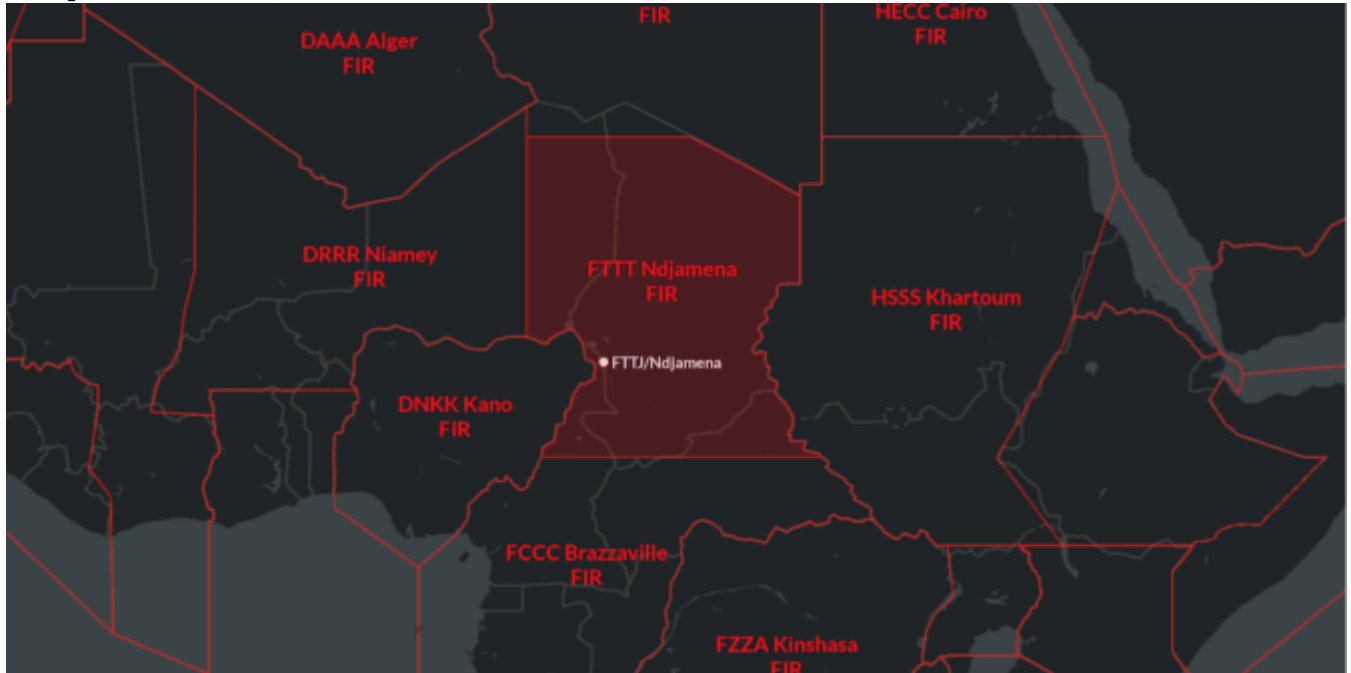


Chad Airspace Update

David Mumford

21 April, 2021

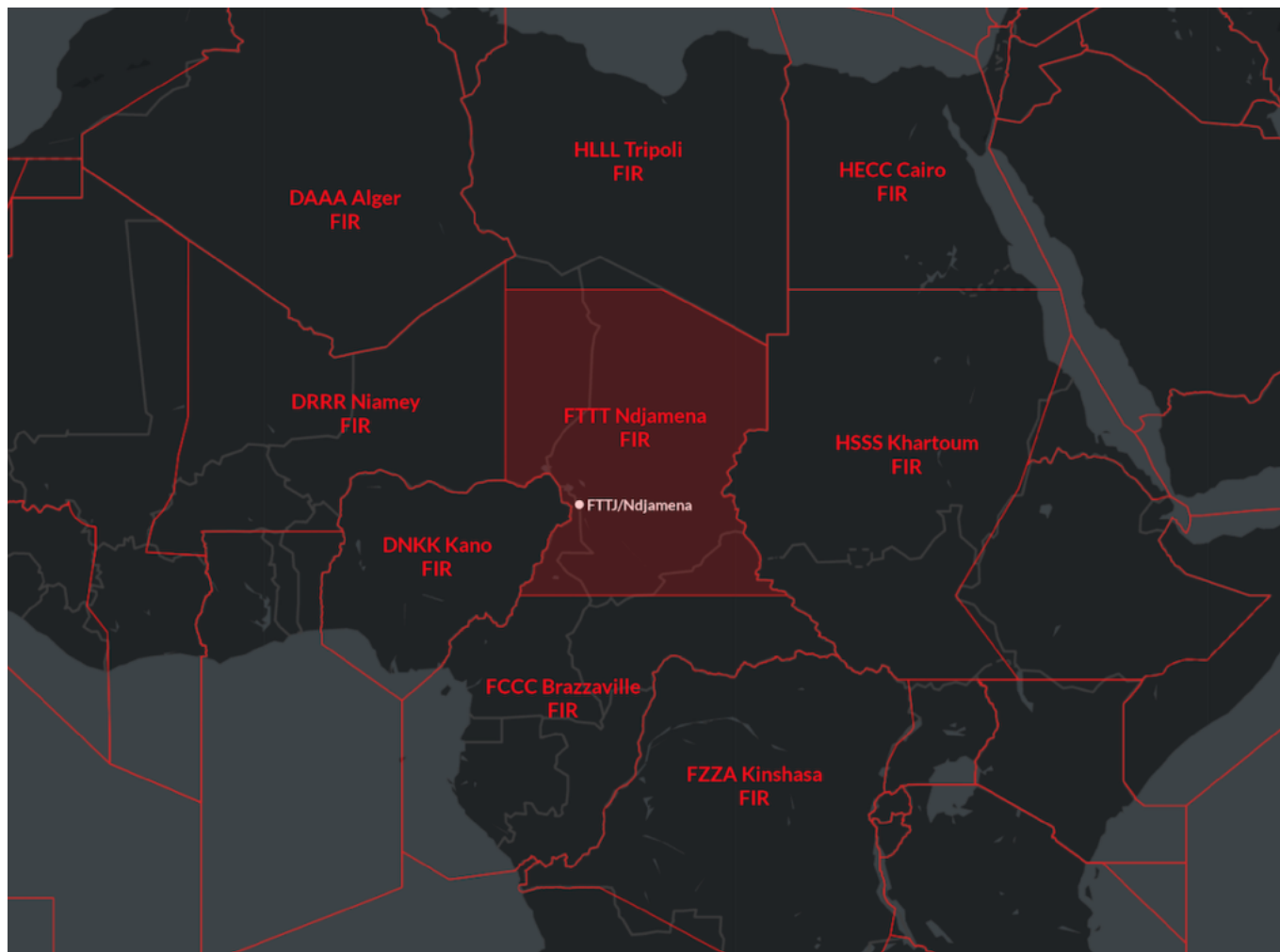


Chad's long term President, Idriss Déby died this week, having spent more than three decades in power as one of Africa's longest-serving leaders. So why did his death result in the temporary **closure of the country**, and what is the **impact to aviation**?

The background

Chad is a large landlocked country in Africa, bordered by Sudan, Libya, the CAR, Cameroon, Nigeria and Niger.

Déby was focused on building a more democratic society and he had strong allies in France and with other Western powers through his **continued fighting against Jihadist groups**. Provincial elections were already underway with projections suggesting he would be successful in winning a sixth term.



However, Chad is also one of the poorest nations in the world, with big problems around poverty, corruption and human rights, and with that came civil unrest.

What happened?

Déby was injured during a visit to troops who were battling against rebels belonging to a group called Fact (the Front for Change and Concord in Chad). The big concern now is who will become the next leader – Déby's son has stepped in – but **the government has been dissolved** and conflict is escalating in the country as opposing parties fight for power.

The military elected initially to close land and maritime borders, but then **closed all airports as well**, whilst putting in a strict countrywide curfew.

The Impact for Aviation

Initially, a Notam was issued stating that FTTJ/N'djamena airport was closed, and that Contingency Procedures were in effect across the FTTT/N'djamena FIR. Then a couple of days later, on Apr 21, the Notam was cancelled and the US Embassy issued a Security Alert advising that **FTTJ airport has reopened**.

In the short term however, landings are not advised, and overflying aircraft should be familiar with Contingency Procedures. You can download the Contingency Plan from the Acesna AIP [here](#).

This plan lays out the arrangements for situations where the **Air Navigation Services are partially or totally disrupted**, and aims to ensure overflights remain possible. Effectively, it aims to coordinate with neighboring ATS units so control of the N'Djamena UIR is temporarily assigned to them – Brazzaville ACC and Niamey ACC are the primary units being used.

Pilot operating procedures while Contingency Procedures are activated are shown under section 8.3 and the advises the following:

- Maintain contact with Brazzaville or Niamey control until entering, and contact the next control at least 10 minutes prior to exiting.
- Operate along the assigned contingency route (as listed in the table), although SLOP is recommended.
- Reach your assigned level at least 10 minutes prior to entering N'Djamena UIR and maintain throughout unless an emergency arises requiring you to diverge from it.
- Listen out on 12.6 and transmit position reports.

Contingency routes code	Routes name and Entry/Exit points	FIR Involved	Flight level allocation scheme	Communication Means
NDCR1	UG858: DEKIL –RAKOM	DRRR	southwest bound: flight level 300-340 northeast bound: flight level 350-390	HF 8903-8873 and CPDLC if applicable
NDCR2	UR778: SABSI-TONBA	DRRR HLLL	northeast bound: flight level 290-350 southwest bound: flight level 280-340	
NDCR3	UG660: GNA-KELAK	FCCC HSSS DNKK	westbound: flight level 280-340 eastbound: flight level 290-310-350-430	
NDCR4	UB730 : DIR-RAKOM	DRRR	northbound : flight level 300-380 southbound : flight level 310-370	
NDCR5	UA607: DIR-RULDO	DRRR FCCC	northbound: flight level 300-380 southbound: flight level 290 -370	
NDCR6	UG727 : TJN -DEKIL	FCCC DNKK DRRR	northbound: flight level 320-340-360 southbound: flight level 330-390	
NDCR7	UG857: INASU-FL	FCCC	southwest bound: flight level 280-340 northeast bound: flight level 310-350	
NDCR8	UG655: GARIN-ONUDA	FCCC HLLL	northbound: flight level 300-320 southbound: flight level 290-330	
NDCR9	UA410: ONUDA -KAFIA	HSSS FCCC	northeast bound: flight level 270-310-350 southwest bound: flight level 300-340	
NDCR10	UM215: TONBA –ONUDA	FCCC HLLL	northbound: flight level 380-400 Southbound: flight level 370-390	
NDCR11	UB736: MONAN-ETRIS	HSSS FCCC DNKK	westbound: flight level 300-320-360 eastbound: flight level 310-330-370-410	

Contingency routes laid out in the ASECNA AIP ENR 1.8

What else do we know?

N'Djamena in the past was a **popular fuel stop in central Africa**, but multiple travel warnings now advise against travel here (see the UK advice here, and the US advice here). No official state Notams have been issued, but risk remains high. A state of emergency remains in place for the Lake Chad region. Overall there is a high threat for terrorism and it is strongly advised to avoid landings.

A330 shot at during Covid relief flight

David Mumford

21 April, 2021



An Air France A330-200 was shot at after landing in FCPP/Pointe Noire, on the evening of April 11th. The aircraft was operating a Covid repatriation flight, picking up passengers in Congo-Brazzaville, and planned to depart back to Paris via Bangui.

Two shots were fired during the incident, with one bullet puncturing the fuselage.

Initial reports made the incident seem quite disturbing, with differing versions of the story appearing in news media.

But, it turns out to have been a little less dramatic. It seems an altercation between a security guard and his boss led to him trying to fire his gun in the air, and hitting the aircraft was unintended.