

# We Want to Talk to Lebanon

OPSGROUP Team  
3 January, 2023



We want to talk to Lebanon, more specifically, someone in the Lebanese Aviation Authority (the DGCA).

But since they probably won't speak to us, we'll talk to you instead... with a little warning about operating there.

## What is this all about?

It is all about a tradition in Lebanon where **they fire guns about willy nilly**, often into the air, when they celebrate.

They do it at graduations, birthdays, weddings, and even funerals or when a political leader just talks on television (*although that one happens less now because a lot of folk there aren't so happy with the government*).

There was renewed attention from authorities in 2016, but reports of it occurring across Lebanon are still common despite the practice having been outlawed since then.

Reports suggest **OLBA/Beirut airport** sees an average of **7-8 incidents** involving indiscriminate gunfire per year.

New Year's Eve 2022 saw reports that **two MEA A320s** parked at OLBA/Beirut were **damaged by bullets** during the celebrations. A passenger was also almost hit as he left the terminal.

On Nov 10, 2022, a **stray bullet hit a commercial jet on the approach** to OLBA/Beirut.

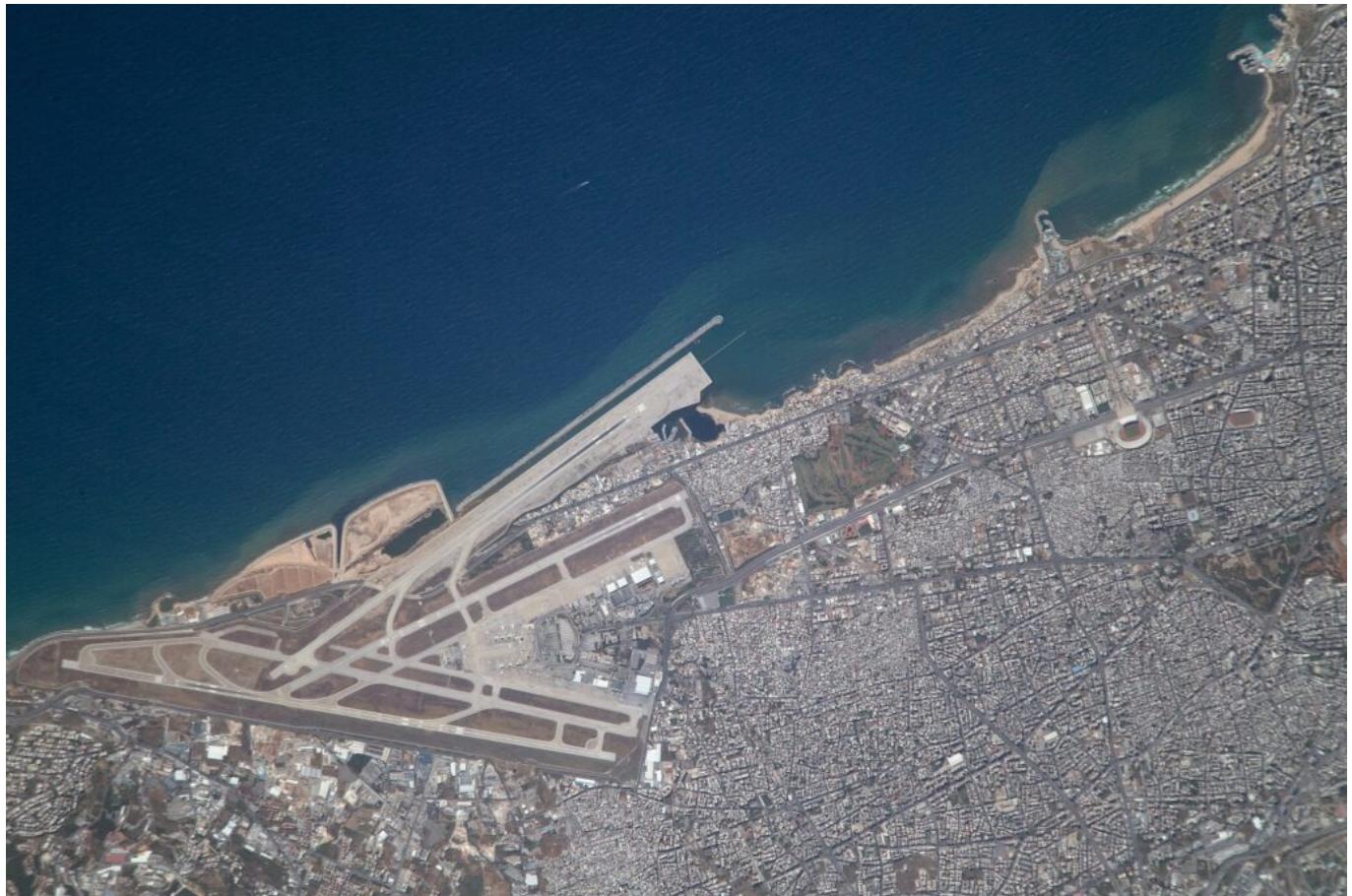
Two Middle East Airlines Airbus A321neos damaged by bullets fired during the New Year's celebrations while parked at Beirut International Airport. <https://t.co/8VotXyDDIK>  
[pic.twitter.com/Rw200f1wwz](https://pic.twitter.com/Rw200f1wwz)

— Breaking Aviation News & Videos (@aviationbrk) January 1, 2023

## Why is there no security?

Actually, the reason Beirut airport seems to be at higher risk is as much to do with the fact it is the main international airport, as with the airport's positioning to the city and populated areas.

**OLBA/Beirut's approaches both cross densely populated areas**, and there is little separation between the airport area and land side areas. The final approach to runway 03 also passes over hotels along the coast where celebrations are often held.



## What can you do about it?

Unfortunately, *person-with-gun spotting* on short finals probably isn't an ideal plan. There is **limited mitigation** for this without support of the authorities to improve security and safety.

- If you do spot anything then **report it immediately** to ATC
- **Be aware of the risk**, particularly if operating during holiday periods
- **Do not hold at low level** over populated areas of Lebanon (unlikely you will, but a reminder)
- **Consider climb performance** on departure (get up as quick as possible!)

## Does this happen anywhere else?

**Risk of low level weapons fire is usually associated with conflict zones.** Here are a few, there are no doubt more (*and if you know of any, let us know. We'll add to the list so other operators have a heads-up too.*)

- **OPPS/Peshawar** The airport in Pakistan lies in close proximity to the mountainous region

which borders Afghanistan. The mountains are a known region for rebel groups. Crew are advised not to hold or overfly the area due to the risk of gunfire. More info

- **ORER/Erbil** The Iraqi airport is the main airport for Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan region of Iraq. There is currently ongoing conflict in this region. The approach to Runway 18 / departure from Runway 36 both cross a region of high terrain where there have been multiple reports of gunfire risk. Crew are advised to avoid descending or holding, or crossing this region until they have reached a suitable altitude. More info
- In Sep 2022, a man was hit inside an aircraft flying at 3500', routing to **VYKL/Loikaw airport in Myanmar**. The bullet source was unconfirmed, but linked to conflict between rebel and government groups in the area. More info

Turkey and the Philippines also (sporadically) see a similar tradition occurring.

### **It's not the only threat in Lebanon**

Lebanon has seen a period of **growing instability and unrest** because of political and economic turmoil. Riots and protests are a particular security concern in Beirut.

**Lebanon's relationship with neighbour Israel has had its ups and downs.** Lebanon has not yet followed in the footsteps of other countries in the region to improve ties (and airspace access) with Israel. **Saudi Arabia and the UAE have both entered a 'normalisation' agreement**, also known the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement, which opened up (some possibilities) for using Israel's airspace.

The country also sees increasing **spillover risk from the Syrian conflict**. The conflict often results in **Israeli fighter jets transiting their airspace with no clearance**. It is repeatedly a persistent issue, and raises concerns over airspace risk and safety in the border areas of Lebanon. The Israeli airforce sometimes target Syria from this region resulting in missile **attacks and airstrikes close to OLBA/Beirut**.

**The primary risk** in Lebanon's airspace (the OLBB/Beirut FIR) from the Syrian conflict is that **civil aircraft may be targeted in error**, or caught in crossfire during ongoing air attacks involving Israel, Russia, Iran. Missiles may erroneously lock on to civil aircraft. There is a risk to civil aircraft operating on **airways UL620, UW74, UR18, and UP62**.

Several countries have issued **airspace warnings for Syria**, banning operators from entering the OSTT/Damascus FIR. Many of these warnings include include the note that there is a potential risk to aircraft within **200nm of the Damascus FIR which includes the OLBB/Beirut FIR**. There is also risk of GPS interference and communication jamming.

For a full briefing and information on current warnings visit Safeairspace:

- Lebanon
- Syria
- Israel

### **Back to our call to the DGCA**

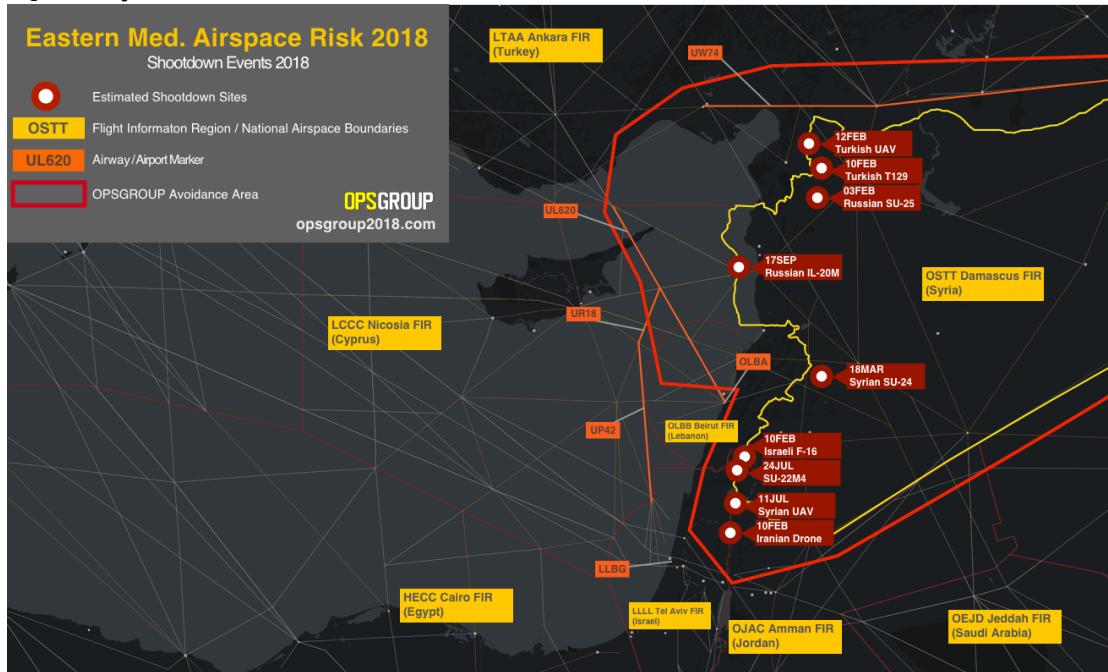
The risk of indiscriminate gunfire impacting flight operations is a growing concern and the DGCA need to put measures into place to better protect aircraft operating into the country, particularly at OLBA/Beirut International.

So, here is our call to them to do something.

# Why are we still flying airline passengers over war zones?

Mark Zee

3 January, 2023



Here's the level of inconsistency we've reached in international air transport: we take each passenger, scrutinize their booking, check the no-fly-list, watch them on CCTV, pull them apart at TSA, remove anything sharper than a pen, question them, x-ray the bags, run Explosive Trace Detection tests, screen the hold baggage, background check every member of the crew, and then, once they've all boarded, **fly this ultra-secure airplane straight into a war zone.**

Welcome to the Eastern Mediterranean. It's an active conflict zone. The Russian naval build up there this month is the largest since Moscow's intervention in Syria began in 2015. Over Syria, 9 aircraft have been shot down this year.

**The most recent was on Monday night this week**, when Syria came under attack from Israeli fighter jets, and started firing indiscriminately at anything off the coast that looked like a threat. They wanted to shoot something down, and they did—except it was a friend, not foe. They took out a Russian Ilyushin IL-20M transport category airplane. Even on the worst radar, that doesn't look anything like an Israeli F-16.

50 miles away from where the Russian aircraft plunged into the sea on Monday night is the international airway UL620, busy with all the big name airline traffic heading for Beirut and Tel Aviv. If Syria can mistakenly shoot down a Russian ally aircraft, they can also take out your A320 as you cruise past.

And yet, most airlines continue to operate. Are we really so comfortable with operating in conflict zones again?

**The lessons of MH17 seem to be fading fast.** It's a little over four years since 298 people lost their

lives over Ukraine one summer afternoon, thanks to an errant missile fired during a civil war at an aircraft that they thought was a military threat. "Why were they over a war zone", everyone cried afterwards.

Well, we all were. Me too. I was a pilot for Austrian Airlines at the time. I recall one morning in Vienna, some months before MH17. Boarding the last of the passengers, my BBC news app flashed up a story about a helicopter being shot down in eastern Ukraine .

## Ukraine army helicopter shot down near Sloviansk, 12 dead

⌚ 29 May 2014 | [Europe](#)

 Share



Amateur footage posted online appears to show the aftermath of the helicopter being downed, as the BBC's Mark Lowen reports

Pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine have shot down a military helicopter near Sloviansk, killing 12 people, the Ukrainian military says.

It says the rebels used a Russian-made anti-aircraft system, and that an army general was among the dead.

The town of Sloviansk, Donetsk region, has seen

### Ukraine crisis

[Witnessing clashes outside Kiev parliament](#)

[Life on street dividing Ukraine and Russia](#)

[Putin shows who is boss](#)

As we were headed east, with my colleague in the cockpit, we quickly plotted the position on our enroute chart, and noted that it was really close to our route. Maybe 30 miles north. “We might see something interesting!”, we said, and pushed back. We didn’t, nor did we think much more about it.

Do you see the thought process though? Before MH17, we didn’t consider the risks to our aircraft from war zones. Especially being so high. Helicopters might be getting shot down, but we’re at 35,000 feet. No problem.

This is why all of these airlines—mine, at the time, included—operated on the route.

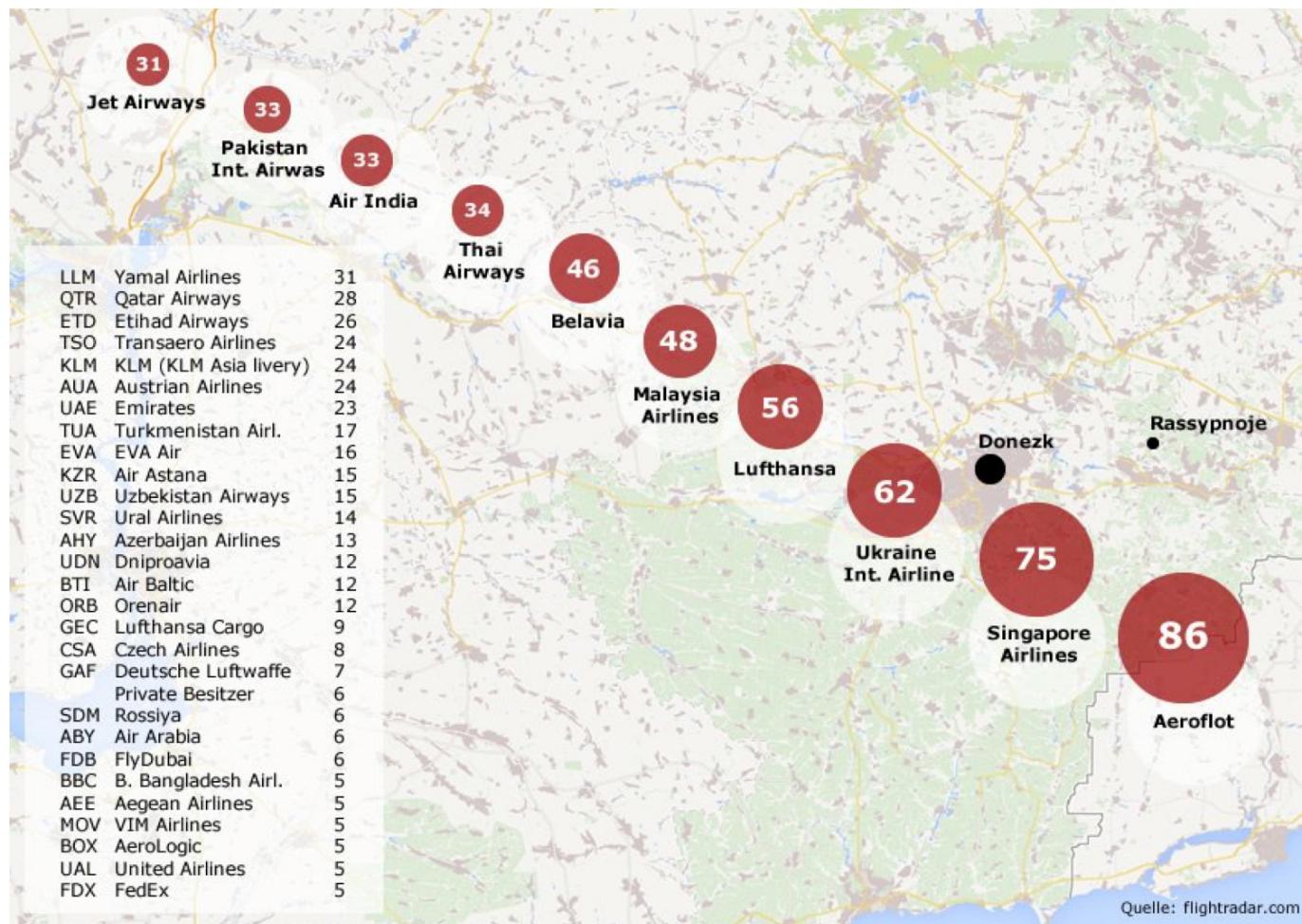


Image: Der Spiegel

And then it happened, and none of us could quite believe it.

But we learned. “Conflict Zone” became a buzzword. We had task forces and committees, whitepapers and promises, and—myself included—talked at length about how this happened, why, and how to avoid it in the future.

And yet, here we are flying unsuspecting passengers along the Syrian border. If you’re unsuspecting enough, and buy a SkyTeam codeshare ticket—you’ll actually overfly Syria on the Honey Badger airline of the region, Middle East Airlines.

Here we are flying passengers in the Eastern Mediterranean war zone. Why is this happening?

My guess: because we don’t think anything bad is going to happen, because the airspace boundary lines on the charts make that little bit of sea near Cyprus feel different from that little bit of sea near Syria, but mainly because there is **no clear guidance from Aviation Authorities**.

Let’s start with Cyprus. The Nicosia FIR has a big chunk of unsafe airspace. The Russian aircraft on Monday

was shot down on the Nicosia FIR boundary. What do the Notams say? Take a look. There are 97 of them. Mostly about fireworks at local hotels. Critical stuff indeed. Then there are 20 or 30 about “Russian naval exercises”. A clue, perhaps, but where is the black and white **“An Aircraft was Shot Down on our Border on Monday?”** . Or, since we are still using teletype to communicate Notams to crews, “AN AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN ON OUR BORDER ON MONDAY”. Wait, we have to abbreviate that, and use codes, for some reason. “ACFT SHOT DOWN ON FIR BDY 17SEP”. That’s better.

What about Turkey? Anything on the Eastern Mediterranean risk? Let’s have a look. Nope, just 132 Bullshit Notams, and something about an AWACS aircraft. See you back here in 30 minutes when you’ve read them all.

**Remember, I’m being a pilot, an airline, a dispatcher, trying to find information on the Risk in the Eastern Mediterranean. And this is how hard it is.**

EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency), how are you doing? Let’s start here, at the **“Information on Conflict Zones”**. Paragraph 2 tells us that ICAO have a Central Repository on Conflict Zones, launched in 2015.

No, they don’t. That died—quite a long time ago. This is where it used to live. So, there is no ICAO Central Repository on Conflict Zones. There is a new ICAO document with guidance on managing Conflict Zone risk (and it’s a bloody good one, too)—but where is the picture of current risk?

Let’s plough on through the EASA site. Aha! Seems we have a Conflict Zone alerting system, and Conflict Zone bulletins. Here they all are: <https://ad.easa.europa.eu/czib-docs/page-1>

The last one on Syria was issued on April 17th. But it seems to be just a list of Notams issued by other states. And these are out of date. The German Notam has expired, the French AIC has been replaced.

And there’s no guidance. No Map. No routes to avoid. Nothing about Cyprus, or Beirut. No mention of the Russian shootdown. No mention of the 9 aircraft shot down this year.

How am I supposed to know, as an operator, or pilot, what the risks are and where to avoid. We’re getting closer to the point here. **You’re not supposed to rely on the Aviation Authority. That is their message.** You must conduct your own risk assessment. You must research and find out about the risks yourself.

You are on your own.

If you’re a big airline, that’s probably fine. You’ll make your own decisions about where to fly, anyhow. But what about everybody else?

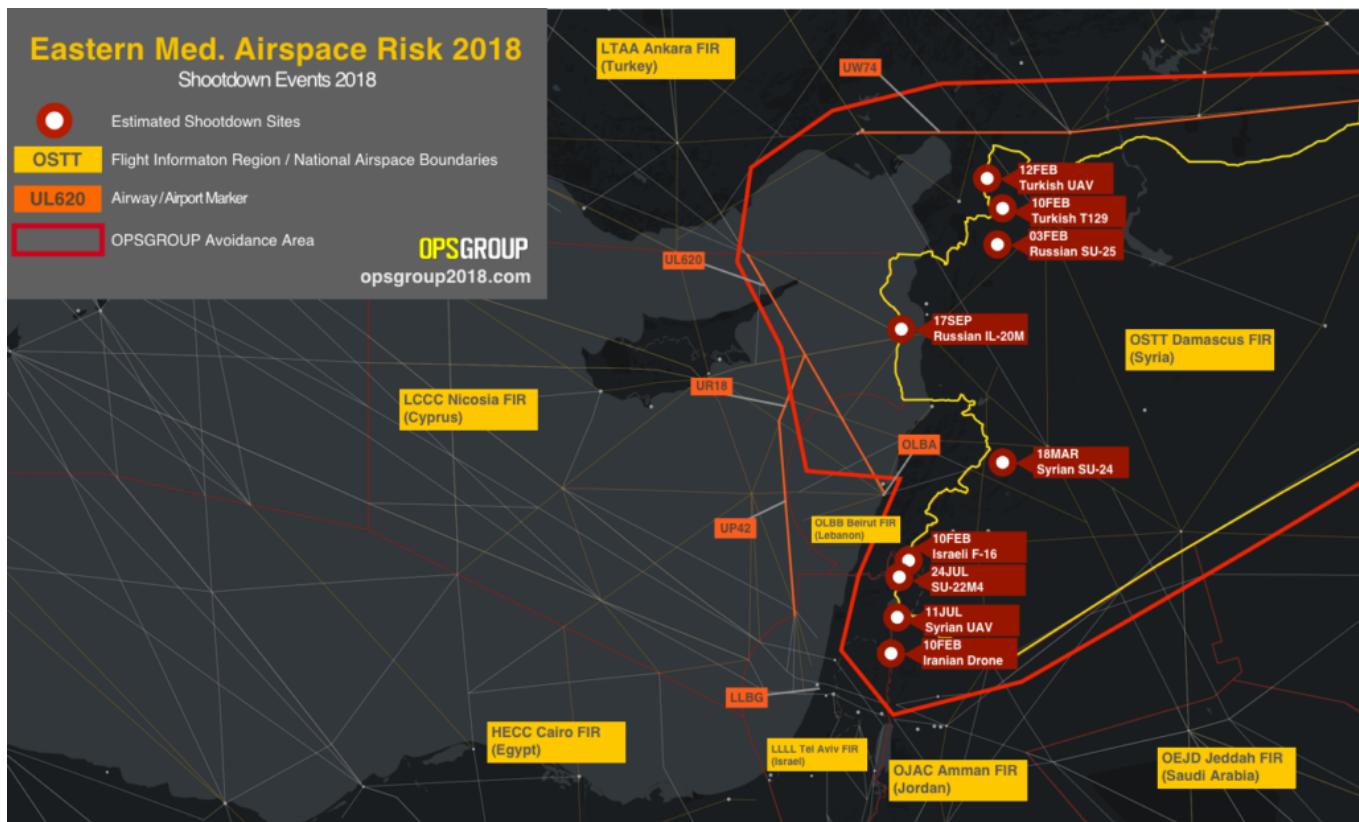
While OpsGroup works hard to get information out to our members—and we spend a lot of time researching risk—I would greatly prefer that we didn’t have to.

**Aviation Authorities must issue better guidance for the aircraft entering their areas.**

Let me remind you. Airlines are operating 50 miles from a position where an airplane was shot down at night, by a missile type that’s already taken out a passenger airliner by mistake, fired by a beleaguered Syrian defence post, at a friendly aircraft that they did not take time to identify.

And the guidance to operators from Authorities: **NIL**.

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Opsgroup has now published Note 31: Airspace Risk in the Eastern Mediterranean. **There is a clear risk to civil aircraft operating on airways UL620, UW74, UR18, and UP62. In simple terms, if you find yourself planned overwater east of Cyprus, reconsider your route.**

OPSGROUP.

**NOTE TO MEMBERS**  
**#31 21 SEP 2018**

ISSUED BY OPSGROUP

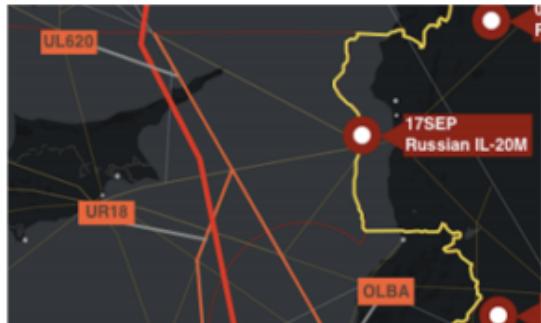
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**SUBJECT:**  
**EASTERN MED AIRSPACE RISK**  
**ISSUED: 21 SEP 2018**
**CIRCULATION: OPSGROUP**

### Situation/Event

On Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, Syria shot down a Russian IL-20M transport category aircraft, mistaking it for an Israeli fighter. All on board died.

The position of the shootdown was – according to Russia Mil - 35°19'N 35°41'E – on the Nicosia (LCCC) / Damascus (OSTT) boundary, over international waters 20nm off the coast of Syria.

This event significantly changes the risk picture for civil aircraft operating in the vicinity of Syria. There is a **clear risk to civil aircraft** operating on airways UL620, UW74, UR18, and UP62. In simple terms, if you find yourself planned **overwater east of Cyprus**, reconsider your route.



*Shootdown location of Russian IL-20M. Full Eastern Mediterranean Risk Picture on next page.*

### Primary concerns

1. The shootdown of the Russian IL-20M on Sep 17 was a **mistake**. The Syrian defences were under attack by Israel, and assumed it was another attack aircraft. Russia is an ally for them, so this was a friendly aircraft. If Syria can make this magnitude of mistake, it can clearly also misidentify civil aircraft operating in the vicinity.
2. The position of the shootdown is only **50nm away** from UL620 – still heavily in use by civil traffic inbound to Beirut. UR18 is also very close.
3. The missile used by Syria was a Russian S-200 SAM, which was the **same missile type** that brought down Siberian Airlines Flight 1812 in 2001. The missile can lock on to the wrong target, and this risk is **higher over water**.

### Siberia 1812 lessons

In 2001, Ukraine shot down, by accident, a Siberian Airlines Tupolev 154, killing 78 passengers and crew.

Ukrainian officials speculated that water interference caused the missile to veer off course.

US assessment indicated the S-200 missile overshot its target drone - and instead of self-destructing, locked on to the passenger aircraft about 134nm further away and detonated 50 ft over the aircraft.

**Further reading:**

- ICAO Doc 10084 - Risk Assessment Manual for Civil aircraft flying over or near conflict zones. This was published this year, fully updated - read it!
- Safeairspace. Managed by OpsGroup, this is our public repository and first point of warning for Airspace Risk for airlines, pilots, dispatchers, and aircraft operators.

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## Who is still flying over Syria?

OPSGROUP Team

3 January, 2023



We have reported recently on the complex airspace picture and dangers associated with the ongoing Syrian conflict.

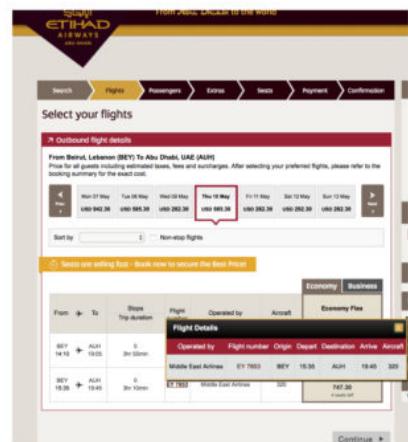
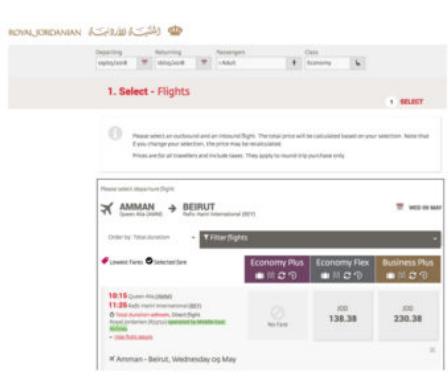
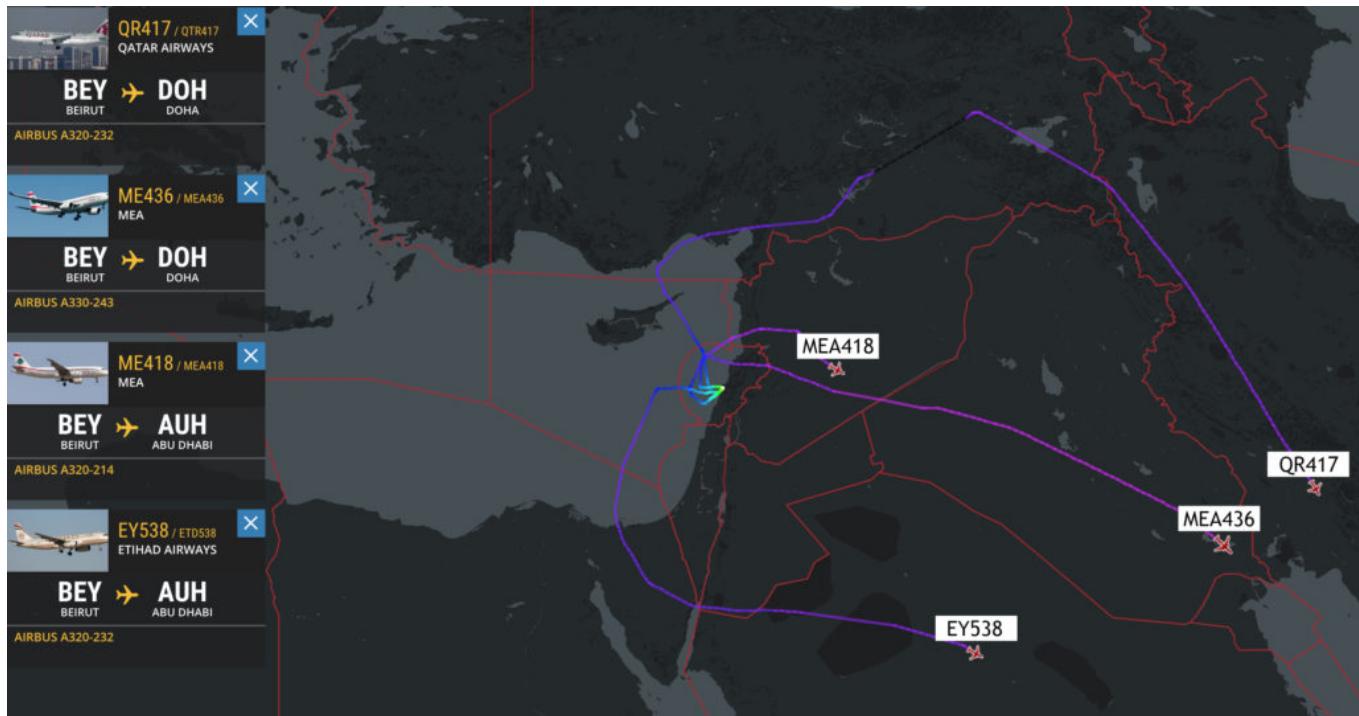
Most major carriers have taken the advice of numerous government agencies to avoid Syrian airspace altogether; the FAA going as far as calling on all operators flying within 200 nautical miles of the OSTT/Damascus FIR to "exercise caution". Today, the only airlines flying over the airspace are locally based Syrian airlines, Iraq Airlines and Lebanon's Middle Eastern Airlines.



**These MEA overflights are of interest.** The airline is a member of the SkyTeam alliance and has codeshare agreements with several high-profile airlines (Air

Canada, Air France, etc.) Despite the repeated warnings of the ongoing dangers associated with overflights of this conflict zone, the airline has chosen to schedule more than half-a-dozen flights over the airspace each day.

Some of these flights have the usual codeshare practise of other airlines booking their passengers on MEA flights. Our research shows that Etihad Airways, Qatar Airways (Oneworld Alliance) and Royal Jordanian Airlines (Oneworld Alliance) passengers are still being booked on MEA flights to/from Beirut; likely unbeknown to their customers of the increased flight risk. All three airlines continue to service Beirut with their own aircraft, but all three avoid Syrian airspace, naturally accepting the best advice to avoid the area completely.



*Something isn't right here; no warning anywhere about these flights being flown over Syria.*

**So why is it safe for passengers to overfly Syria on an MEA flight, but not on any of the other airlines? And more importantly, why is MEA still operating over Syria anyway?**

It looks like Kuwait Airways will be the next codeshare partner of MEA, so it will be interesting to see whether the issue of the overflight of conflict zones will be discussed.

As always, keep an eye on our Safeairspace map for the latest worldwide updates.

# US, Canada may lose EU visa rights, More Free Route Airspace for Northern Europe

Cynthia Claros  
3 January, 2023

**INTERNATIONAL  
BULLETIN**

ISSUED BY FLIGHT SERVICE BUREAU

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EMAIL INTL.DESK@FSBUREAU.ORG

expect. time	destination	airline
13. 25	RHODES	airMall
13. 35	MUNICH	airberlin
13. 40	GENEVE	Aeromaritime
13. 45	PARIS	SAS
13. 55	ROME	Alitalia
14. 00	NAPLES	Alitalia
14. 05	MADRID	IBERIA
14. 15	TUNIS	Jetairfly
14. 25	ZURICH	Swiss



**US and Canada may lose EU visa rights** 13APR The European Commission published warning on 12APR that visa-free travel by US and Canadian citizens to Europe is at risk, due to the lack of a full reciprocal arrangement for EU citizens. [Read the full article](#).

**More Free Route Airspace for Northern Europe** 13APR Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Estonia and Latvia will be increasing free route airspace from 23JUN16. This allows operators to utilize User Preferred Routes above FL285. Details of the implementation can be found through the AIC A3/2016 from Sweden.

**RKSS/Gimpo** is set to open South Korea's first purpose-built FBO next month. It includes a passenger terminal with customs and a large hangar that can accommodate up to eight large jets. The FBO is a partnership between Korea Airport Crop and Avjet Asia.

**EBBR/Brussels** Controversial ATC Strike occurred without notice yesterday 12APR, restricting traffic at EBBR and in Belgian Airspace. Eurocontrol advises 4 of 6 sectors operational Wednesday 13APR, at this stage no significant further effect likely.

**KZZZ/USA** New security measures in the U.S. are being enacted in response to the Brussels Airport Bombings. The Senate voted to increase the vetting of airport workers, expand the number of TSA viper teams that sweep through airports unannounced to stop and search suspicious people, and double the number of TSA's bomb-sniffing dogs. Also, local law enforcement may also conduct random checks of cars and taxis heading towards the airport.

**KZZZ/USA** the FAA has provided its NextGEN update for 2016. It highlights all the completed items along with the expected achievements for the year. You can find all the info through the NextGEN website.

**EZZZ/Europe** as of 05APR Eurocontrol has been publishing Target Time information together with Calculated Take-off time (CTOT) in the Slot Allocation and Slot Revisions Messages (SAM and SRM). The purpose of the initiative is to provide flight crew with operational awareness of their flight's planned time at the congestion point in the air, rather than solely providing the corresponding delayed departure time (CTOT) to implement ATFM measures.

**EGZZ/United Kingdom** A large scale military exercise named 'Joint Warrior 16-1' has been taking place since 09APR16 and will last until 22APR06. EGTX and EGTT FIR/UIRs are affected. However, low to medium impact on airline operations is expected.

**LFZZ/France** beginning 03MAY16 France will be implementing CPDLC services within LFFF, LFEE, LFRR, LFMM and LFBB FIR's. The full details of the IOC can be found in AIC 10/16.

**EGGX/Shanwick** OCA implemented a trail of 5 minute separation minimum between aircraft which are following the same track, irrespective of whether they are East or Westbound. Full details can be found through AIC Y 022/2016.

**LOWW/Vienna** every weekend until 24MAY16 LOWW will be operating under single runway ops beginning 2100 on the Friday until 1600 on the Sunday. The closures are weather dependent and the closure will be recalled if the forecast calls for the use of runway 11/29. In any single runway scenario use at Vienna delays are a guarantee.

**OEZZ/Saudi Arabia** The U.S. State department updated a travel warning to Saudi Arabia on 11APR16. It outlines the risk to travellers due to an increased risk with the threat of terrorism.

**SKZZ/Colombia** The U.S. State department has updated the travel warning to Colombia. They have actually improved the travel warning as the security in the country has improved significantly in recent years. Foreigners should still exercise caution though.

**LTCC/Diyarbakir** is now able to handle international flights due to a new terminal building that has opened.

**OLBA/Beirut** two airport employees were detained on suspicion of terrorist activity involvement on 08APR16. Traces of explosives and a handgun were found on the two individuals.

**DIAP/Cote D'Ivoire** has reduced the passenger departure tax by 50% and have also removed the solidarity contribution tax levied on airline tickets.

**GABS/Mali** began renovations last month (MAR16) to increase the airports capacity to handle 1.5 million passengers which is up from the 800,000 annual passenger traffic. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

View the full International Bulletin for 13APR2016

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## Monday Briefing: Thanksgiving ATC Traffic

# Plan, New Missiles Warning - Baghdad FIR

Cynthia Claros  
3 January, 2023

**INTERNATIONAL  
BULLETIN**

**ISSUED BY FLIGHT SERVICE BUREAU**

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**Thanksgiving ATC Traffic Plan** 23NOV The FAA have published details of Traffic Management plans for the east coast of the US during the Thanksgiving holidays, effective 24NOV to 30NOV. The highest volume days will be 25NOV and 29NOV, expect delays on north/south routes to Florida during this period. Read the full details of the airspace initiatives [here](#).

**New Missiles Warning - Baghdad FIR** 23NOV A NOTAM issued today by the Iraqi CAA indicated anticipated cruise missile traffic across the FIR from the Caspian Sea, leading also to the closure of Erbil Airport until Wednesday. See below for further.

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**EGGX/CZQX Shanwick/Gander** The new NAT Track Structure and Reduced Lateral Separation Minima procedures, initially planned for 12NOV, are now re-planned for Monday 30NOV, following the resolution of computer issues related to the new format.

**UIII/Irkustk** will close the main runway on 01, 08, 15 and 22DEC from 1210-1450Z for repairs, not available as alternate during these times. As this is a common Polar alternate, check NOTAMS for current information.

**UEEE/Yakutsk** will close 31DEC-02JAN, not available for movements or as alternate after 0500Z on 31DEC.

**EINN/Shannon** has a runway closure on 23NOV from 2345Z-0500Z, not available as alternate. Caution before using as NAT alternate on this date. If another ETOPS alternate is required, consider EIDW/Dublin, EGAA/Belfast or EGPF/Glasgow.

**ORBB/Baghdad FIR** Iraq published the following NOTAM (A0413/15) effective today 23NOV CRUISE MISSILES CROSSING NORTHERN PART OF IRAQ, FROM CASPIAN SEA TO SYRIA,NORTH OF REP OTALO, NO

CRUISE MISSILE OPS IN THE REST OF ORBB FIR, FLIGHTS OPERATING AT FL310 OR ABOVE AND FLIGHTS OPERATING AT ORBI, ORNI AND ORMM NOT AFFECTED. SFC - 30000FT MSL, 23NOV 0500Z - 25NOV 0500Z. In addition Erbil and Sulamaini airports will be closed until Wednesday.

**OLBA/Beirut FIR** Initially issued a NOTAM on 20NOV, closing a large part of the FIR including routes G2/UG2, R219/UR219, L620/UL620, in response to Russia's request for a training exercise in their airspace. Subsequently the government reversed their decision, and the NOTAM was cancelled on 22NOV, reference A0293/15.

**BKPR/Kosovo** Airspace to the north of Kosovo was released from UN/KFOR restriction, to Serbian control, on 20NOV, meaning that arrivals and departures from Europe will no longer have to make a circuitous approach and can depart to the north. Procedures are not yet in place, but technically the airspace is no longer restricted. For most operators this will see a route saving of up to 100nm.

**GABS/Bamako, Mali.** With great sadness we must report that 6 crew members of Volga-Dnepr Airlines were amongst those killed in the attack on the Radisson Hotel in Bamako on Friday.

**KXXX/USA** Thanksgiving Holidays 26NOV and 27NOV leading to increased traffic flows across US, but anticipated reduced traffic across the NAT region.

**KXXX/USA** Runway Closures DTW-RWY 4L/22R CLOSED SEA-RWY 16C/34C CLOSED LAS-RWY 7L/25R CLOSED LAX-RWY 6R/24L CLOSED 23/1430

**FJDG/Diego Garcia** Parking Stands A6-11 and B4-8, as well as some taxiways, closed for repair effected 19NOV.

**NWWW/Noumea** continues with runway closures 23-26NOV affecting the main runway.

**FABL/Bloemfontein**, South Africa will not accept widebody diversions 19-26NOV.

**GCCC/Canarias FIR** will have a HF outage today 23NOV from 0900-1500Z. In case of non-contact, use CPDLC, or HF via Santa Maria or Sal for relay.

**LIXX/Italy** ATC Strike planned for 24NOV 1200-1600Z has been postponed, refer NOTAM A8227/2015.

**HLLL/Tripoli FIR** Additional new southbound route available via RASNO UY751 LOSUL, for those operators using the airspace.

**LFEE/Rheims** ATC Strike 23NOV/0500Z - 28NOV/0500Z Confirmed for Monday only at this time - NOTAM F2093/15 refers. AOs are advised to reroute, avoiding LFEE area of responsibility. Those that are not able to reroute may expect delay.

**RJJJ/Japan FIR** will have a comms outage affecting Flight Plan filing on 25NOV, from 1410-1720Z. To avoid delays and missing plans, Flight Plans should be filed earlier than normal to RJJZQZX for overflights and landings. Refer to J7545/15 for specifics.

**SPJC/Lima, Peru** Effective 12NOV the Location Indicator for the main airport in Lima, Jorge Chavez, changes from SPIM to SPJC.

**TTZP/Piarco ATC** has issued a request for operators to include KNYCZZZ when filing plans entering New York Oceanic airspace from the Piarco FIR, or operating east of 58W within the Piarco FIR, in order that New York has details of the aircraft.

With regard to business aviation, but equally interesting for airlines and private operators, the NBAA has published a useful list of the Top10 Issues for International Operators in 2016.

**[View the full International Operations Bulletin for 23NOV2015](#)**