

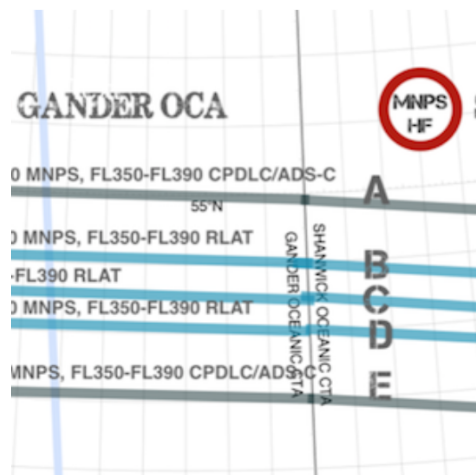
# Midweek Briefing: NAT changes postponed, Matthew Airport Update

Cynthia Claros  
5 October, 2016

## INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

### ISSUED BY FLIGHT SERVICE BUREAU

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**NAT changes postponed** 05OCT Phase 2 of Reduced Separation on the North Atlantic NAT Tracks will not go ahead as planned, slowing down the rate of change in the NAT region. Read the article.

**Matthew: Airport Update** 05OCT The next 24 hours will dictate the impact that Hurricane Matthew will have on Florida, as it leaves Cuba and begins to track north through the Bahamas. Airports Update: for Haiti, MTPP/Port-au-Prince ... Read the article.

**DGAA/Accra, Ghana** has a radar outage until Oct 19th in the southern area.

**EGKK/London Gatwick** has a Runway Occupancy Trial starting on 08OCT, all medium and large aircraft (A319 upwards) should plan to vacate at FR. Smaller aircraft vacate at E.

**ENGM/Oslo** has a fueler strike - plan to carry return fuel to avoid issues, until 10OCT at least.

**OAZZ/Afghanistan** Security reminder from Kabul: serious threats to safety and security exist in the city of Kabul and throughout Afghanistan. The threat of kidnapping is high. The potential also exists for protests to occur in Afghan cities at short notice. Militant groups usually plan attacks against locations and individuals with potential American connections, including: Afghan and U.S. government facilities, foreign embassies, military installations, commercial entities, non-governmental organization offices, restaurants, hotels, airports, and educational centers. Travel to all areas of Afghanistan remains unsafe due to the ongoing risk of kidnapping, hostage taking, military combat operations, landmines, banditry, armed rivalry between political and tribal groups, militant attacks, direct and indirect fire, suicide bombings, and insurgent attacks, including attacks using vehicle-borne or other improvised explosive devices.

**MYZZ/Bahamas** all Airports closed due to Hurricane Matthew with effect today until 1900Z on 07OCT.

**YMHB/Hobart** is extending the 12/30 runway, see AIC H30/16 for impact information.

**FEFF/Bangui** has an overnight airport curfew from 2200-0500Z until the end of the year.

**DIAP/Ivory Coast** It's now possible to apply for a visa online; after registering and paying online, you can collect the visa on arrival at Abidjan airport.

**LTZZ/Turkey** The state of emergency will officially be extended until January 2017. The announcement came after a Cabinet meeting; President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has also supported the extension. The state of emergency was put in place on 20 July following the 15 July attempted coup.

**Typhoon Chaba** While many eyes are on Hurricane Matthew, on the other side of the world Chaba is tracking north towards Japan after strongly impacting South Korea, however the system is weakening.

**BIZZ/Iceland** Volcano Katla downgraded to colour code Green, after last weeks concerns of elevated activity.

**HAAB/Addis Ababa** There are reports of anti-government protests taking place on the outskirts of Addis Ababa on Oct 4th. Unconfirmed reports indicate that protesters are attacking government property in the Akaki, Alem Gena, Burayu, Sebeta, Keta and Ayer Tena areas and that police officers have been deployed to the affected locations. Meanwhile, in the city center, shops have reportedly closed and there have been isolated reports of gunfire. Transportation to and from the affected areas has shut down.

**LGZZ/Greece** Greek trade unions have announced strike action that is expected to cause disruption to a number of domestic flights between 4 October and 8 October.

**FVZZ/Zimbabwe** The UNIVISA system has been suspended. If travelling between Zimbabwe and Zambia more than once either way, you should get a double entry visa; due to the ongoing cash liquidity crisis, authorities have announced a series of measures designed to stem the flow of US dollars out of the country; take sufficient cash to cover your needs for the duration of your travel.

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## Midweek Briefing 13JUL: South Sudan off limits, New Zealand airport strike off

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**South Sudan off limits** 13JUL The security situation in Juba, and South Sudan, has deteriorated in the last week, with HSSJ/JUB becoming off limits due to fighting. Read the article.

**New Zealand airport strike off** 13JUL A planned strike by Aviation Security across airports in New Zealand, which would have led to wide scale disruption, has been called off at the last minute. Read the article.

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**BGBW/Narsarsuaq** Current hours are Monday to Saturday 1000-1900Z. If you want to plan a visit outside these hours, or even use BGBW as an alternate, get permission from bgbw@mit.gl in advance. There will be additional costs, especially heavy on a Sunday.

**SBZZ/Brazil** is the latest country to wield the threat of shooting down aircraft. Last month we reported on the same language from Sudan, in reference to overflight permits. Brazil's firm stance is in relation to the Olympic Games, and says that unidentified aircraft that violate the protected airspace around facilities of the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. "We are not playing," said Defence Minister Raul Jungmann. This is more of concern to a lost C172 than commercial flights (unlike Sudan, which is the reverse), but worth being aware of.

**EGPZ/Poland** has effectively dispensed with the Schengen agreement for now, expect full border controls at all international airports (ie. Passport check, Gendec).

**EGPZ/Scottish FIR** The military are carrying out some GPS jamming trials over the ocean from 12-29JUL. If you're operating in the region of Benbecula VOR, especially west of it, be aware that your GPS might stop working.

**OAKX/Kabul** Aircraft in the eastern sections of the Kabul FIR can expect some radio issues, as a comm unit (VSAT at Ghanzi) is out of action. The advice from ATC in Afghanistan is to keep trying the assigned frequency until within range of a different transmitter; in the meantime, a bit of SLOP, IFBP and TCAS should keep you out of trouble. See full article.

**MKZZ/Jamaica** Significant increase in the number of confirmed cases of Dengue fever in Jamaica during the first half of 2016. Dengue fever is endemic to Latin America and the Caribbean and can occur throughout the year.

**ENZZ/Norway FIR** Plans are afoot to raise the transition altitude to 18,000ft. It's an age old question, why does Europe have different TA's, and the US has just one? Together with surrounding countries, and the Irish FAB, this looks to be changing – but it may take a little while. See Norway AIC 7/16.

**YBBB/Brisbane FIR** (and Melbourne) will be updating their software on the night of 20JUL, with a hefty 6 hour outage of CPDLC and all the other good stuff.

**OAMS/Mazar-E-Sharif** Fuel payment is now only accepted in cash.

**NZZZ/New Zealand** A planned strike by two airport workers' unions and New Zealand's Aviation Security Service (Avsec) will now not go ahead. The unions sought increases in compensation, and negotiations on their demands will take place in the coming weeks. Read the article

**EYPH/Paluknys** is a new location indicator for the airport in Lithuania.

**ZBDS/Edros - Ejin Horo, China** will open to foreign flights this month. We did battle with AIP China for 30 mins to get further info but lost the fight. If you know more, tell us and we'll share.

**HSZZ/South Sudan** The ceasefire announced on 11 July is holding. Juba International Airport (HSSJ/JUB) is open to charter operations; however, commercial flights have yet to resume. U.S. government aircraft evacuated personnel on 12 July; however, a security message issued by the embassy later in the day advised U.S. citizens to continue to shelter in place and not attempt to travel to the airport. Meanwhile, other countries, such as Japan, Uganda, and Germany plan to send military aircraft to evacuate their nationals.

**SEZZ/Ecuador** A large earthquake (6.4) struck on 10JUL just east of Muisne, on the northwest coast of Ecuador. The quake had a shallow depth and followed 10 minutes after another earthquake that had a magnitude of 5.9. Although strong tremors were reported in Esmeralda and Quito, there were no immediate reports of damage. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue a tsunami warning following the quake.

**UZZZ/Mt. Klyuchevskoy**, Russia continues to produce ash that extends up to 25,000 feet. Movement is towards the east at 10 knots.

**PZZZ/Pacific** Two hurricanes to monitor: The National Hurricane Center is issuing advisories on Hurricane Celia, located more than 1000 miles west-southwest of the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula, and on Tropical Storm Darby, located several hundred miles west-southwest of Manzanillo, Mexico. Tropical Storm 05E (Darby) is on a strengthening trend...and may reach category 1 hurricane stage over the open ocean in a couple of days. For now both are expected to remain offshore.

**DGZZ/Ghana** African Union nationals whose countries do not have a visa-free agreement with Ghana are now eligible for a 30-day visa-on-arrival for business and tourism. The visa-on-arrival program will be piloted for three months starting at Kotoka Airport and will be extended to other ports of entry in the future. Travellers can extend their visa upon expiry in Ghana, and business travellers can apply for a longer-term visa at a Ghanaian consular post.

**BIZZ/Iceland** ATC Strike continues, primarily affecting BIKF/Keflavik, BIRK/Reykjavik, and BIRD/Reykjavik Oceanic for International Operators. Restrictions on landing, eastbound, and westbound overflying traffic. Read the article

**LTBB/Istanbul FIR** If you've got some time on your hands, have a look at the Greece-Turkey great NOTAM argument of 2016. This is an almost annual performance, the equivalent of a street argument between two kids.. If you're busy, just skip all of it when they appear on your Pre Flight Briefing for Turkey or Greece (which they will).

# Pavlof Eruption wreaking havoc, Brussels Airport remains closed: Midweek Briefing 30MAR

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**Pavlof Eruption wreaking havoc** 30MAR16 Volcano Pavlof erupted on Sunday and is currently on aviation colour code 'RED'. It has caused havoc for North Pacific, Alaskan and Northern Canadian operations. The latest predictions have the ash upwards of FL400 and extending over Northern Alaska and Canada. You can find the latest information through the Alaskan VAAC.

**Brussels Airport remains closed** 30MAR16 EBBR is still closed with the possibility of opening later this week. Currently all commercial flights are still prohibited from operating into EBBR. Only ferry, emergency, SAR, State, general aviation and cargo flights are authorized with a slot that can be coordinated through the Belgium Slot Coordination website.

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**EZZZ/Europe** The U.S. State Department along with numerous other countries have issued a Europe wide travel warning in response to the attack in Brussels. While extra vigilance should be exercised it is also a very generic response to a threat that has yet to fully understood from a commercial aviation perspective. If you would like to be kept up to date on specific travel alerts from the U.S. State Department you can sign up through their STEP program.

**FAA/United States** there have been 583 reported hazards from Aug 22/2015-Jan 31/2015 between aircraft and Drones. None of these incidents have caused any collisions or damage but extra vigilance must be exercised until the FAA can regulate the use of these drones in the terminal areas.

**RPHI/Manila** has issued an advisory for aircraft operating in the vicinity of the Bulusan Volcano and the Kanlaon Volcano due to an alert level 1 of activity. Flights operating in the vicinity are advised to avoid flying close to the summit.

**LFXX/France** a general strike has been declared for March 31st. Possible impact to airline operations. Please make sure you check with Eurocontrol or FIR NOTAMs for further restrictions.

**FXXX/Nigeria** The NNPC or Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation has stated that steps are currently being taken to end the countries fuel shortage but may take upwards up 2 months. Please check with local handlers for the availability aviation fuel supply until the issue is resolved.

**LXXX/Turkey** has issued a nationwide terror alert and the Israeli Counter-Terrorism Bureau has advised for all of it's citizens to leave the country. Extra vigilance should be exercised if operating to and from Turkey for the foreseeable future.

**UXXX/Russia** has stated that aviation authorities are intensifying it's inspections of aircraft from Russian and International budget carriers in wake of the Rostov-on-Don accident.

**DGAC/Ghana FIR** issued NOTAM A0128/16 due to VHF freq 130.9 being not reliable for all Oceanic traffic entering ACCRA FIR from the South East due to maintenance. All traffic must contact ACCRA on HF 8903KHZ or logon to ADS-C/CPDC "DGAC" until positive VHF contact is established.

**VNKT/Katmandu** There have been a few reports that the Tower at VNKT has been reporting erroneous weather to pilots. One example of such a report was "Tower informed us that there was some 3 km of visibility this morning but it to be less than 1.5 km while Kathmandu was engulfed by haze". If you encounter any issues while operating into VNKT please send us a note to [bulletins@fsbureau.org](mailto:bulletins@fsbureau.org).

**VIAR/Amritsar** has suspended all night operations for 1 year due to the planned reconstruction of the airports runways.

**VTBD/Bangkok** Officials approved an expansion that will allow for more aircraft, passengers and vehicle parking. The plan also includes provisions to cut landing fees during off-peak hours at VTBD and VTBS in an effort to increase usage of both airports. The project includes plans to extend the runway, add office buildings, and create additional parking zones for aircraft. The expansion is expected to be completed in 2025.

**Angola** The Ministry of Health in Angola has reported an ongoing outbreak of yellow fever in Luanda Province. The government of Angola requires all travelers older than 9 months to show proof of yellow fever vaccination on arrival. The CDC has a 'Watch Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions' advisory in place.

**FAA/United States** has issued Advisory Circular 00-30C. It describes the various types of CAT (Clear Air Turbulence) along with avoidance techniques and possible future forecast systems for helping Dispatchers and Pilots in the planning stages for proactive flight planning.

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