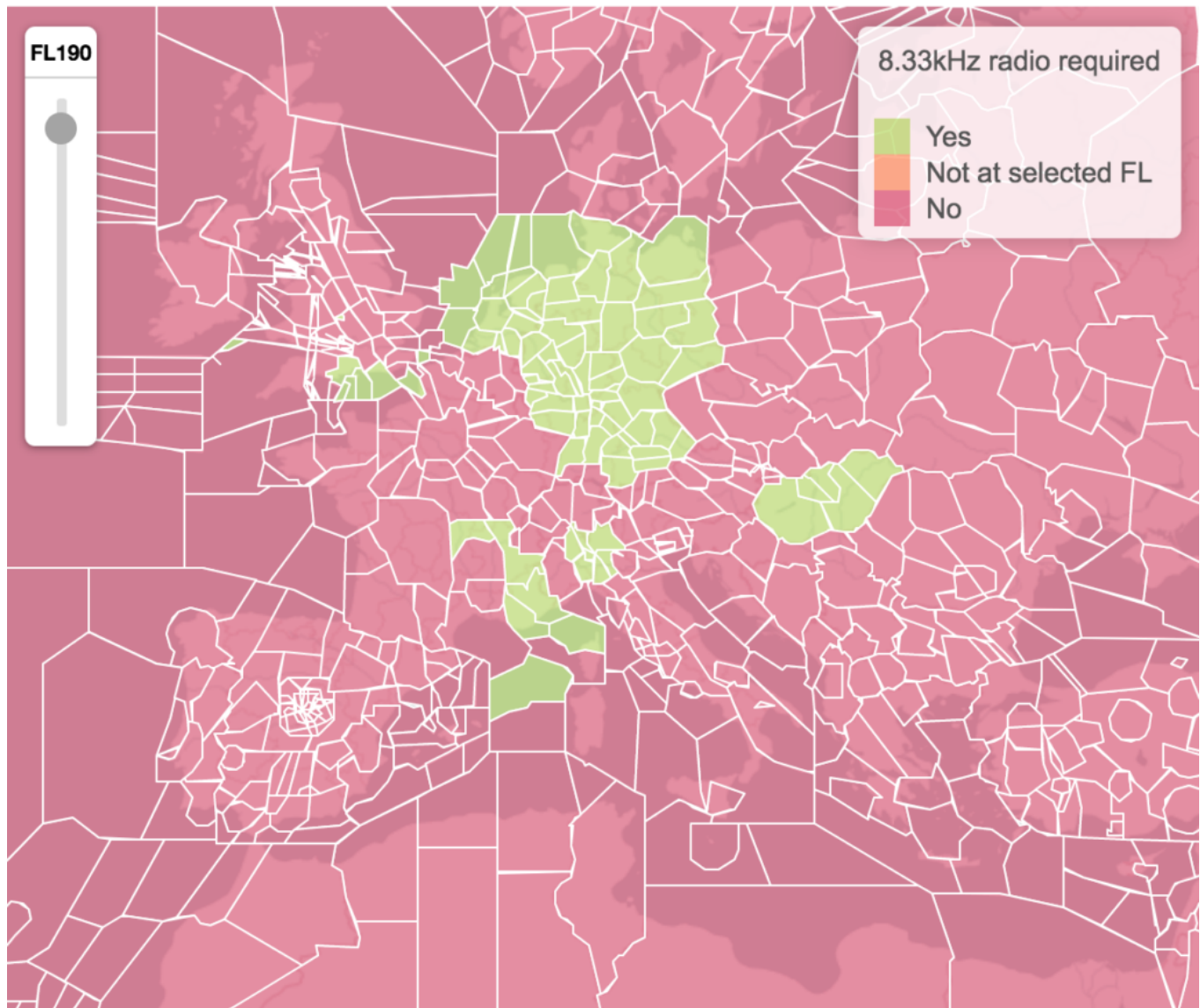
Effective January 1st, 2018, the official line is that you need an 8.33 VHF Radio to operate anywhere in Europe. If you're heading to Europe without one, expect problems.

Until now, it's really only been a requirement above FL195 – 8.33 has been around at the higher levels since 2007. However, Europe is keen to get everyone on the same page and make sure new frequencies can be used by all aircraft at the lower levels also.

However, not everywhere is actually requiring 8.33 just yet. Eurocontrol have built a handy tool that shows each the requirements for each airspace sector. Click on the image below to check it out.

8.33kHz Voice Channel Spacing Implementation

Airspace Classification below FL195



Can I get an exemption? If you're operating a ferry, delivery, or some other flight where you don't have 8.33, then you should be able to get an exemption to operate without 8.33 – but it will vary state to state. Write to the Ministry of Transport for the particular state.

Eurocontrol have published all the details on this as follows:

Above FL195, in the IFPZ, not equipped aircraft may be exempted from the carriage of the 8.33 kHz radios (refer to the national AIP of the state concerned to see if the flight is eligible) in which case the letter Y shall not be inserted in Item 10a (Equipment), but the letter Z shall be inserted in Item 10a as well as COM/EXM833 in the Item 18 (Other Information) of the filed flight plan.

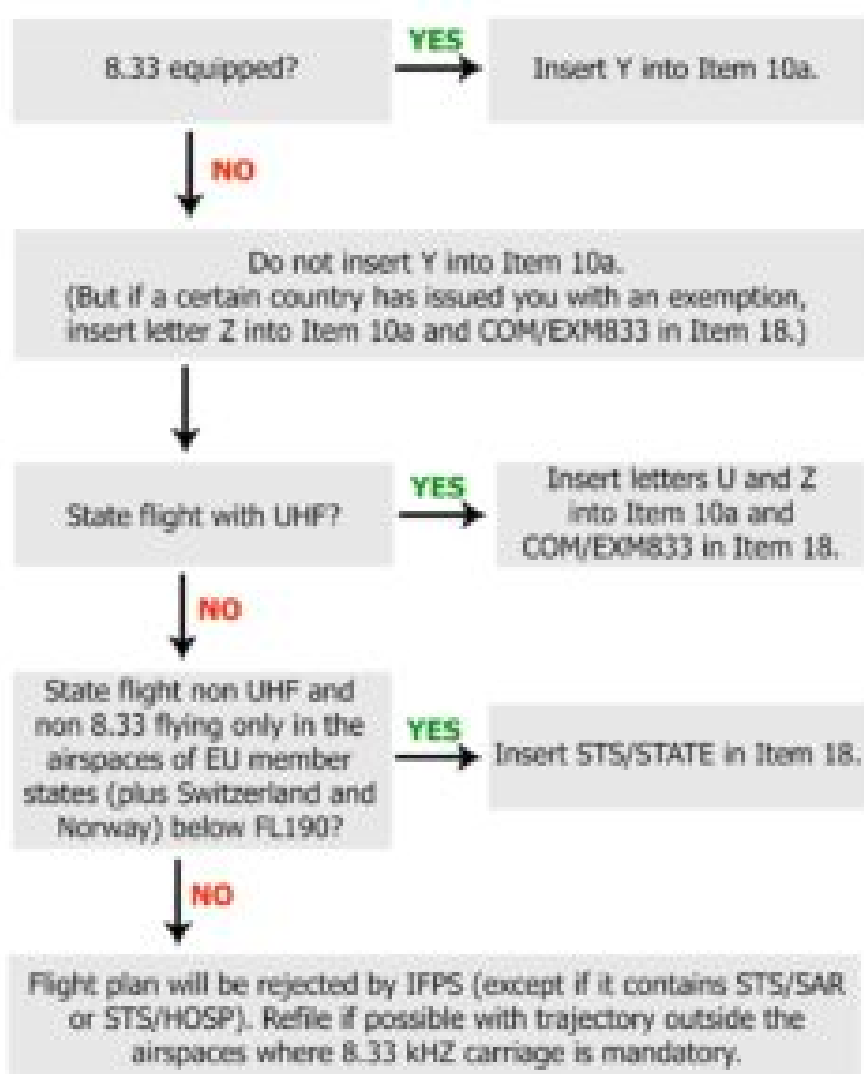
Below FL195, in the airspace of the EU member states (plus Switzerland and Norway) some airspaces may be exempted from the carriage of the 8.33 kHz radios (refer to the national AIP of the state concerned) in which case the airspace is not inserted in the area where the mandatory carriage check takes place. Such exemption will permit a non-equipped aircraft to fly but only if the flight trajectory remains exclusively in airspaces where 8.33 kHz is not

mandatory.

Below FL195, in the airspaces of the EU member states (plus Switzerland and Norway), state aircraft non-UHF and non-833 are exempted. The letters Y and U shall not be inserted in Item 10 (Equipment), but STS/STATE shall be inserted in the Item 18 (Other Information) of the filed flight plan.

In the IFPZ, State aircraft that are not equipped with 8.33 kHz capable radios but are equipped with UHF shall be permitted to fly in 8.33 kHz airspace where UHF coverage is provided or special procedures are implemented (see the national AIP of the State concerned). To indicate such, the letters U and Z shall be inserted in Item 10a (Equipment) and 'COM/EXM833' shall be inserted in Item 18 (Other Information) of the filed flight plan.

Confused? Here's a quick crib-sheet of what to do:



When you file a flight plan in Europe, it goes through the automated IFPS system, which is now quite clever at checking for 8.33 kHz radio compliance.

The IFPS system will crosscheck between the concerned airspaces crossed by the flight plan and the radio

communication equipment indicated in Item 10: (Equipment) and Item 18 (Other information) provided in the submitted message.

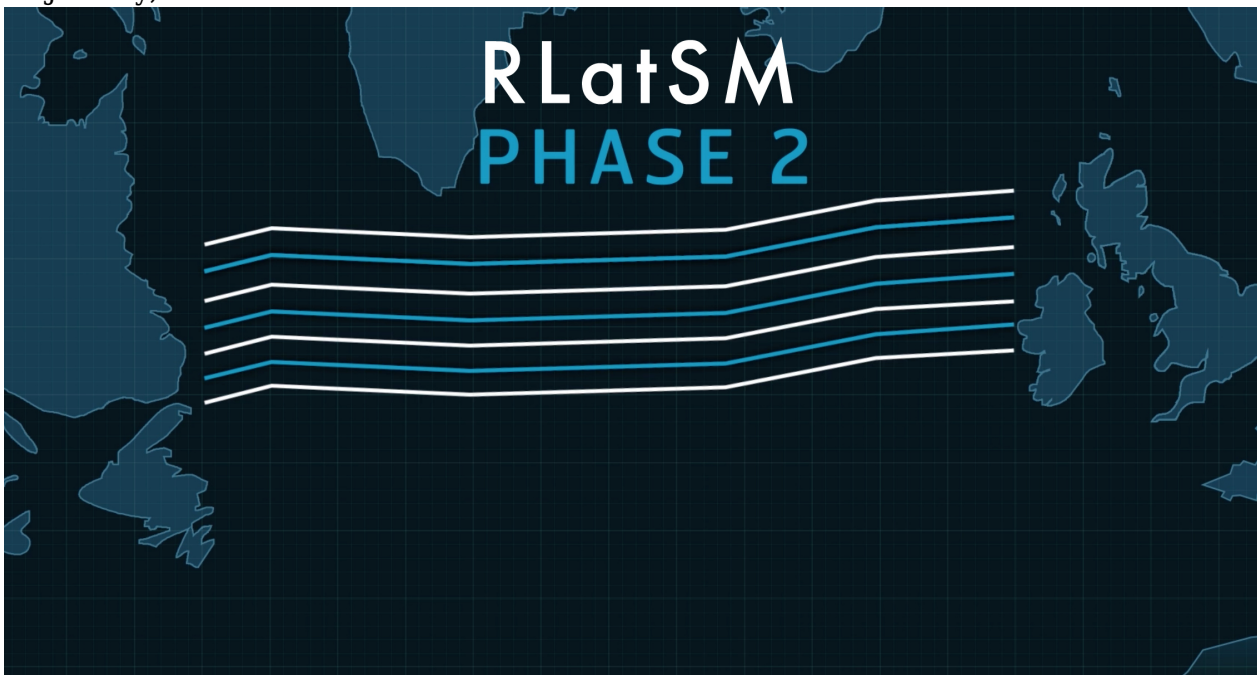
Here's what will happen, depending on what you put in your flight plan:

- If Item 10 (Equipment) of the submitted message contains Y, then that flight is considered to be compliant.
- If Item 10 (Equipment), of the submitted message does not contain Y, but contains Z and U and the exemption indicator COM/EXM833 is present in Item 18 (Other Information), and the flight is a STATE flight, then that flight shall be considered compliant.
- If Item 10 (Equipment) of the submitted message does not contain Y but contains the exemption indicator COM/EXM833 and the flight is not penetrating the 833_UHF_VHF region and is entirely within the 833_EUR_IFPS, then that flight shall be considered compliant.
- If Item 10 (Equipment) of the submitted message does not contain Y, neither U and Item 18 (Other Information) contains STS/STATE and the flight is exclusively in the airspace of the EU member states (plus Switzerland and Norway) below FL195 then that flight shall be considered compliant.

In all the other cases, the flight shall be considered not compliant and shall fail automatic processing!

More NAT half-tracks are coming

David Mumford
20 January, 2018



Update Jan 23: The current phase of the trial for RLatSM Tracks will come to an end on March 29, when PBCS standards will be introduced for the NAT tracks. More info on that [here](#).

Since Dec 2015, there have been three daily NAT tracks spaced by one-half degree between FL350-390. These are officially called 'RLatSM Tracks' (Reduced lateral separation minima), but we all just prefer to call them 'Half-Tracks'.

Separating flights by one-half degree of latitude rather than the standard one degree means that aircraft can be separated laterally by 25nm, which helps improve the efficiency of North Atlantic operations.

In Jan 2018 the Half-Tracks will be expanded from the three that now run each day, first by one additional track and then (maybe) to all NAT Tracks between FL350-390 inclusive. Jan 4 is the earliest day that this might happen, but because they will be decided tactically, it will most likely be the first busy day after Jan 4.

If you want to operate on the RLatSM tracks, you're going to need CPDLC, ADS-C, and RNP4; along with the other standard pre-requisites for operating in the NAT HLA between FL350-390: an HLA approval, TCAS 7.1, RVSM approval, two LRNS, and a working HF radio. To figure out where you are welcome on the NAT, depending on what equipment and training you have, check out our quick and dirty guide [here](#).

One thing to be cautious of when using the half-degree tracks – most aircraft FMC's truncate lat/long waypoints to a maximum of 7 characters, so it will often show up as the same waypoint whether you're operating along whole or half degree waypoints. So when operating on the half-tracks, just remember to double-check the full 13-character representations of the lat/long waypoints when you enter them into the FMC.

For more details about the new RLatSM procedures, have a read of the UK AIC 087/2017 [here](#).

21DEC: A330 shot at, Saudi missile

Jamie Rose McMillen
20 January, 2018

International Ops Bulletin



A330 hit by gunfire at Tripoli



Second missile reaches Riyadh

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LLER/Ramon Israel's second international airport is set to open in April 2018, in the city of Eilat. The new airport is located 8nm north of the city centre, and will have an 11,800ft runway. The airport is designed to replace the two airports that currently service the city: LLET/Eilat – the small airport in the city that currently serves domestic flights from Tel Aviv and Haifa; and LLOV/Ovda – the military airfield 30nm away that is used for some international flights.**LFSB/Basel** Both runways will be closed overnight from 23-04z until Dec 22.

MHZZ/Honduras Expect further demonstrations this week as the government opposition candidate has called for protests from Dec 18 against alleged election fraud. Demonstrations are expected in the capital Tegucigalpa, and other cities.

VHHH/Hong Kong The runway resurfacing project continues. Every night between 1730-2345z, one of the airport's two runways will be closed, meaning it is even harder than usual to get a slot during these times. The airport authority doesn't expect their runway resurfacing project to be finished until April 2019.

ZKZZ/North Korea Singapore Airlines has announced it has now changed the flight path of its daily WSSS/Singapore to KLAS/Los Angeles service to avoid the Sea of Japan where North Korea conducts missile testing – they will now fly to the west of Japan instead.

GOBD/Dakar A strike by ATC workers at the airport just days after the newly built airport opened on Dec 7, has now been suspended, following negotiations with the government. The union is demanding subsidised transport for employees to get the airport, which is located 45km away from the city centre. They also complain they haven't been properly trained on all the new equipment yet. They say they may strike again if their terms are not met.

LDDU/Dubrovnik Work has commenced on overhauling the airport's runway. Until the end of March, the runway will be shortened from 3300m to 2100m, there will be no ILS on RWY12, and the opening hours will be 05-21z.

DNMM/Lagos Security concerns at Lagos Airport, as an aircraft was reportedly robbed whilst taxiing to the hangar!.The Vistajet aircraft had just landed at the airport on Dec 12 and was attacked on the RWY 18R by unknown bandits when taxiing to the hangar of Evergreen Apple Nigeria (EAN). The pilot reported that the rear door was opened whilst taxiing, and a bag belonging to one of the cabin crew was missing.

KATL/Atlanta Power outage all day on Dec 17 disrupted air travel across the country and led to cancellations of more than 1000 flights. The power has now been restored, but expect more delays and cancellations over the next few days as airlines work to clear the backlog.

LEJR/Jerez No flights are allowed (aside from scheduled) between 1700-2130 daily, Dec 27-30, and again on Jan 02-03.

OIZZ/Iran Unhealthy levels of air pollution in Tehran and surrounding areas. Expected to last until at least Dec 23. Authorities have reinforced traffic restrictions and have ordered some factories to close. Schools have also been temporarily shut and officials have advised people in high-risk groups to stay indoors.

HLZZ/Libya is once again pumping out Notams advertising the country's airports as being "available H24 for international flights and en-route diversions". However, our advice hasn't changed: Libya is still a desperately unstable country – don't overfly or enter their airspace, and don't land at any Libyan airports.

FZZZ/Democratic Republic of Congo A series of pro- and anti-government rallies are scheduled to take place nationwide from Dec 19 to Jan 2. The security situation remains volatile across the country: frequent clashes between the Congolese Army and militia groups in the South; continued reports of kidnappings, including of staff from international NGOs; frequent protests which have resulted in an increased military and police presence in Kinshasa and other major cities. Avoid.

SVZZ/Venezuela A power cut hit parts of the Venezuelan capital Caracas and surrounding areas for around five hours on Dec 18. This also affected SVM/Caracas Airport, where some flights were grounded. Venezuela has suffered frequent power cuts in recent years, following lack of investment in the electricity sector since its nationalization in 2007.

SAZZ/Argentina A controversial pension reform bill has sparked violent protests across the country. Argentina's largest union also called a 24hr strike that has grounded hundreds of flights. LATAM expects its flight schedule will slowly return to normal from Dec 20 onwards.

NFZZ/Fiji Ongoing strike by some airport ground staff could cause some travel disruption. Fiji Airways have already warned they will have limited catering onboard flights departing from NFFN/Nadi during the strike.

DNZZ/Nigeria Seasonal dust haze is forecast across the country over the next few weeks. Nav aids at Nigeria's airports are notoriously poor – so make sure you check the landing minimums before launching.

HEZZ/Egypt If you're flying to Egypt, or even just overflying the country, the authorities now want you to list in the RMK section of your flight plan BOTH the permit number and the name of the agent who got you the permit.

PAZZ/Alaska If you're flying anywhere in either the Anchorage Arctic FIR or Oceanic/Continental FIR, make sure you file your flight plan to both PAZAZQZX and PAZNZQZX. If you're going over the water, remember to copy the HF Radio Stations too: use CYQXYFYX for flights plans entering the Arctic FIR, and KSFOXAAX for those entering the Oceanic FIR.

WMZZ/Malaysia Tropical Storm 'Kai-Tak' continues to move westward towards the east coast of Malaysia, and is expected to make landfall some time Dec 22-23. Only the coastal airports are likely to be affected (WMKC/Kota Bharu, WMKN/Kuala Terengganu, WMKD/Kuantan), as the storm is expected to have weakened to gusting winds of around 30kts by that point.

HEAR/El Arish Militants fired artillery at the airport on Dec 19, killing one army officer and wounding two others. The attack reiterates the volatile security situation in the Sinai Peninsula, which has been a target of various attacks by Islamic State (IS) militants since 2013. The risk of terrorism in the region has increased recently, as IS's major territorial losses in Iraq and Syria have caused many of its militants to come over the border to Egypt. There are still overflight warnings in place for the entire Sinai Peninsula below FL260, and Germany even make a point of warning against making any landings at the airports in the region: HEAR/El Arish, HEGR/El Gora, HETB/Taba, HESC/St. Catherine, HESH/Sharm-el-Sheikh.

EHZZ/Netherlands Some public transport workers have threatened a 24hr nationwide strike on Jan 4.

ZZZZ/Worldwide EASA have updated their advice about the carriage of Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs), as Recent testing by the FAA has shown that most cargo compartments have only poor chances of containing fires caused by PEDs in checked baggage. Passengers should carry PEDs with them in the cabin wherever possible.

VECC/Calcutta Expect delays over the next few days as heavy fog is forecast to continue. They're currently using the secondary runway at night, as maintenance continues on the primary runway to increase it from CAT II ILS to CAT III-B. That's not expected to be completed until Jan 4. The secondary runway only has a CAT I system with a visibility limit of 550m.

LSGG/Geneva Ski season has officially started, which means you can't plan Geneva as an FPL alternate at any point on weekends, until Apr 15.

SVZZ/Venezuela President Maduro has threatened to close the border with Colombian cities of Cúcuta and Maicao, and cut ties with the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao. Venezuela is facing an ongoing political and economic crisis. Shortages of many basic goods have been reported across the country. Thousands of Venezuelans regularly cross the border into Colombia legally purchase goods not available in their country.

KZZZ/USA From Jan 2, the FAA will impose a filter for aircraft found to be broadcasting inaccurate ADS-B info. They will be blocked from transmitting ADS-B info to ATC, and will have to receive ATC services using secondary radar instead.

LEZZ/Spain Strikes planned over the festive period at LEBL/Barcelona and LEMD/Madrid airports have now all been called-off. At LEBL/Barcelona, around 2000 ground staff, check-in and cabin crew for the IAG group, which includes Vueling, Iberia and British Airways, have cancelled their strike originally planned for Dec 21-24. And at LEMD/Madrid, security staff have cancelled their strike originally planned for Dec 22 - Jan 8.

HEZZ/Egypt The new Sphinx International Airport is due to start operating in Jan. The airport has a 3650 metre runway, and is adjacent to and shares some infrastructure with HECW/Cairo West Air Base, around 20nm from Cairo city.

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Missile attack on OERK/Riyadh was “warning shot”, other airports now targets

Declan Selleck
20 January, 2018



Update: Yemen-based Houthi forces fired another missile into Saudi Arabia on Dec 19. Saudi Arabia claim they intercepted it south of the capital Riyadh, with no damage or casualties reported, though a loud explosion was heard throughout the capital. The Houthi forces claim they were targeting a palace in southern Riyadh. This follows the previous Houthi missile attack on OERK/Riyadh Airport on Nov 4th, when they said: “the missile that targeted King Khalid airport was a warning shot and we warn all companies to prevent landing of their planes in the UAE and Saudi Arabia airports”. A Yemeni Army spokesman has said that the November 4 missile attack on OERK was a “warning shot”.

That missile was launched from rebel territory in Yemen, specifically targeting OERK/Riyadh King Khalid airport. Although most mainstream media carried the “missile was intercepted” story, we’re not sure that this is the case – even if it was, parts of it did fall on airport property and there was a visible explosion.

The spokesman said “**the missile that targeted King Khalid airport was a warning shot** and we warn all companies to prevent landing of their planes in the UAE and Saudi Arabia airports”.

Given that the Yemeni rebels have demonstrated their capability of reaching their target, there is some credibility to the threat.

Operators should consider this in operations to OE and OM** airports.**

At present, there is no indication of increased threat to overflight of Saudi or UAE airspace.

On Monday, the Saudi Arabia coalition closed all air, sea and land borders with Yemen after the missile strike on Riyadh on Nov 4, effectively closing all airports in Yemen. Yemenia airlines said that the coalition, which controls Yemen’s airspace, had declined it permission to fly out of Aden and Seiyun, the only two remaining functioning airports. OYSN/Sanaa has been closed since August 2016.

Also, all UN humanitarian flights to Yemen, one of the few international operators, have been cancelled after flights were no longer given clearance from the Saudi-led coalition to land in the country.

SCATANA remains active in the southwestern portion of the Jeddah FIR, no new Notams have been issued in relation to the last few days.

For further:

- Monitor Saudi Arabia page on SafeAirspace

- Monitor OPSGROUP member updates
- Talk to us at team@fsbureau.org

14DEC: Iraq overflights, Afghanistan/Pakistan border changes

Jamie Rose McMillen
20 January, 2018

International Ops Bulletin



FAA removes Iraq overflight restriction



Afghanistan/Pakistan border waypoint name changes

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LSGG/Geneva Due to continued slot misuse, the airport have decided to reduce the period for PPR reservations from 21 days to 5 days. You can still view the available capacity up to 21 days in advance, but you can only apply within a period of 5 days before your flight. But watch out! In 2018 they're going to start making operators file an FPL prior to applying for PPR! The PPR and FPL will then be matched and approved and any PPR that does not have a valid FPL will be cancelled.

LGAV/Athens Transport strikes on Dec 14 mean there will be no train service to the airport all day.

HEZZ/Egypt Russia and Egypt are expected to agree a new security agreement this week, which would mean flights between the two countries could resume as early as Feb 2018. Russia stopped all civilian flights to Egypt in Oct 2015 following a suspected terrorist attack on a Russian Metrojet flight leaving the tourist resort of Sharm el-Sheikh which killed all 224 people on board.

LFPO/Paris Only Baggage handlers are planning to strike each day from 10-12z & 16-18z from Dec 22 to Jan 5.

EBZZ/Belgium ATC at Eurocontrol's Maastricht Upper Area Control Centre (MUAC) have started operating free route airspace over Belgium, north-west Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands above FL245. For now, it will only be available overnight between 22-04z, but they intend to make free route airspace available at all times by Spring 2020.

KZZZ/USA The FAA has issued a new safety warning about high-risk runway incursions and potential collisions. Read it here:
https://www.faa.gov/other_visit/aviation_industry/airline_operators/airline_safety/safo/all_safos/media/2017/SAFO17012.pdf

LIZZ/Italy Travel disruption expected on Dec 15. ATC are planning a strike between 12-16z, although this should only affect the smaller airports. Overflying traffic should not be affected, and no big impact is expected for the major international airports – at worst just some flow rates imposed. Strikes also planned by some Ryanair and Vueling crew for few hours during the day, and by most Alitalia employees for the entire day.

RPZZ/Philippines Tropical Cyclone 'Kai-Tak' is forming off the east coast of the central Philippines. There are no international airports in the region. The storm is expected to weaken as it moves west-northwest toward Eastern Samar province over the next few days. It will then pass approximately 150nm to the south of RPLL/Manilla on Dec 18, by which time it should have died down to gusting winds of around 35kts.

OMZZ/UAE Potential for delays at airports across the country from Dec 15-18 as strong winds, dust clouds, and heavy rainfall are expected.

EGPH/Edinburgh The airport will be closed for runway repair from 0310-0525z Dec 18-23.

FEZZ/Central African Republic The security situation in the country is worsening. Widespread violence as armed groups are fighting across 80% of the country, and the UN now says almost half the population is dependent on aid. FEFB/Bangui Airport now has a curfew in place: no ops between 22-05z until Mar 14.

LLBG/Tel Aviv The national labor union are planning to stage a 4hr strike on Dec 17 from 06-10z. If the strike goes ahead, this would effectively completely shut down the airport to all traffic between these hours.

LEBL/Barcelona Strike planned for Dec 21-24 by around 2000 ground staff, check-in and cabin crew for the IAG group, which includes Vueling, Iberia and British Airways. There will be limited service during three periods on each of the four days.

RPZZ/Philippines Martial law will remain in place over the island of Mindanao until the end of 2018. Expect checkpoints, vehicle searches, short-notice curfews and restrictions on movement, particularly in urban areas. Flight operations to airports in the region remain normal, with no restrictions imposed on air travel by the authorities.

ZZZZ/Worldwide Rockwell Collins has fixed the software problem which led to more than 10,000 instrument approaches being removed from the database last month. They expect to release the updated database to subscribers on Dec 14. However, they are warning operators not to use the software for temperature compensation for low temperature approaches – this must be done manually.

VICG/Chandigarh Airport will be completely closed from Feb 12-26, to allow for work to be completed extending the runway from 9000ft to 10200ft.

MHZZ/Honduras Spontaneous demonstrations and roadblocks are likely to continue in the coming days, following the recent disputed presidential election. The last remaining curfews across the country ended on Dec 10. Operations at international airports have returned to normal.

OPZZ/Pakistan Reports of critically low jet fuel supplies at all airports in Pakistan, as several refineries have stopped producing, due to a recent government directive. There's now no fuel available for ad-hoc flights at OPLA/Lahore and OPRN/Islamabad until further notice. There are currently no such restrictions at OPKC/Karachi, though that may change.

ORZZ/Iraq As expected, the FAA have now issued Notam KICZ A0025/17 which lifts the full ban on the Baghdad FIR and allows U.S. operators to overfly the country at or above FL260.

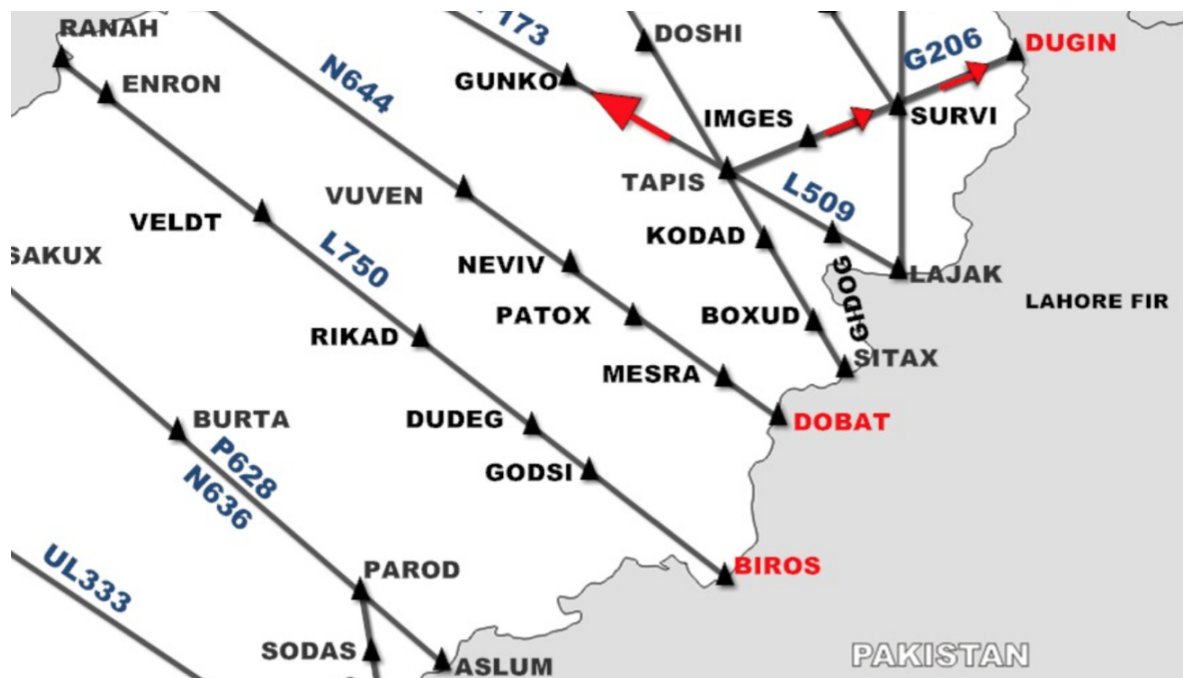
KLAX/Los Angeles Dry conditions and Santa Ana winds have caused multiple fires in the Los Angeles area. A state of emergency has been declared for Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Paula, San Bernardino, and surrounding cities. However, most airlines have reported that they do not expect the fires will affect flights in and out of Los Angeles International Airport. KLAX/Los Angeles International, KBUR/Burbank and KLGB/Long Beach are all still open and operating as normal, although travel times to and from the airport are longer than usual due to road closures.

EHAM/Amsterdam The transport ministry are considering forcing all airlines with flights to "leisure destinations" to move those flights to EHLE/Lelystad when it opens to charter flights in two years time. The Schiphol ban would apply to destinations which are not capital cities and which lie between 700 and 4,000 kilometres from Amsterdam – that would include all Greek, Portuguese and Croatian destinations apart from Athens, Lisbon and Zagreb as well as many cities in Turkey, Spain and Morocco.

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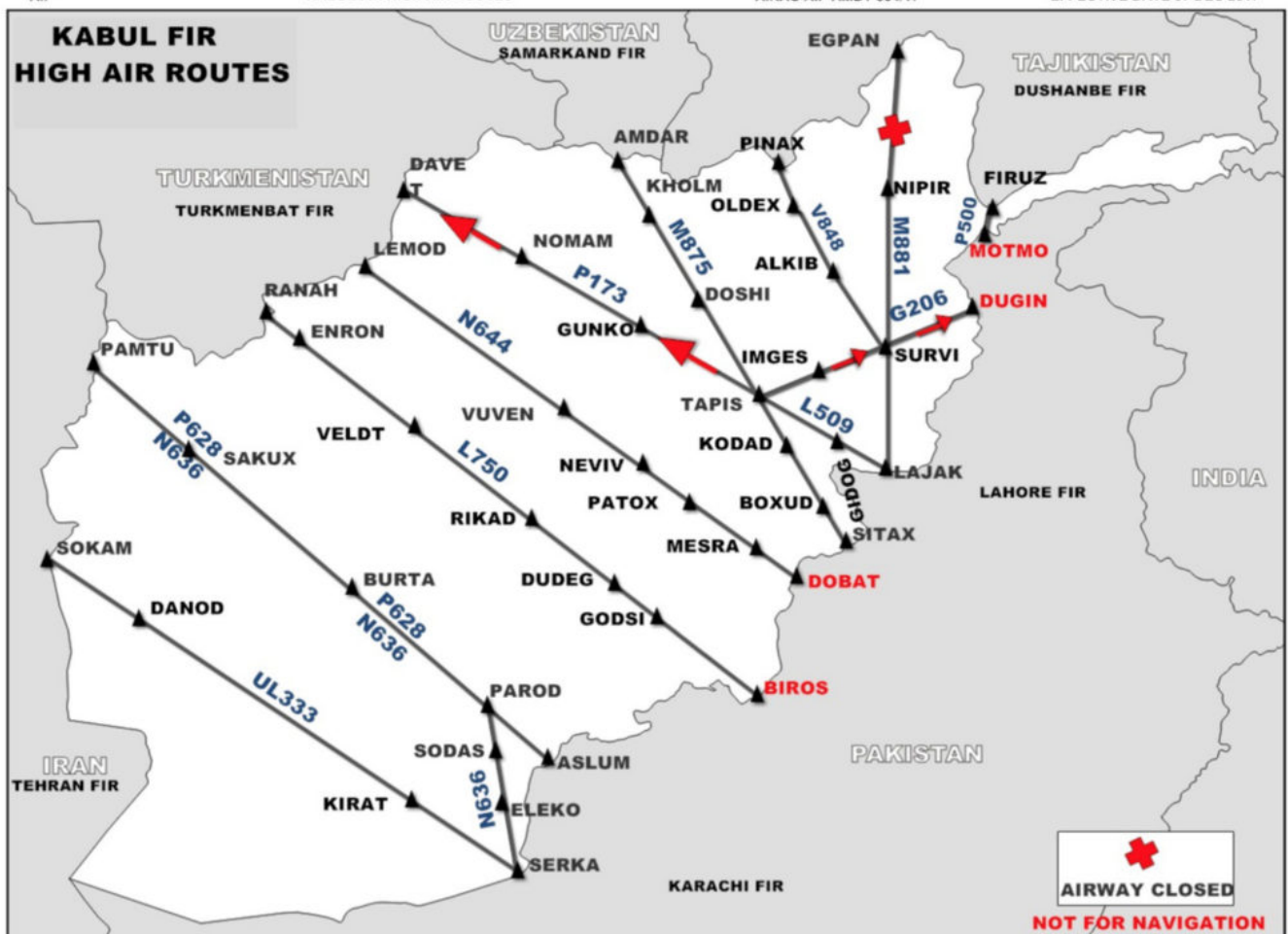
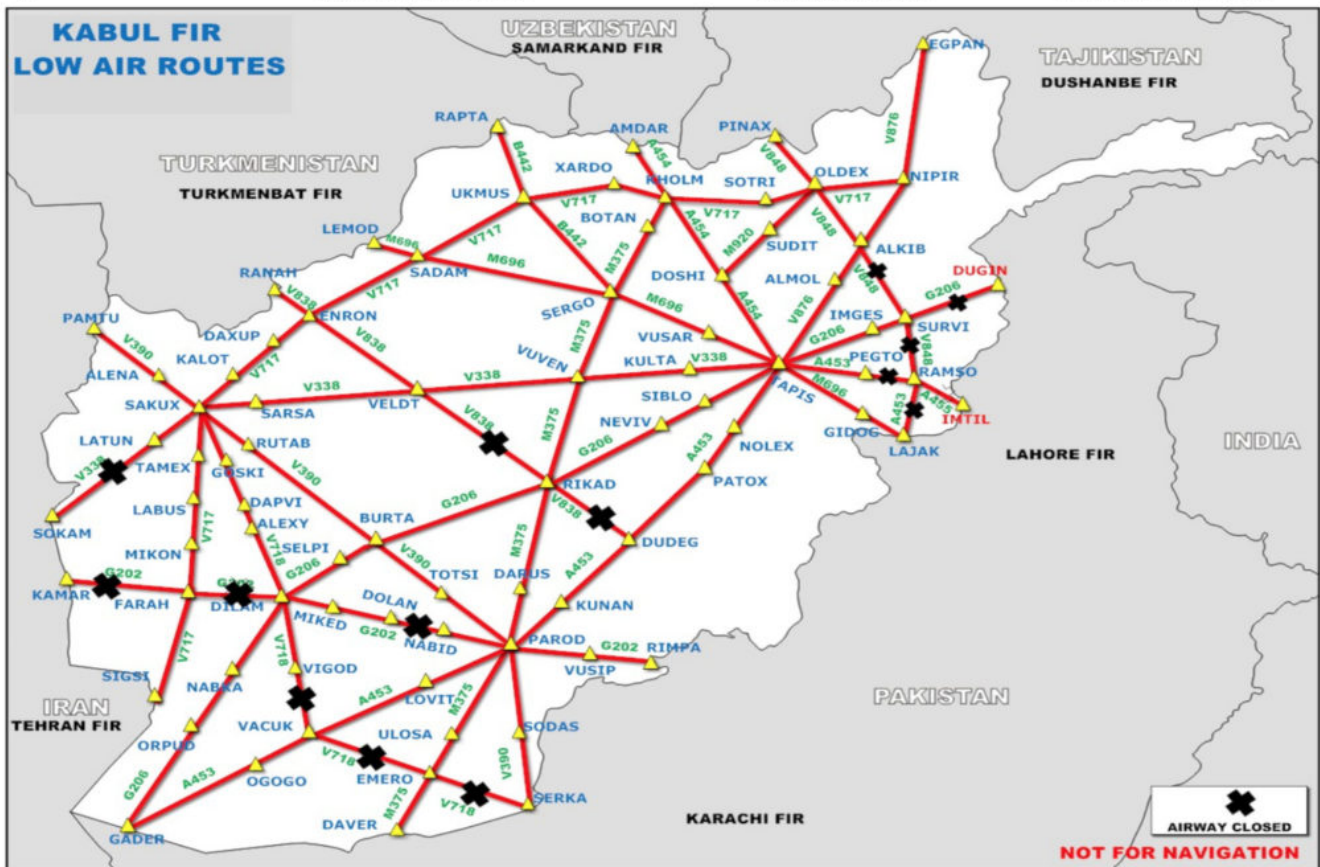
Afghan/Pakistan border waypoint name changes

David Mumford
20 January, 2018



Afghanistan has changed a bunch of waypoint names on its border with Pakistan today. If you're flying that way, you'll need to know these for when you submit your Pakistan permit - they only approve permits for specific entry/exit points.

Old Waypoint name	New Waypoint name	Connecting Airway
KOTAL	IMTIL	A455(LOWER)
SABAR	DUGIN	G206 (LOWER & UPPER)
PADDY	MOTMO	P500 (UPPER)
ROSIE	BIROS	L750 (UPPER)
PAVLO	DOBAT	N644 (UPPER)



For more details, check out the full AIP AIRAC AMDT [here](#).

Overflight advice for Afghanistan averages out at a minimum FL250, though as with other mountainous countries we think FL320 is a better starting point. For Pakistan, the consensus among foreign authorities is to cross the OPLR/Lahore and OPKR/Karachi FIR's at higher flight levels. For full details check out safeairspace.net

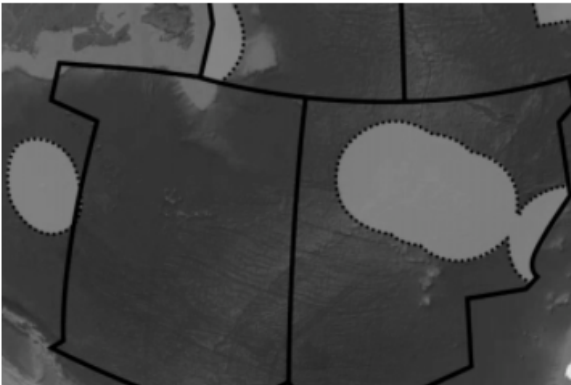
If you want to know exactly how to get your landing or overflight permits, check out our Permit Book, which tells you how to get a permit for each and every country in the world!

07DEC: NAT changes today, Honduras airports curfew

Jamie Rose McMillen

20 January, 2018

International Ops Bulletin



North Atlantic changes today



Honduras Ops affected by crisis

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SOCA/Cayenne Due to the ongoing ATC strike, the airport will be limited between 01-11z daily, until further notice. This means you can't file as an alternate, and if you want to arrive or depart during these times, you'll need to call ATC for PPR in advance at +594 35 92 72, or +594 39 93 02.

VTZZ/Thailand Most of southern Thailand has been declared a disaster area after flash floods in the region killed 15 people in the past two weeks. Heavy monsoon rains since late November have affected more than 1.5 million people across nine southern provinces, with some areas reporting floodwater as high as two metres. The only airport currently affected is VTSF/Nakhon Si Thammarat, which will be closed until at least Dec 8 due to flooding. However, more rain is forecast in the region through to next week.

DISP/San Pedro Local sources have confirmed that the airport remains closed as of Dec 6, as runway repair work which was supposed to be completed by the end of Nov is still ongoing. No news yet when the airport will re-open.

FQZZ/Mozambique Make sure your travel visa is in order, and expect strengthened border control measures over the festive period, including at the country's main airport FQMA/Maputo. Mozambique provides an easy entry point for illegal immigrants to neighbouring South Africa. Since the end of November, at least 95 foreign nationals have been denied entry to Mozambique on the grounds of alleged ambiguity over the purpose of visits, visa-related irregularities and other discrepancies.

VIDP/Delhi From Dec 15 to Feb 15, you can't use VIDP as an alternate if visibility at the airport is less than 550 metres. This is the time of year when the city is regularly blanketed in smog, so check the latest METAR before filing.

UZZZ/Russia From 29 Mar 2018, Russia are introducing RNAV routes in their oceanic airspace above FL265. RNAV 10 out in the oceanic parts of Murmansk and Magadan FIRs (i.e. the area covering the entire northern coastline stretching from Bodo to Anchorage), but RNAV 5 over landmass.

EGMC/London Airport fire workers are set to go on strike between Dec 22 and Jan 6. If the strike goes ahead, this would effectively mean the airport would not be able to operate between these dates.

VNZZ/Nepal Election on Dec 7. Election-related violence, particularly small bombings, has intensified in recent days. Authorities have already sealed a number of land borders with India and China. Expect heightened security measures, checkpoints, patrols and spot-checks.

EGZZ/UK Storm Caroline will bring winds of up to 90mph to northern parts of Scotland on Dec 7, as well as snow and ice to large parts of the UK on Dec 8-9. Authorities have warned that the storm could bring storm surge and potential flooding to coastal areas. Airport ops are expected to be significantly affected only at airports in Northern Scotland.

HTZZ/Tanzania has published a new rule effective December 6th, requiring all travelers to have a Yellow Fever cert, regardless of departure country. Previously, only travelers arriving from affected areas were required to have this.

WAZZ/Indonesia Although Mount Agung has now stopped emitting ash, another large eruption is still likely. The local monitoring agency are registering powerful and continuous tremors, and authorities have ordered locals and journalists within 10km of the volcano to evacuate. All airports in the region have now re-opened and are operating as normal – but check the Notams for some nighttime closures for runway repair at WADD/Bali and WARR/Juanda throughout December.

EGKK/Gatwick The main runway (08R/26L) will be closed every night from 2300-0530z until Dec 20, then again from 2330-0600z Jan 2-31. During that time, the northern runway (08L/26R) will be open – the one that normally gets used as a taxiway! There's no ILS on this runway, so approaches must be DME or RNAV.

KZZZ/USA The US Supreme Court has allowed President Trump's revised travel ban to go into effect – banning nationals of Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen and North Korea (plus certain government officials from Venezuela) from entering the US. Judges have said the ban can take full effect straight away, even though legal challenges continue in the lower courts. The U.S. will now refuse entry visas to prospective travellers from these countries, regardless of whether they have "bona fide" links inside the

U.S. such as business links or close family relationships.

LEMD/Madrid Sporadic strikes planned by security staff at Madrid airport from Dec 22 to Jan 8. Expect longer queues to get through departures if the strike goes ahead.

EHAM/Amsterdam KLM cabin crew strike planned all day on Jan 8, means potentially no KLM flights will depart from the airport that day.

UZZR/Russia is expanding its free electronic visa program to all of its Far East international airports by the end of the year. The system allows citizens of the following 18 countries to obtain a free visa online for stays of up to 8 days: Brunei, India, China, North Korea, Mexico, Singapore, Japan, Algeria, Bahrain, Iran, Qatar, Kuwait, Morocco, UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Turkey.

URRP/Platov The new airport in Rostov will officially open on Dec 7, replacing the old airport, URRV/Rostov. By 08z on Dec 7, all airlines will switch to the new airport. The old airfield will officially close to all traffic from March 1, 2018.

UHPP/Petropavlosk Mt Shiveluch in the far-east of Russia has erupted again, ash cloud currently up to FL330, moving south-east out over the Pacific Ocean at 20 knots.

GOBD/Dakar New international airport set to open at Dakar, called GOBD/Blaise Diagne International Airport. From 1430z on Dec 7 onwards, all scheduled operations will switch to there from the current airport – GOOY/Dakar. However, possible travel disruption on Dec 7 itself, as there's a protest by local residents set to take place on the road to the new airport on the opening day.

LATI/Tirana Severe flooding across the country, including the capital, Tirana. Over 120,000 households are without power, and the army has now been sent in to evacuate people. Flights to and from the airport were temporarily suspended over the weekend.

ZKZZ/North Korea Cathay Pacific crew onboard a flight from San Francisco to Hong Kong on Nov 29 witnessed the re-entry of North Korea's latest missile near their position. They said they saw it "blow up and fall apart near our current location", highlighting again the danger posed to aircraft in this region from debris fields of missile fragments.

LGTS/Thessaloniki Chaos at the airport the moment, as both of the main runways are closed, and the parallel taxiway "F" of RWY 10/28 has established as the only functioning runway – they've called it RWY 10L/28R. There's currently no radio control facility, and there's a whole bunch of obstacles which are affecting the take-off flight path area and the visibility of the runway lights (check the Notams for those). Easyjet have already cancelled flights to the airport, as it no longer meets their safety standards. If you're planning on operating there any time soon, you'll want to read their AIP SUP 04/17 for full details, plus all the charts you need. The runway repair work is not expected to be finished until around March next year.

WARR/Juanda Airport will be closed for runway repair from 16-22z daily until Jan 06.

WADD/Denpasar Bali's airport will be closed for runway repair from 18-23z daily (except Saturdays) until Dec 31.

OYSN/Sanaa Worsening fighting over the past few days is now moving toward the airport. Last week, the Saudi-led coalition said they would resume issuing clearances for humanitarian aircraft to land at the airport, but so far they have not done so, and the UN have been unable to evacuate staff from the city.

FSZZ/Seychelles has lifted the travel restrictions it imposed last month against flights to/from Madagascar, following the plague outbreak there. No more 7 day quarantine for incoming passengers any more. Air Seychelles are set to resume flights to Madagascar on Jan 12.

DNZZ/Nigeria Long lines at filling stations reported across the country as people are panic buying fuel.

Fuel shortages and the subsequent hike in prices seems to happen around this time every year in Nigeria. Shortage of Jet A1 fuel is a common problem here, and often leads to grounding of flights. International operators are being advised to tanker wherever possible, particularly over the coming festive period.

LIZZ/Italy Alitalia services likely to be disrupted on Dec 15, as some staff will be on strike all day. And expect some delays on the trains across the country on Dec 17, when some staff are planning an eight-hour strike from 9-17 local time.

KPHX/Phoenix Expect delays from Jan 8 - Feb 21, as RWY 8/26 will be closed for repair. The airport will be operating with lowered arrival and departure rates during this time. The most likely periods for delays will be during IMC conditions: 07-10 and 17-20 local time (14z-17z and 00-03z).

CYYZ/Toronto Since More reports of laser strikes on arriving aircraft. Since mid-November, there have been 23 laser strikes on commercial jets in the Toronto area.

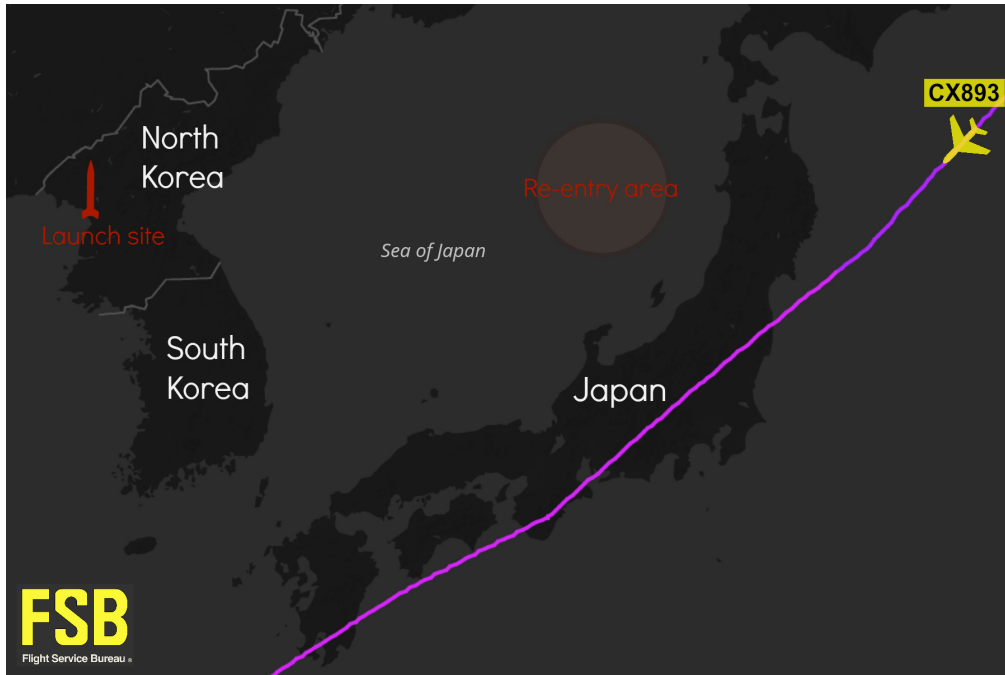
KBUR/Burbank is close to the California wildfires affecting the region at present, but airport ops are normal. Transport to/from is affected, some trains/buses cancelled as not able to operate. No delays or restrictions at the airport itself. That said, there is smoke in the METAR, so it may change.

KZZZ/Worldwide The latest Unsafe Airspace Summary is available to members [here](#), published 29NOV - edition JULIETT. Primary changes Iraq, North Korea, Saudi Arabia.

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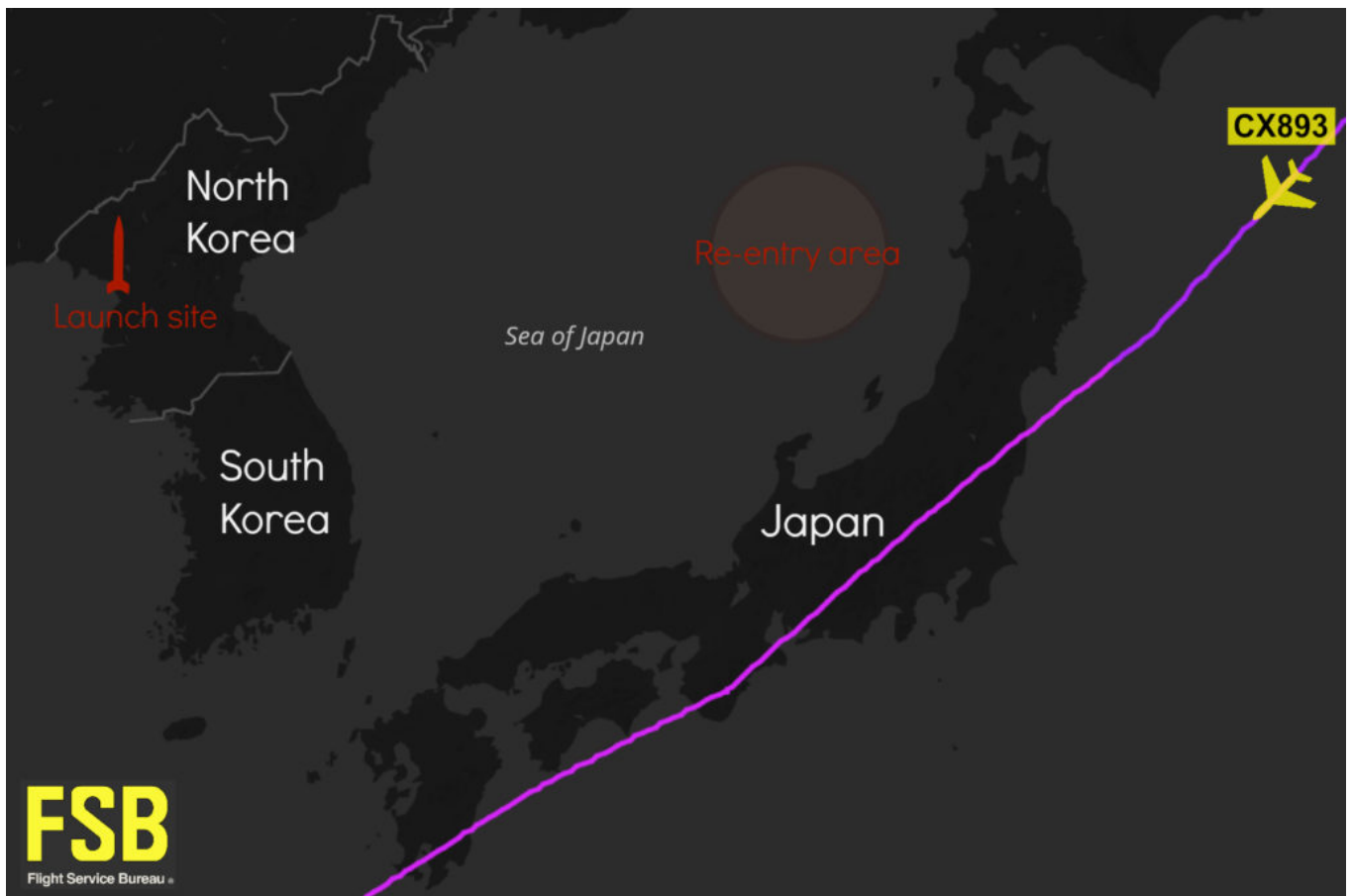
Cathay crew witness missile re-entry from North Korea

David Mumford
20 January, 2018



Crew onboard a Cathay Pacific flight witnessed the re-entry of North Korea's latest missile near their position late last week. The CX893 service from San Francisco to Hong Kong on Nov 29 was over Japan at the time when North Korea launched its missile.

The crew reported: **"Be advised, we witnessed the DPRK missile blow up and fall apart near our current location."**



Here's Cathay Pacific's full statement:

"On 29 November, the flight crew of CX893 reported a sighting of what is

suspected to be the re-entry of the recent DPRK test missile. Though the flight was far from the event location, the crew advised Japan ATC according to procedures. Operation remained normal and was not affected. We have been in contact with relevant authorities and industry bodies as well as with other carriers. At the moment, no one is changing any routes or operating parameters. We remain alert and review the situation as it evolves."

North Korea's missiles are larger, and can fly further, than the other missiles we've previously seen. Over the past year, most of these missiles land in the Sea of Japan, well inside the Fukuoka Flight Information Region (Japanese airspace). But as we see with this latest test, there is clearly a danger of some of these missiles not re-entering the atmosphere intact – meaning that a debris field of missile fragments passes through the airspace, not just one complete missile. If you haven't done so already, make sure you read this: our article on why North Korean missiles are now a real threat to Civil Aviation.

This latest test is also significant because of its unprecedented altitude – 4500km (2800 miles). Experts seem to agree that if it had been fired on a standard trajectory, the missile would have been capable of traveling around 13000km (8100 miles), meaning it could have struck anywhere in the mainland US.

If you're operating in the region, we recommend avoiding the ZKKP/Pyongyang FIR entirely and avoiding the affected areas over the Sea of Japan. For more info, check out Safeairspace.

Bali - Airport Status

David Mumford
20 January, 2018



Volcanic eruptions from Bali's Mount Agung earlier last week forced the closure of WADD/Denpasar and WADL/Lombok airports, as volcanic ash spread across both islands.

Here's the current situation at the airports on Dec 4:

- **WADD/Bali:** Re-opened on Nov 29. (Although the airport will be closed for runway repair from 18-23z daily [except Saturdays] until Dec 31).
- **WADL/Lombok:** Re-opened on Nov 30.
- **WARR/Juanda:** Open and operating. So far has not been affected at all by the volcanic ash. (Although the airport will be closed for runway repair from 16-22z daily until Jan 06).

Although Mount Agung has now stopped emitting ash, another large eruption is still likely. The local monitoring agency are registering powerful and continuous tremors, and authorities have ordered locals and journalists within 10km of the volcano to evacuate. Further intermittent airport closures are possible, depending on wind direction.

We will keep this page updated with the latest news as we get it.

Strike cancelled at Tel Aviv Airport

David Mumford
20 January, 2018



Update 1800z Nov 30: A strike by airport workers at LLBG/Tel Aviv which was originally planned for this weekend has now been cancelled.

The Airports Authority says the strike was canceled after the government intervened and were able to reach a deal with the workers' union to delay any strike action this weekend.

We'll keep this page updated with any more news as we get it.

FAA warns about fuel contamination

David Mumford
20 January, 2018



The FAA Safety Team have issued a mysterious new Notam today, about a possible fuel contamination problem at airports in the central U.S.

Update: The FAA has sent a follow up, seems things weren't as widespread as they made it sound:

SPECIAL..NOTICE..

THE FAA CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE A FUEL CONTAMINATION PROBLEM. SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE INDICATES THE CONTAMINATION HAS BEEN ISOLATED TO GENERAL AVIATION AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT AT EPPLEY AIRFIELD, OMAHA, NE (KOMA) DURING THE TIME PERIOD NOVEMBER 18-20, 2017. FAA RECOMMENDS THAT ALL AIRCRAFT OPERATORS CHECK NOTAMS FREQUENTLY FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THIS ONGOING SITUATION.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT FLIGHT STANDARDS AIR TRANSPORTATION DIVISION AT 202-267-8166.

Here's what they have to say:

FDC 7/4900 (A1362/17) - FL..SPECIAL NOTICE..THE FAA IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING

A FUEL CONTAMINATION PROBLEM THAT HAS RECENTLY APPEARED IN JET FUEL WI THE CENTRAL U.S. THE EXACT SOURCE AND THE GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE OF THE CONTAMINATION IS UNKNOWN. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF BLOCKAGES IN FUEL FILTERS, FUEL NOZZLES, AND FUEL TANKS. THIS HAS RESULTED IN SEVERAL ENGINE FLAMEOUTS AND OTHER ERRATIC ENGINE OPS. ALL OPERATORS ARE ADZ TO CLOSELY FOLLOW FUEL SAMPLING PROC AND REPORT ANY DISCOVERY OF CONTAMINATION OR ERRATIC ENGINE OPS TO THEIR FLIGHT STANDARDS DISTRICT OFFICE OR NEAREST FAA FACILITY. 30 NOV 00:20 2017 UNTIL 30 DEC 00:20 2017. CREATED: 30 NOV 00:48 2017

We haven't seen or heard any reports about this issue recently. The FAA Safety Team say that this is currently still under investigation, and can't provide any additional information just yet. We've also reached out to a few of the major suppliers, who are saying pretty much the same thing – no more info yet, beyond the Notam.

Several sources are telling us the NOTAM is related to a fuel issue at KOMA, limited to a single truck at a single FBO:

F0013/17 NOTAMN Q) ZMP/QFUX/IV/NB0/A/000/999/4118N09553W005 A) KOMA B) 1711211550 C) 1712212359 E) [DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY ENERGY ADVISORY] CONTRACT FUEL NOT AVAILABLE TRUMAN ARNOLD COMPANIES DBA TAC AIR IS HEREBY NOTIFIED TO CEASE REFUELING ON ALL U.S. AIRCRAFT UNDER INTO-PLANE CONTRACT SPE600-16-D-0066 AT LOCATION KOMA – EPPLEY AIRFIELD AIRPORT, NEBRASKA. DUE TO SAFETY OF FLIGHT ISSUES REPORTED ON TWO AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT REFUELED AT THEIR FACILITY 18 NOV 2017 THAT RESULTED IN EMERGENCY LANDINGS. REFUELING OF U.S. GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT IS IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDED AND SHALL REMAIN SO UNTIL THE DLA ENERGY CONTRACTING OFFICER NOTIFIES YOU OTHERWISE IN WRITING.

If you've experienced any fuel contamination issues recently, we'd love to hear about it! Email us at team@flightservice.org

29NOV: WE QUIT. Unsafe airspace warning, Bali volcano, Shanwick changes

Jamie Rose McMillen
20 January, 2018

International Ops Bulletin



Bali volcano - the latest on airspace and airports



We quit.

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EGGX/Shanwick From **December 7**, you'll need datalink in most of the NAT Region between FL350-390. After **Jan 4**, you can expect additional RLAT tracks, and in March, PBCS. Need more on that? Read our [NAT Changes 2017](#) page. Confused? Read our [NAT: Choose your own Adventure](#) guide to figure out what happens if you don't have HLA approval, RVSM, TCAS, RNP4, Datalink, or enough coffee on board.

ZKZZ/North Korea. On November 3rd, the FAA published Notam 23/17, which now prohibits US operators from entering any of the Pyongyang FIR. replacing SFAR79 and previous advice to 'exercise caution'. The situation remains tense, and as highlighted by FSB in September, the western portion of the Japan FIR is a risk area due to multiple missile re-entries into the same portion of Japanese airspace. [Updated UAS 29NOV](#).

GAZZ/Mali The conflict in Mali is ongoing. Germany added a new specific warning for GAKL/Kidal on 15 Nov, in addition to GATB/Timbuktu and GAGO/Gao. [Updated UAS 29NOV](#).

OEZZ/Saudi Arabia is now at Level 2 – assessed risk. Due to military activity related to the involvement in Yemen, it is suggested to avoid the southwestern region of the Jeddah FIR. On Nov 4 a missile launched from Yemen reached Riyadh Airport. Saudi sources say missile was intercepted, this is not yet confirmed. Threats have been made by Yemen of further strikes. [Updated UAS 29NOV](#).

OAZZ/Afghanistan The situation in Afghanistan remains similar. On November 15, Germany removed wording to maintain FL330 or higher, no altitude advice now exists, but they recommend against landings at Afghan airports. [Updated UAS 29NOV](#).

SOZZ/French Guyana There seems to be no end in sight for the French Guiana ATC strikes. Here's the current situation: SOOO FIR: the entire airspace will be uncontrolled from 00-11z until further notice (extended beyond 01Dec). That means there will be no ATC staff on duty during these times. Basically, during the closure, there's a contingency plan in place: so if you want to cross this bit of airspace, there are now very specific routes and levels you have to fly at. Check these carefully prior to ops, and make sure you're at the right flight level before crossing the FIR boundary. Once you're inside the FIR, don't change your speed or level. [Read the article](#).

ORZZ/Iraq has [reopened to international carriers](#) for overflights, or, better put, international carriers are starting to overfly again. **Emirates was the first international airline to resume overflights of Iraq**, with the first flights through the Baghdad FIR on Monday Nov 27, followed closely behind by Turkish Airlines. According to FSB sources, the GCAA authorized UAE based airlines to use this airspace, after several years of restrictions. Emirates anticipates that about 150 flights a day will now route via Iraq, rather than having to take longer routes via Saudi Arabia or Iran. This is the first in several steps we expect will lead to almost full resumption of overflights over Iraq, meaning operators will have shorter routes through the Middle East available once again. The next step will be for the **FAA to authorise US carriers to overfly Iraq - most likely at FL260 or above**. That approval was initially slated for [the end of October](#), but was held back after events on the ground posed a security concern for UM860 and UM688 – the two main routes through the Baghdad FIR to Europe and vv.

EHAM/Amsterdam New time slot system currently being trialled, where passengers travelling within the Schengen area can reserve a spot at a certain time to pass through security. The system is designed to reduce the huge queues at peak travel times.

DXZZ/Togo Further anti-government protests planned on Nov 29-30 and Dec 2 in the capital Lome and other urban centres. Authorities have said they may temporarily suspend SMS and internet services during the protests.

MMZZ/Mexico From Dec 7 onwards, HF radio in Mexico's oceanic FIR MMFO/Mazatlan will be provided by San Francisco Radio, for all flights above FL195. So for all position reports or route/level change requests, contact them on any of the following: 3413, 5574, 8843, 8915 or 13354 KHZ.

VGZZ/Bangladesh Nationwide strike planned for Nov 30, protesting against recent electricity price hikes. In the capital, Dhaka, expect increased security, transportation disruptions, and possible protests.

LLBG/Tel Aviv Airport workers are planning to stage a 24hr strike from Fri to Sat evening, Dec 1-2. If the strike goes ahead, this would pretty much completely shut down the airport – only a skeleton staff would remain at the airport to deal with emergencies.

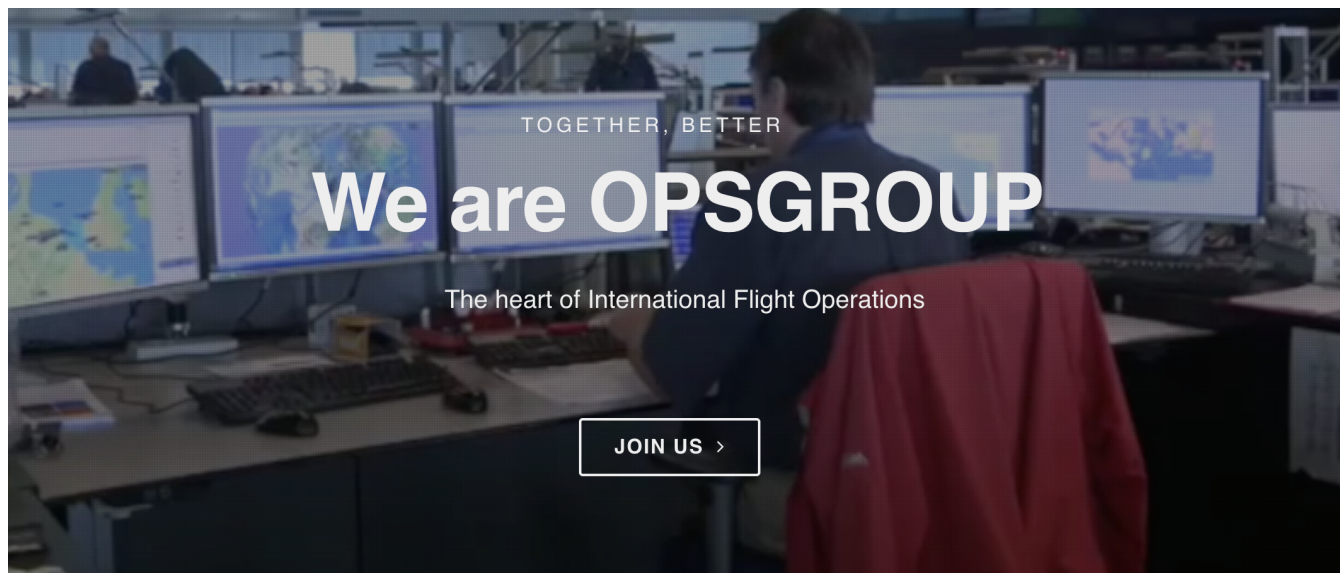
SBZZ/Brazil is launching a new e-visa program. From Jan 15, travelers from the US, Canada, Australia, and Japan can apply for visas online. The issuing process should take around 72hrs.

ZZZZ/Worldwide FSB made a [permit map](#). It's new. It will give you a quick summary of overflight and landing requirements for each country. If you want the full bible, then you can buy the new FSB [Permit Book](#) that goes with it. [Try the map](#).

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OpsGroup - the power of the group

Mark Zee
20 January, 2018



The power of the group

In the last 30 years, there has been a massive change in how the world works: **thank you, internet**. We are witnessing a shift from the power of a central source – like government, and large corporations – to the power of the individual. Each of us is now connected to the entirety of human knowledge through a small, handheld device, and can connect with others to effect powerful and positive change.

OPSGROUP is founded on this premise. **International Flight Operations** is an inherently tricky area, full of gotcha's and unforeseen changes for even the most diligent airline or aircraft operator. One operator versus a myriad of often unreadable government-sourced regulations and information – Notams, AIC's, FAR's – is a battle with guaranteed casualties.

But by connecting with other people, just like you, with the **same problems and challenges**, you can solve and share solutions.

When we started this group last year, we had a small handful of pilots, dispatchers, and managers that figured coming together in this way was a winner. As of November 2017, we're now heading for 4,000 OPSGROUP members, with a great variety in operations roles: Airline and Corporate pilots, Military operators, Federal agencies, Flight Dispatchers and Schedulers, ATC, and Civil Aviation Authorities – all working together.

It's still early days, and we have a way to go. But with some basic core principles – **plain language** (we call a spade a spade), **operator and passenger safety ahead of lawyer-speak**, **cooperation instead of competition** – and a huge appetite for development, there is much to gain.

So what's good in the group? Read on ...

1. Information

First on the plate for almost every operator is **staying current**. Rules and regulations are changing with increased voracity. **Did I miss something?** Yep, almost definitely. Each week we produce the **International Operations Bulletin**. We try to cover all the big changes in the last 7 days. If we miss something, we've found that someone in the group is pretty quick to tell us, and it appears in the next one.

International Ops Bulletin



CYYR/Goose Bay closed because of ... sticky runways

09 Nov CYYR/Goose Bay has been shut down to all operations, following the discovery that their **runways are sticky**. NAT operators will need to find a different enroute alternate for the moment. [Read the article.](#)



Missile attack on OERK/Riyadh was "warning shot"

09 Nov OERK/Rhiyadh The Yemeni Army has threatened Saudi Arabian and UAE airports with further missile strikes, saying that the missile attack last Saturday on Riyadh was a **warning shot**. [Read the article.](#)

2. Fun (including Goats)



"We promise to keep it entertaining". Without your attention, we've got nothing. Not only that, but we get as bored as you do with the standard aviation legal-language speak that permeates even the most important documents. Which is why sometimes we'll run a **Goat Show**. Sometimes it's just great to be

"unprofessional".

3. Members

Like we said, approaching 4,000. All working together with the same goal: **making International Flight Operations better**. Click on the links to read what they say.

Airlines like United, Fedex, and Etihad

Small Part 91 Flight Departments like CAT3, Fayair, Pula

Big 135 Charter Operators like Jet Aviation, TAG and Netjets

Companies like Visa, IBM, and AT&T

Manufacturers like Boeing, Airbus, and Lockheed

International Pilots like Matt Harty, Bill Stephenson, and Timothy Whalen

Organisations like IFALPA, the NBAA, and CAA Singapore

4. Airspace Risk



MH17 was a tragedy that must not be repeated. A small handful of operators were privy to information on the risk, and the Notam writers of Ukraine that were aware of previous shoot-downs released the information in a language almost designed to confuse. Through our safeairspace.net project, we can now share risk information within OPSGROUP and make sure that every single member has access to a current picture of airspace risk.

5. Airport Spy

One of our group members came to us with a great idea last year – why don't we share our knowledge of operations at airports around the world. So we made a **TripAdvisor** style section in the member Dashboard, and allowed members to add their own reports on Airports, ATC, and Handlers. We now have 3000 or so reports.

Airport Spy

Pilot and Dispatch reviews of Airports, Handlers, and ATC

[Recent](#) [Search](#) [Add Review](#) [Worst](#) [Mine](#) [OPSGROUP Dashboard](#)

Toluca, Mexico

[Edit](#)

#1 of 91 Airports in **Mexico** | Medium **Airport of Entry**

MMTO | TLC | 4200 metres | 15 ILS

★★★★☆ Average User Rating: 4 from 23 reviews

Precipitation Forecast

Nov

12PM

29



Ops News in last 3 months:

MMTO The runway will be closed overnight from 04-12z on the following days in Nov: 11, 12, 13, 25, 26 and 27. Lots of BA/GA operators use Toluca as a bizjet-friendly alternative to MMMX/Mexico City, which is around 30 miles to the east. **06Nov17** 🚨 23 days ago

MMTO Fly Across FBO at Toluca is now- or shortly will be- a Signature Facility. MMTO is the most popular GA alternative to MMMX for Mexico City. **27Oct17**

MMZZ (Country/Airspace) Government controls on gasoline will end on Nov 30, which means prices could rise. Last time this happened was back in Jan, when a price spike triggered mass protests, fuel shortages, looting, and roadblocks. **20Nov17** 🚨 9 days ago

MMZZ (Country/Airspace) Ops at Mexico City Airports (MMMXX, MMTO) are back to normal following the most recent earthquake. MMMX was closed briefly for a runway/taxiway inspection. Terminal damage, but not affecting international ops airspace. **29Sep17**

"Good stop, Gotcha's on the Jepp Charts into MMTO"

★★★★☆ Reviewed November 2017 | **CL60** | Op:Private | 9001729

I had a pretty good experience flying into MMTO in October 2017 using Universal as our handler and FBO.

We were on the XOSUD1A arrival and was given direct to PASTEJE VOR (PTJ) which is not on the arrival, but is a fix hidden on the ILS DME 2 for Rwy 15. The Jepp plate says "PASTEJE VOR" so a bit of aggressive digital chart flipping was required to find the identifier "PTJ" and stick it

MMTO

[Dark Sky](#)

 **14°**
and rising

Clear

Wind: 1 mph (N)

[METAR](#)

[TAF](#)

[NOTAM](#)



Must-knows
for Toluca

Nothing so far. Is that right?
Share anything you know about
Special local rules,
Terrain/Weather information,
ATC procedures, Handling
notes, Permit requirements.

[Update this](#)

[Add your review of MMTO](#)

Closest Airports to MMTO
Int'l Airport with Runway
>1400m/4500ft

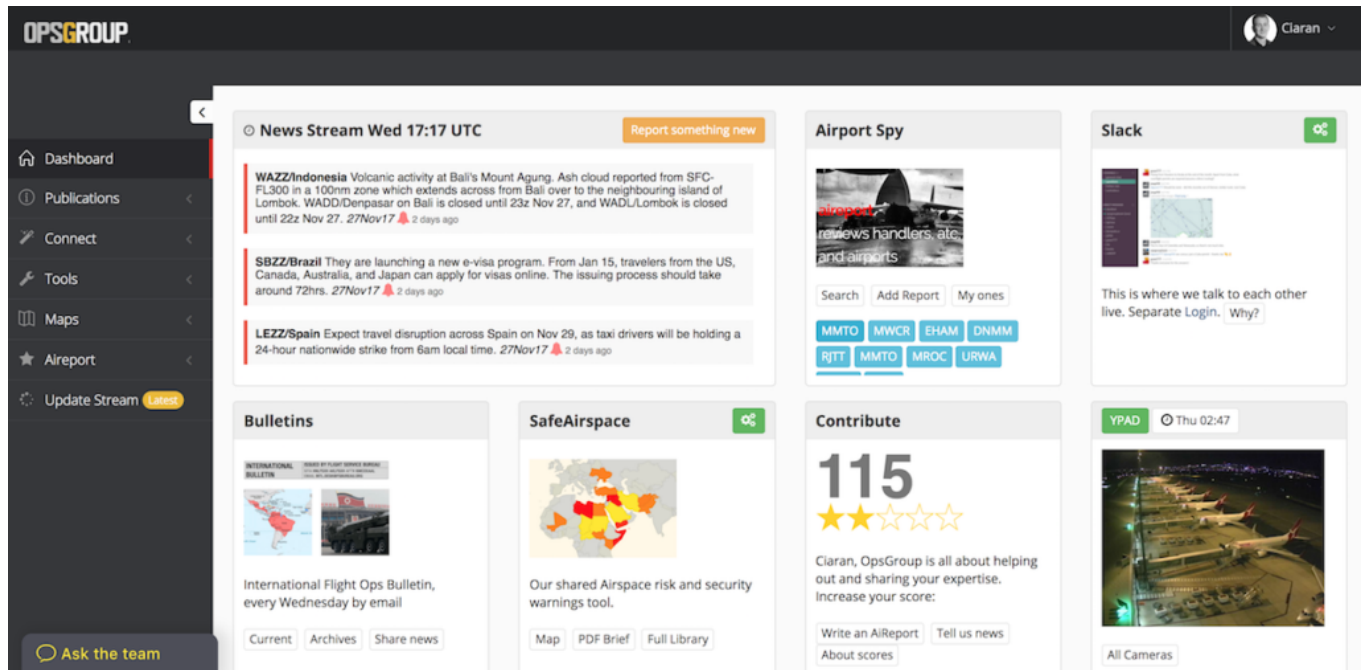
MMPB 69 nm, 3600m/11811ft
Medium
Puebla, Mexico ★★★★★ (1)

MMQT 84 nm, 3500m/11483ft
Medium
Queretaro, Mexico ★★★★★ (3)

MMMM 88 nm, 3400m/11155ft
Medium
Morelia, Mexico

MMLO 147 nm, 3499m/11480ft
Medium

6. Member Dashboard



We don't need to explain this one too much. Everything the group has, in one place.

7. Slack

Slack is cool. It's a chat app, but it's more than that. Internally, we don't use email anymore, we use slack. There are different channels like **#crewroom**, **#todays-ops**, **#usefuldocs**, and **#questions**. When there are special events, like **#FranceATCStrike** or **#NewYorkSnow** we open a special group for that. About 1200 members use this regularly, and it's the perfect way to connect with other crews, ATC, or the Feds.



8. George

George is a bot. He'll fetch information for you on airports, get weather, the NAT Tracks, and a few other things. We're working on making him a little smarter.

9. Ask Us Anything



Getting an answer to your question is what keeps us awake at night. There's not much we can't help with, but usually someone else in the group beats us to it. If not though, the FSB International Desk team will research that ops question that is threatening to make your life hell.

10. The future

The best part of OPSGROUP is that we're really just getting started. The future of the group is unwritten, but placing the planning power in your hands as an operator rather than 3rd parties, and having the security of knowing that the group has your back, is a great way to start. There is much to build and develop, and we'd love you to be involved!

11. Joining

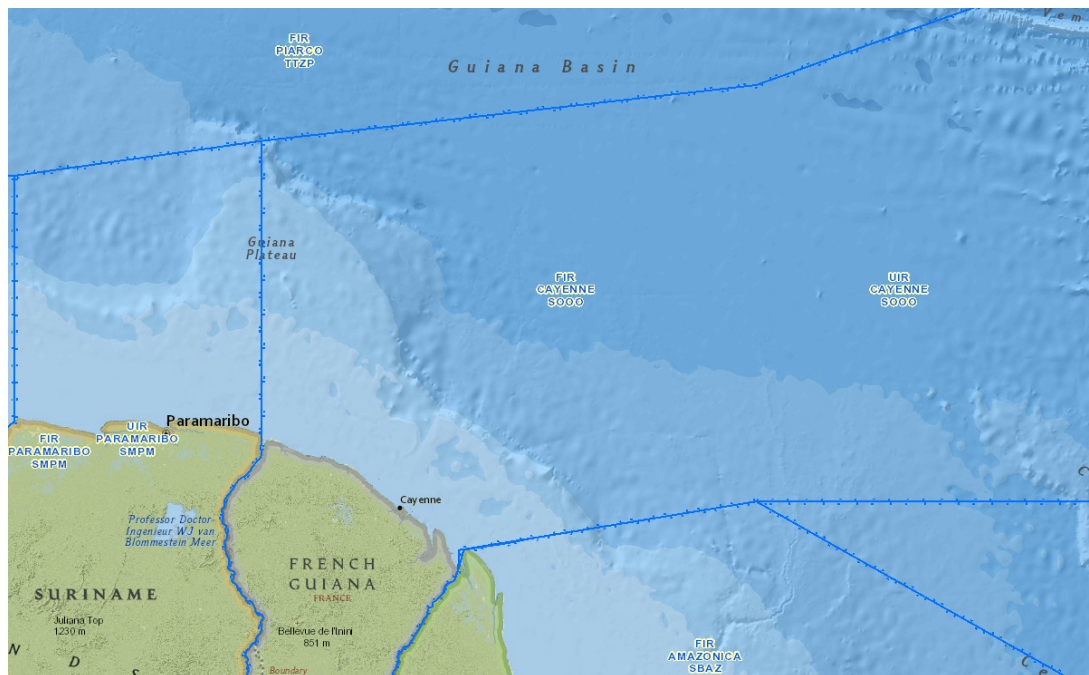
You can choose an Individual, Team, or Flight Department membership. All the information on that is on the OpsGroup website. We limit joining windows to certain months of the year, so that we can be all hands on deck with building new things for the group once membership is closed. If we're not accepting new members at the moment, you can waitlist for the next opening.

Further

- Join: Individual
- Join: Team 5 or 10
- Join: Flight Department 20 or 50
- **OpsGroup website**
- Login – for members
- Questions? Email team@ops.group

French Guiana ATC strikes continue

David Mumford
20 January, 2018



There seems to be no end in sight for the French Guiana ATC strikes. Here's the current situation:

S000 FIR: the entire airspace will be uncontrolled from 00-11z until further notice (extended beyond 01Dec).

That means there will be no ATC staff on duty during these times. Basically, during the closure, there's a contingency plan in place: so if you want to cross this bit of airspace, there are now very specific routes and levels you have to fly at. Check these carefully prior to ops, and make sure you're at the right flight level before crossing the FIR boundary. Once you're inside the FIR, don't change your speed or level.

To read the contingency plan in full, with all the published routes and what to do, click [here](#).

TTZP/Piarco ATC (who control the FIR to the north) have said that everything has been running smoothly so far with this contingency plan, and they haven't had any problems with directing overflying traffic from TTZP to S000.

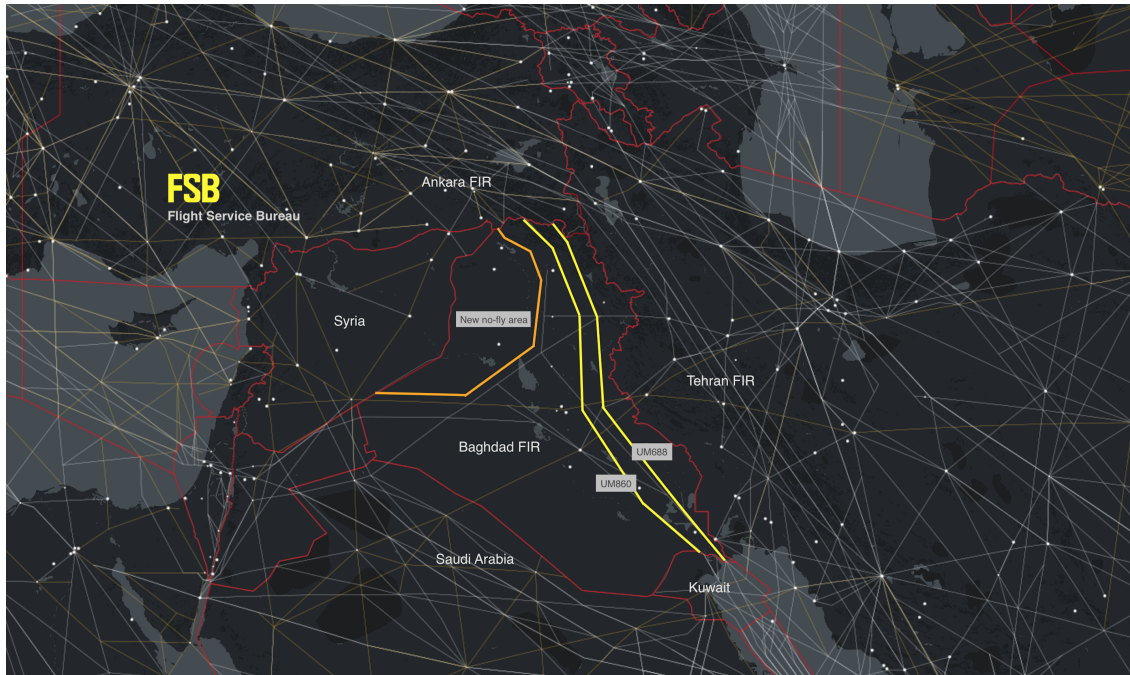
SOCA/Cayenne Airport: the airport will be limited between 0100-1100Z until further notice.

This means you can't file as an alternate, and if you're arriving or departing during these times, you'll need to call ATC for PPR at +594 35 92 72, or +594 39 93 02.

We'll keep this page updated with the latest news as we get it.

International airlines resume Iraq overflights, airspace reopens today

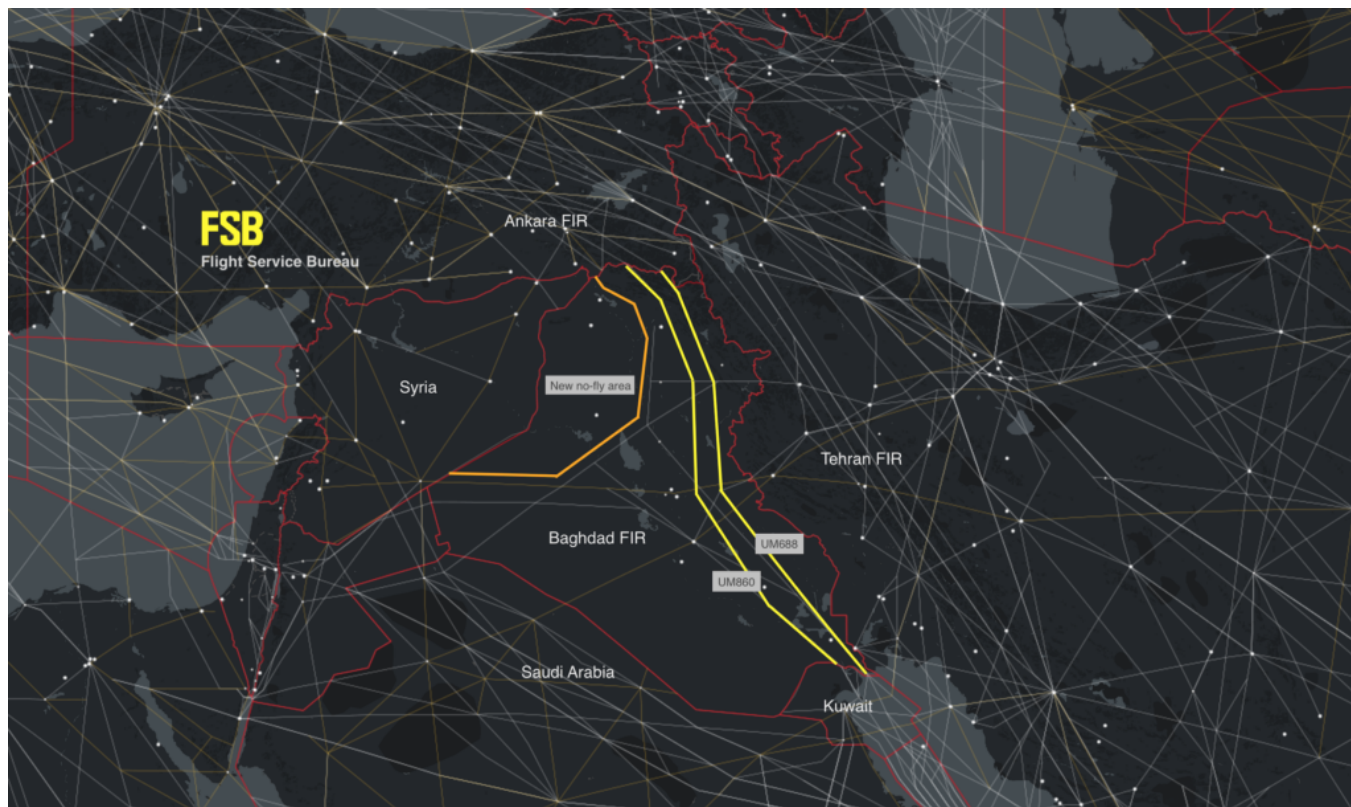
Declan Selleck
20 January, 2018



Emirates will be the first international airline to resume overflights of Iraq, with the first flights through the Baghdad FIR expected today, Monday Nov 27. According to FSB sources, effective 0001Z this morning the GCAA will authorize UAE based airlines to use this airspace, after several years of restrictions. Emirates anticipates that about 150 flights a day will now route via Iraq, rather than having to take longer routes via Saudi Arabia or Iran.

This is the first in several steps we expect will lead to almost full resumption of overflights over Iraq, meaning operators will have shorter routes through the Middle East available once again.

The next step will be for the **FAA to authorise US carriers to overfly Iraq - most likely at FL260 or above**. That approval was initially slated for the end of October, but was held back after events on the ground posed a security concern for UM860 and UM688 - the two main routes through the Baghdad FIR to Europe and vv.



The FAA were about to hit 'publish' on a Notam which would have enabled US airlines to start overflying Iraq again. The text of this Notam included:

- An amendment to the existing Iraq restriction
- **An authorisation for US airlines and operators to overfly Iraq at or above FL260**

But then, a military operation by Iraqi forces to take control of Kirkuk from the Kurds the same day, created concern as to overflight safety. **Kirkuk sits pretty much underneath the UM860 airway** on the map above.

For now, only UAE carriers have been given the green light for Iraq. Other operators and authorities are likely to follow suit soon.

See also:

- 12 October 2017, "Iraq Airspace to re-open for overflights"
- 19 October 2017, "Baghdad FIR reopening, but wait a little"

23Nov: NAT changes in 2 weeks, new Overflight Permit map, airspace update

Jamie Rose McMillen
20 January, 2018

International Ops Bulletin



North Atlantic region changes - 3 big ones for Shanwick, Gander, Iceland



Worldwide permit map released - and a new book

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GOZZ/Senegal They've built a whole new international airport at Dakar, called GOBD/Blaise Diagne International Airport. On Dec 7 at 12z, all scheduled operations will switch to there from the current airport - GOOY/Dakar. After that, they plan to close down the old airport. No official word yet on when exactly that will happen.

OYSN/Sanaa The Houthi-led government which runs the capital city has said that Sanaa Airport is now repaired and ready to receive international flights, after being damaged by a Saudi airstrike on Nov 14. The Saudi-led coalition will re-open the airport to aid flights on Nov 23, but there is still a ban on commercial traffic.

LTZZ/Turkey US nationals arriving in Turkey on flights originating from outside of the US used to be issued a visa sticker on arrival, no questions asked. Now that's all changing - you'll need to prove you have legal residency in a country other than the United States. The U.S. and Turkey both massively reduced issuance of visas for each other's countries in October, following the arrest of a U.S. consulate worker in Turkey.

LIZZ/Italy More strikes and travel disruption throughout Dec. On Dec 1, some airport workers will strike for 24 hours at airports in Milan: LIMC/Malpensa and LIML/Linate. Nationwide, some Alitalia staff will be on strike all day on Dec 7 and Dec 15. And expect some delays on the trains across the country on Dec 17, when some staff are planning an eight-hour strike from 9-17 local time.

WADD/Denpasar There was a small eruption at Bali's Mount Agung on Nov 21, with volcanic ash being reported up to FL130. So far no disruption to ops, however the forecast upper level winds in the next 24hrs

may push the cloud south towards the airport.

KSMO/Santa Monica The airport will be completely closed from Dec 12-23, as they'll be pressing ahead with their runway shortening project, despite ongoing litigation by NBAA and other parties against this. The airport's only runway will be shortened from 4,973ft to 3,500ft.

NGFU/Tuvalu has signed up to the Chicago Convention, and is set to become the 192nd Member State of ICAO on Dec 18.

SOZZ/French Guiana Continuing ATC strikes. Airspace will be uncontrolled from 00-11z across the entire SOOO FIR. All airports in the country, including SOCA/Cayenne, will now be closed each day from 0000-0300z and 0630-1100z until Dec 1 due to the strike action.

EGKK/Gatwick Every night from 2300-0530z until the end of Nov, the main runway (08R/26L) will be closed. During that time, the northern runway (08L/26R) will be open – the one that normally gets used as a taxiway! There's no ILS on this runway, so approaches must be DME or RNAV.

KPBI/Palm Beach A Presidential TFR is in place at KPBI/Palm Beach for the entire Thanksgiving period, meaning no GA arrivals from 1715 local on Nov 21 to 1930 local on Nov 26. If you need to get to the area during those dates, gateway airport procedures are in place for arrivals to KMCO/Orlando, KFLL/Fort Lauderdale, KIAD/Dulles, KTEB/Teterboro and KHPN/Westchester. For gateway screening, make sure you register with TSA at least 24 hours prior to departure by calling them at 561-616-9650.

MHZZ/Honduras Expect heightened security and travel disruption over the next week, in the lead up to national elections on Nov 26. More than 30,000 military personnel will be mobilised across the country from Nov 20 onwards, to help maintain order. Rallies are likely in the major urban centres.

CYYR/Goose Bay Both runways are now open and the airport has returned to full operations, following a full airport closure earlier this month when a problem was spotted with runway sealant which was causing the surface to be 'sticky' in places.

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Overflight risk - Radioactive Russian airspace

Declan Selleck
20 January, 2018



Media reporting in the last 24 hours has **raised concerns amongst operators about a possible Nuclear accident in Russia**, leading to a radioactive cloud in the region of Chelyabinsk, in the Ural mountains. USCC/Chelyabinsk is about 100nm south east of USSS/Ekaterinburg Airport.

Russia has denied that any such accident occurred, but cannot account for the increased levels of radioactivity in the region, which were 1000 times higher than normal. Through the Russian met service, they have confirmed the high radiation levels.

However, assessing a report last week from the French Nuclear watchdog, ISRN, we believe there should not be any risk to operators, especially for overflights. The facts are as follows:

- The high levels of radiation **were first detected at the end of September** in Europe
- Since the beginning of October, **levels have decreased** in Europe
- ISRN says they are **not concerned** about risks to health, even at the higher levels
- However, no recent data is presented from Russia

Further reading:

- **ISRN Information Report:** Detection of ruthenium 106 in France and in Europe

16NOV: Scam Invoices, Yemen airport bombed, France ATC strike, North Korea

overflights

Jamie Rose McMillen
20 January, 2018

International Ops Bulletin



New rules for flying to Cuba



Zimbabwe Coup: Airport update

Weekly **International Ops Bulletin** published by **FSB** for **OPSGROUP** covering critical changes to Airports, Airspace, ATC, Weather, Safety, Threats, Procedures, Visas. Subscribe to the short free version [here](#), or join thousands of your Pilot/Dispatcher/ATC/CAA/Flight Ops colleagues in **OPSGROUP** for the full weekly bulletin, airspace warnings, Ops guides, tools, maps, group discussion, Ask-us-Anything, and a ton more! **Curious? See what you get.** Rated **5 stars** by **125 reviews**.

LFZZ/France ATC Strike ongoing. Impact: latest on the Eurocontrol [NOP](#), this little French [ATC page](#), as well as in [OpsGroup Slack](#). Reroutes: Shanwick says: T9 and T213 available for suitably equipped aircraft. Algeria says: Algerian airspace available without special permission but file FPL to DAAAZQZX. Tunisia says: Tunisian airspace available without special permission but file FPL to DTTCZQZX and DTTCZRZX. [Read full article](#). **OYSN/Sanaa** The Saudi Coalition bombed the airport on Tuesday, which is currently controlled by rebel forces. VOR/DME destroyed. UN staff report runway, taxiway, ramp, terminal and ATC tower not hit and in good condition. The Coalition closed the airport in August 2016 to all but a few UN aid flights. The Saudi coalition have allowed OYAA/Aden Airport to re-open today, after it was closed following the missile strike on Riyadh Nov 4.

CYYR/Goose Bay One runway has been returned to full service (16/34, 9580ft), following a problem last week with sealant which caused it to be sticky in places. Cleanup will now commence on the second runway (08/26), although there is no timeline for its reopening.

DAAG/Algiers There will only be one runway in operation from now until Feb. Expect delays at peak times.

ZKZZ/North Korea Mainstream media says "tensions are high" in the region, with potential for another

missile launch. Maybe. At the very least, read up on where these missiles have been ending up in the [Sea of Japan](#). We suggest you read the FSB [original version](#) rather than the somewhat sensational [Daily Express](#) version of our guidance.

ZZZZ/Worldwide Couple of scam warnings, to keep you out of trouble this week. First, if you haven't gotten a fake Eurocontrol invoice, you'll [get one soon](#). Check carefully. The real ones come from [eurocontrol.int](#). The others will send your money to Nigeria. Second, if you're a contract pilot, and the rate you're getting for a new gig seems too good to be true, it is. If it's an LN- reg Hawker 800 out of LFML, they want your bank details and the direction of funds won't be in your favour. Know of more? [Tell us](#).

VIDP/Delhi Air quality improving, smog still causing some issues though. Some operators had cancelled international ops, those flights now resumed.

WADD/Denpasar Volcanic activity at Bali's Mount Agung has decreased, but an eruption remains possible. When it does erupt, WADD/Denpasar will close, and the Indonesian authorities will turn to their contingency plan they have prepared to divert international traffic to other airports. Scheduled operators are still carrying additional divert fuel into WADD.

KZZZ/USA The FAA has published a ton of information on Thanksgiving and Snowbird routes for the upcoming holiday season. Everything you might need is [here](#).

EGGW/Luton As runway repair work continues, the airport will be closed to all movements overnight from 0000-0530z until Dec 6, and then again from Jan 6-14.

TJZZ/Puerto Rico Temporary ATC towers are operational at TJRV/Ceiba – call 122.7 15nm out, and TJPS/Ponce – same frequency, and ground on 119.25. ATC at Ponce is operating 10-22Z.

KZZZ/USA The FAA has updated the rules for EFB's, new AC [here](#). Key change is it is now allowing "Own Ship" display, ie. geo-referencing of your position onto a chart. Have a read.

HKJK/Nairobi Possible delays tomorrow (Friday). Large public rally planned in the city to welcome home a Kenyan politician. Supporters plan to march to the airport on Friday morning to receive him. Expect heightened security at the airport and travel delays to the city.

NZAA/Auckland only has one runway – 05R/23L – and they're going to be upgrading its ILS. So from Dec-Feb, there'll be no ILS on 23L, and then from Mar-Apr there'll be no ILS on 05R. Look out for Notams which will be published soon with the exact dates of the closures. VOR/DME and RNAV approaches will still be available throughout.

SPZZ/Peru With the rainy season about to begin, a preventive state of emergency has been declared for the next 60 days, for pretty much the entire region from SPJC/Lima up to the border with Ecuador in the north.

HUEN/Entebbe A criminal ring operating at the airport has been stopped. The ring included senior members of the police force, 8 officers arrested. Immigration, clearing and cargo handling crew members were also involved in the illegal activities, including drug smuggling, human trafficking, the sale of rhino horns, aiding and abetting tax evasion and extorting money from travelers.

SAZZ/Argentina An Air France crew was arrested on arrival in Argentina last month for not upgrading a passenger with government connections on the inbound flight. Sounds crazy, but they went to court. TIA = This is Argentina? [Story here](#).

WMZZ/Malaysia The nighttime curfew in the waters of the Eastern Sabah Security Zone (Esszone) extends to 30 November. The 1800-0600 curfew, which was set to expire on 15 November, applies to seven districts in the zone, police advised people living in these districts to remain indoors during the

scheduled curfew, due to the persistent threat of kidnapping by terrorists in the Sulu Sea. The curfew is intended to help law enforcement monitor vessel movements in the area in order to protect international researchers and tourists on nearby resort islands.

HKZZ/Kenya Officials are warning about a number of fake e-visa sites. The only one you should be using is the official one: <http://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html>

OPZZ/Pakistan On Nov 9, at bomb attack approximately 4nm east of OPQT/Quetta Airport killed 3 people. The security situation remains unpredictable across the whole of Pakistan, including the high threat of terrorist attack. The authorities have announced increased security measures in all major cities today, Nov 10, where major religious processions will be held.

FQZZ/Mozambique The national airline LAM has raised concerns about airport security in Mozambique, citing deficiencies in access control, inefficient passenger and worker scrutiny, absence of officers at checkpoints, broken scanning equipment, absence of scrutiny at some freight terminals, lack of scrutiny in VIP rooms, and lack of training in police security, adding that it was concerned that they compromised the safety and security of air passengers and crew members.

KZZZ/USA According to a bulletin from the DHS, officials believe that terrorist groups are seeking alternative methods to carry out attacks against the U.S., including drones. Some terrorist groups overseas are using battlefield experiences to pursue new technologies and tactics, such as unmanned aerial systems and chemical agents that could be used outside the conflict zones. Additionally, terrorists continue to target commercial aviation and air cargo, including with concealed explosives.

VMMC/Macau Until the end of the year, the airport's only runway will be closed for two hours between 20-22Z each Tue, Thu & Sun.

RKZZ/South Korea is opening a new ACC in Daegu. From Dec 6, Incheon ACC will continue to control airspace in the northern half of the country, but Daegu ACC will control airspace in the south.

TAPA/Antigua The runway will be closed for repair overnight Mon-Fri 0230-0900Z until the end of November.

EIDW/Dublin The longer runway (10/28) will be closed each night from 21-05Z until at least Nov 19. During these times, the shorter runway (16/34) will be open, but they'll use 16 for both take-offs and landings - the LDA will be 1692m, and temporary runway end lights will be installed.

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Zimbabwe Coup - Airport update

Declan Selleck
20 January, 2018



FVZZ/Zimbabwe (Don't fly here) There's a coup happening, watch live on CNN.

FVZA/Harare is operating, but the usual coup-style stuff is going on – lots of soldiers at the airport, checkpoints on the way in, and journalists being denied entry on arriving flights.

The city has tanks on the streets. President under house arrest.

FVZA was renamed last week from Harare International Airport to Robert Mugabe International, this might be swiftly reversed.

Both UK and US embassies are advising people to shelter in place until the situation becomes clear.

New rules for flying from the U.S. to Cuba

David Mumford
20 January, 2018



Update 5 June 2019: All US private flights to Cuba are banned, under a new BIS rule. No Part 91 operations are allowed any longer.

Update 9 Nov 2017: Effective today, the US has new rules for travel to Cuba as an individual. These restrictions will limit the ability of US citizens to undertake most personal travel to Cuba unless part of a licensed group. The new measures will also bar US citizens and companies from engaging in business activities with over 180 Cuban enterprises the US government has concluded are linked to the Cuban government in some way (check the full list [here](#)). The new policy will not affect travellers with existing bookings, such as a flight or hotel reservations. Upon their return, all US citizens will be required to maintain proof of all activities in Cuba, and must ascertain that no U.S. laws were violated during their trip. OFAC and CBP will enforce the new regulations, much talk of hefty fines.

If you're traveling to Cuba from anywhere other than U.S. territory, it should be a doddle. Get a landing permit, arrange your ground handling, file your flight plan, and off you go.

If you're trying to get to Cuba from the U.S. though, it's a different story...

A tale of two Presidents...

In December 2014, President Obama announced plans to improve relations between the U.S. and Cuba, and in the July of the following year a lot of restrictions were lifted for N-registered aircraft operators wanting to do private and charter flights to Cuba.

However, the U.S. authorities (the Treasury Department, in this case) didn't want to break with tradition and make the process completely straight-forward and misery-free, so their Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) introduced a rule which means that only 12 categories of travel are permitted between the US and Cuba. This was then further complicated by legislation introduced by President Trump in June 2017! Here are the permitted categories of travel:

- (1) family visits
- (2) official business of the U.S. government, foreign governments, and certain intergovernmental organisations
- (3) journalistic activity
- (4) professional research and professional meetings
- (5) educational activities or so-called "people-to-people" travel – **it's not possible to claim this category if you make your own travel arrangements; this is only possible for officially sanctioned group travel.**

- (6) religious activities
- (7) public performances, clinics, workshops, athletic and other competitions, and exhibitions
- (8) support for the Cuban people
- (9) humanitarian projects
- (10) activities of private foundations or research or educational institutes
- (11) exportation, importation, or transmission of information or information materials
- (12) certain export transactions that may be considered for authorisation under existing regulations and guidelines.

As you might have spotted, you cannot simply travel from the U.S. to Cuba for the purpose of general tourism! You have to match one of these 12 categories.

Applying for a licence to travel

Here's the thing: you don't actually have to do this.

Once you decide which category applies to you, you do not need to apply for any kind of licence to travel from OFAC – you will simply qualify under their rules for the so-called 'General Licence'.

However, each one of these 12 categories for permitted travel is highly controlled and has specific requirements that must be met for the exemption to apply. If you want help in trying to work out which one of these categories might apply to you, read the FAQ section of the official guidance – it's actually pretty good: https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba_faqs_new.pdf

Once you've done that, you might want to read the extra little FAQ they put together, following the changes made by President Trump in June 2017 (basically this just says that no more *individual* travel for educational or "people-to-people" will be allowed – only *group* travel will be allowed in this category): https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/cuba_faqs_20170725.pdf

I don't match any of those 12 categories - what do I do?

If you do not match any of the categories, things get tricky. In this case you would need to apply to OFAC for a 'Specific Licence' – although this process can take up to 3 months. You can do this online at the US Treasury Dept page: <https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Pages/licensing.aspx>

Should I book a trip myself, or book through a tour agent?

If you *really* are going to Cuba to visit relatives, or for some kind of religious pilgrimage, you could probably get away with making your own travel arrangements.

If not though, the easiest way to make sure you qualify will probably be to just engage the services of a U.S. based company to help make your travel arrangements – they'll book you on to some kind of tour and get you to sign a "travel affidavit" to confirm that you really are going to Cuba for the reason you say you are!

If you decide to make your own arrangements, you'll still need to make sure you carry one of these documents. You don't need to submit it anywhere in advance, but you do need to keep it handy just in case anyone from CBP asks to see it. To get a sample of this form, [click here](#).

Bear in mind that if you book through a tour company, you will be traveling under a specific, government-approved itinerary. That means that when you get to Cuba, officially, you can't just go wandering off by yourself. Your tour company won't be able to book you into Cuban hotels, rent cars or take buses at all, since the Cuban government owns them. You'll most likely be booked into a bed-and-breakfast, or a homestay, and you will only be able to take part in pre-approved, pre-arranged activities.

All this talk of OFAC and categories and travel affidavits is hurting my brain. Isn't there an easier way?

Technically, yes there is.

If you want to avoid all this bureaucratic misery, you could always fly to Cuba by way of Mexico or Canada. There are no restrictions from those countries regarding travel to Cuba, so U.S. citizens can fly straight in. Remember, Cuba doesn't restrict U.S. citizens from entering – just get a visa in advance, and that's all you need.

However, bear in mind that when you return back to the U.S. – if you get caught out trying to hide your trip to Cuba from U.S. Customs officers, you could face serious punishment.

Cuba landing permit

You'll need one, regardless of where you're flying from, or what country your aircraft is registered in. The official notice required by the Cuban authorities to process a permit request is 3 working days. No docs are required to obtain an overflight permit, but for a landing permit, the following is required: CoR, CoA, CoI, crew and pax information, reason for flight and receiving party in Cuba for landing approval. Which brings us neatly on to...

Receiving party

Cuba will only give you a landing permit if you provide the name and contact details of a local receiving party or 'business sponsor'. If you're trying to do it yourself and do not yet have a local receiving party arranged in Cuba, you should contact your ground handler to check if they can act in this role for you.

Landing fees

There's actually a very simple way to work these out:

AIRPORTS	MUHA / MUVR / MUCC	MUHU / MUCM / MUHG	MUSC / MUCF	MUCL / MUMZ	OTHER AIRPORTS
LANDING FEES USD/TON	\$7	\$6	\$5	\$4	\$2

Handling

The Cuban CAA require all operators to obtain handling confirmation from a company based in Cuba. If you don't have a copy of an 'Airworthiness Review Certificate' for your aircraft (N-registered aircraft, for instance), you have to show a copy of aircraft maintenance log book entries showing the recent work performed on the aircraft and confirming that the aircraft was returned to service in an airworthy condition. Also, any jet over 10,000 LBS MTOW must provide a noise certificate via their handling company.

Visas

If you're flying to Cuba from the U.S. you're going to need to get proper business visas (remember, you're not a tourist!). Although it is possible to obtain these on arrival in Cuba, reports suggest that it takes ages to process, so it's probably best to get these in advance.

Insurance

Make sure that your aircraft insurance does not specifically exclude travel to Cuba – many do!

Foreign passengers

If you're flying between the U.S. and Cuba with foreign nationals onboard – they are subject to the exact same rules as U.S. nationals in terms of meeting OFAC licensing requirements. The only exception is for Cuban citizens present in the United States in a non-immigrant status – they can travel to Cuba without having to tick any of those 12 OFAC boxes.

Time on the ground in Cuba

U.S.-registered aircraft are allowed remain in Cuba for up to seven consecutive nights. If you want to go for longer then you will need to get an export licence – that gets complicated.

International Airports in Cuba

ICAO/IATA	Airport	Rwy(m)	PCN
MUHA/HAV	Havana	4000	057FBXT
MUVR/VRA	Varadero	3500	052FAXT
MUHG/HOG	Holguin	3200	057FBXU
MUSC/SNU	Santa Clara	3000	055FBXU
MUCC/CCC	Cayo Coco	3000	057FBXT
MUCL/CYO	Cayo Largo	3000	050FBXU
MUCM/CMW	Camaguey	3000	057FBXT
MUCF/CFG	Cienfuegos	2400	050FBWU
MUCU/SCU	Santiago	4000	050FAXT
MUMZ/MZO	Manzanillo	2400	042FBXU

US Airports of Entry for your return flight

Recent policy changes mean that aircraft can now depart to Cuba from any customs designated airport in the U.S. (this applies to both U.S. and foreign-registered aircraft). However, when you return to the US, as you will be entering from the south, you will need to land at the first designated airport of entry that is nearest to the point of crossing the U.S. border or coastline; if you want to land elsewhere you will need to get a Border Overflight Exemption.

Here is the list of southern airports of entry, from US Code of Federal Regulations 19 122.24

Location	Name
Beaumont, Tex	Jefferson County Airport.
Brownsville, Tex ..	Brownsville International Airport.
Calexico, Calif	Calexico International Airport.
Corpus Christi, Tex.	Corpus Christi International Airport.
Del Rio, Tex	Del Rio International Airport.
Douglas, Ariz	Bisbee-Douglas International Airport.
Douglas, Ariz	Douglas Municipal Airport.
Eagle Pass, Tex ..	Eagle Pass Municipal Airport.
El Paso, Tex	El Paso International Airport.
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.
Fort Pierce, Fla	St. Lucie County Airport.
Houston, Tex	William P. Hobby Airport.
Key West, Fla	Key West International Airport.
Laredo, Tex	Laredo International Airport.
McAllen, Tex	Miller International Airport.
Miami, Fla	Miami International Airport.
Miami, Fla	Opa-Locka Airport.
Miami, Fla	Tamiami Airport.
Midland, TX	Midland International Airport.
New Orleans, La ..	New Orleans International Airport (Moissant Field).
New Orleans, La ..	New Orleans Lakefront Airport.
Nogales, Ariz	Nogales International Airport.
Presidio, Tex	Presidio-Lely International Airport.
San Antonio Tex ..	San Antonio International Airport.
San Diego, Calif ..	Brown Field.
Santa Teresa, N. Mex.	Santa Teresa Airport.
Tampa, Fla	Tampa International Airport.
Tucson, Ariz	Tucson International Airport.
West Palm Beach, Fla.	Palm Beach International Airport.
Wilmington, NC	New Hanover County Airport
Yuma, Ariz	Yuma International Airport.

More information: There are a ton of reports on Cuba in Airport Spy, which is where all of us in OpsGroup tell each other about the airports we've been to – good ATC, bad handlers, rip-off fees... think of it as the TripAdvisor of airports. Also, if you want to know exactly how to get your Cuba landing permit, check out our Permit Book – this tells you how to get a permit for each and every country in the world!

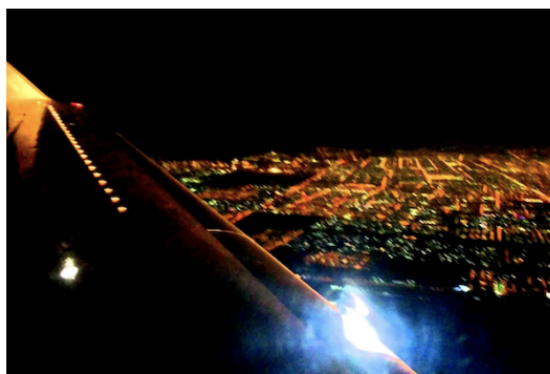
09NOV: UAE and Saudi threat, CYYR closed, Italy strike, Polar alternates

Jamie Rose McMillen
20 January, 2018

International Ops Bulletin



CYYR/Goose Bay closed because of ... sticky runways



Missile attack on OERK/Riyadh was "warning shot"

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ENSB/Svalbard Discussions complete with the Norwegian CAA! You can continue to use ENSB as an ETOPS or emergency alternate. When the airport changed to domestic status in October, it meant that operators could no longer file ENSB as a destination alternate. But, CAA says that it will remain available H24 for emergency divers, and RFF8 is the normal fire category. If you want to confirm any details, chat with ATC there at +47 67 03 54 25. [Full article](#).

VIDP/Delhi A double whammy of delays at Delhi Airport at the moment. One of the airport's three

runways is already completely closed for repair until 0130Z on Nov 10, but now extreme smog is causing extra delays as flights are having to be staggered. Avoid VIDP for the next few days if possible. [FSB Blog](#).

LIZZ/Italy The National ATC Strike planned for Friday from 12-16Z, has been cancelled. Ops normal, apart from some potential local stoppages at LIRF and LIPO. No further dates for strikes set. [FSB Blog](#).

SBGR/Sao Paulo New long term parking procedures are in effect at SBGR – if you want to stay for longer than 3 hours, you'll have to go park over in the Open Air Hangar (OAH) area, rather than just on the apron as before. The **F1 Grand Prix is coming up** there again on Nov 11-12; last year they were turning away lots of aircraft because they had no space to park them – this year, that won't be a problem. The bad news is it's probably going to cost a fortune to park on the OAH – expect around \$2000 USD per 24 hours (without any serious price reductions if you stay for less time), and a mandatory towing charge of \$300 USD each way. [FSB Blog](#).

OYZZ/Yemen The Saudi Arabia coalition has [closed all air, sea and land borders](#) with Yemen after the missile strike on Riyadh on Nov 4, effectively closing all airports in Yemen. Yemenia airlines said Monday that the coalition, which controls Yemen's airspace, had declined it permission to fly out of Aden and Seiyun, the only two remaining functioning airports. OYSN/Sanaa has been closed since August 2016. All UN humanitarian flights to Yemen, one of the few international operators, have been cancelled after flights were no longer given clearance from the Saudi-led coalition to land in the country. [Full article](#).

ORZZ/Iraq Local ATC controllers tell us that the [strike is over](#) – they are running what they call 'ops normal' for two weeks, before they will/may strike again as negotiations continue. Inside word is that a number of local controllers have been fired, and Serco were providing most of the staff to cover the centre. Baghdad FIR Control Centre and Iraqi Airports are running normally – for now.

DNZZ/Nigeria A shortage of Jet A1 is affecting operations in Nigeria, especially affecting DNMM/Lagos and DNAA/Abuja. This has happened in previous years also, with local comment that it may be artificially created. Check before operating or using DN as RALT.

SOZZ/French Guiana The [ATC strike](#) has been extended to Nov 15. Airspace will be uncontrolled during the daytime hours 1100-2030z, but ATC will be working at night – unless you see any last-minute Notams saying otherwise. During this time, if you want to cross this bit of airspace, there are now very specific routes and levels you have to fly at in their [contingency plan](#). Once you're inside the FIR, don't change your speed or level. ATC staff at SOCA/Cayenne airport are not part of this strike, but check airport Notams for various runway closures throughout November.

RPZZ/Philippines ASEAN Summit coming up this Friday, more restrictions announced. RPLB/Subic Bay will be completely closed to civilian ops until Nov 15. Expect it to be especially busy at RPLL/Manila. Nov 12-15 only allowing departures from 13, and arrivals on 31, and GA banned unless connected to the event. [FSB Blog](#).

OMDW/Dubai The Dubai Airshow will be taking place between Nov 12-16 at Dubai's second airport, Al Maktoum International. However, with all the rehearsals they'll be doing, the airport will be closed to non-airshow traffic at various times each day starting from Nov 8th. So if you're headed there, check the Notams carefully. [FSB Blog](#).

SUZZ/Uruguay The ATC strike has been extended, with three more days of 2 hour stoppage action added – Nov 12, 14 and 16. Only departures affected.

MMOX/Oaxaca Significant disruption from [ongoing roadblocks](#) by transport workers. Blockades have reportedly been erected on some roads heading towards Xoxocotlan International Airport (OAX).

FAOR/Johannesburg Another 'Follow-home' robbery on Nov 2. Three foreign travellers were robbed after being followed from [OR Tambo airport](#), and used Police ID to stop the vehicle. Persistent crime threat,

crews should be aware.

LEZZ/Spain Roadblocks reported around **Barcelona**, blocking Via Laietana, Travessera de Dalt and Gran Via avenue. and on the C-17 motorway. Protesters are reacting to the arrest of Catalan leaders by the Spanish authorities, following the region's unilateral declaration of independence on 27 October. Major demonstrations are planned for Nov 11-12. [FSB Blog](#).

EHRD/Rotterdam Closed for runway repair from 23-05z each night until Nov 12, and then the airport will be **completely closed** for three full days from Nov 13-16. [FSB Blog](#).

URRR/Rostov A new airport has been built, called Platov International Airport, and it's set to open on Dec 1. ICAO code will be URRP, and the longest runway is 3200m. This will replace the old URRR/Rostov Airport, which is expected to close by March 2018.

KZZZ/USA The FAA has published a ton of information on Thanksgiving and Snowbird routes for the upcoming holiday season. Everything you might need is [here](#).

OEZZ/Saudi Arabia Several press reports quoting a Yemeni rebel threat to further target Saudi and UAE airports, after their missile reached OERK on Saturday, specifically, 'We urge all airline companies and travelers to avoid airports in both Saudi and UAE as we consider them a legitimate military targets within the range of our ballistic missiles'. [Full article](#).

NCRG/Rarotonga has limited fuel at the moment; won't be available to non-scheduled flights until Nov 13.

GOOY/Dakar International Peace forum Nov 13-14, many heads of state attending, airport will be busier than normal, confirm fuel and handling.

EIZZ/Ireland You can now plan your flights DCT across Irish airspace at any flight level. Free Route Airspace (FRA) has now been extended into the lower airspace below FL245 across all of Irish airspace - this includes Shanwick OCA, the Shannon Oceanic Transition Area (SOTA) and Northern Oceanic Transition Area (NOTA).

MKZZ/Kingston FIR Updated flow requirements related to new ATC system, enroute delays possible. 40nm between aircraft entering FIR 15Z-midnight, and 80nm midnight -15Z.

NVVV/Port Vila The reconstruction of Vanuatu's main airport has finally begun, after a few major airlines cancelled flights there back in 2016 due to the shoddy state of the runway. For now, the runway remains operational, but they're just asking aircraft over 35 tonnes to go easy on the brakes.

LGMK/Mykonos Between Nov 12-19, the only way to get to Mykonos will be by helicopter. During this time the airport will be closed to all other flights, as they're doing runway repair work.

FMZZ/Madagascar There has been a decline in the reported number of cases in the ongoing plague outbreak, but the disease still remains present in cities of Antananarivo and Toamasina, as well as in rural areas. There have been around 2000 cases of plague since August, including 140 fatalities. Don't go there unless you absolutely have to.

HSZZ/South Sudan The security situation in Juba remains tense following the President's decision on Oct 30 to deploy a military and national security personnel presence to surround the residence of the former Chief of the Army staff; he has been under house arrest since May; the UK FCO continues to advise against all travel to South Sudan.

LTZZ/Turkey On Nov 6, the U.S. diplomatic missions in Turkey resumed visa services on a "limited basis.", a rollback of the U.S. decision on Oct 8 to suspend all non-immigrant visa services after the arrest

of an employee of a U.S. Consulate; Turkey reciprocated the move the same day. It is unclear whether the U.S. will completely lift the suspension or whether Turkey will also rollback its suspension.

AYMN/Mendi Security risk, unrest over results of general elections. Airport operational (closed Oct 4-18 due local protest and violence), but airlines not yet operating there. Local sources indicate several months before normal ops will resume.

OBZZ/Bahrain US Embassy in Bahrain issued has issued a Security Message concerning travel in Bahrain. Authorities have located several unexploded IEDs recently, and there are several upcoming events which may lead to demonstration and protests.

KZZZ/USA Enhanced security measures on US-bound flights came into effect last week. These include: enhanced surveillance of aircraft on the ground and of the departure gate area; more sniffer dogs; Explosive Trace Detectors will be used for airport security checks; and there will also be a personal interview for each traveller (of the kind that already takes place for travellers on US carriers). Airlines are instructing passengers to arrive to the airport early, and to make sure all their electronic devices are charged and removed from their cases before security.

SKZZ/Colombia On Oct 31, the government authorised airstrikes against armed groups. The directive allows for military action against such groups, including dissident members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) as well as armed paramilitary groups, BACRIMs. The authorities have said that military operations will begin in the coming days; a specific date has not been announced.

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