



Iraq: Weaponized UAS Attack against U.S. Interests at Baghdad International Airport

On 14 June 2021, suspected militants conducted a weaponized unmanned aircraft system (UAS) attack against U.S. interests collocated with Baghdad International Airport (ICAO: ORBI). One or more explosive-equipped UAS targeted the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center (BDSC), located within the ORBI airport compound, according to international press reporting. The UAS reportedly dropped an unspecified type and number of explosives, one of which impacted the Center's outer fence. No casualties were reported, and no group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

The 14 June attack follows the 10 June (9 June 2000 UTC) UAS and rocket attacks against U.S. interests at ORBI and Balad Air Base (ICAO: ORBD), 40mi (64km) north of Baghdad. During the 10 June attacks, three UAS targeted the BDSC, according to press reporting. Coalition air defense systems reportedly downed at least one UAS. No casualties resulted from the 10 June attacks.

Militia groups have also used indirect fire to target U.S. interests at ORBI. On 28 May, Iraqi security forces found and dismantled a rocket launch platform positioned to attack U.S. interests located at ORBI, according to press reporting. On 2 May, two rockets were fired at ORBI, but caused no damage or casualties. On 22 April, at least three rockets impacted within the ORBI perimeter; one rocket landed within the Iraqi forces' residential area and wounded an Iraqi soldier. After the 22 April attack, Iraqi security forces found an unspecified quantity of unfired rockets at a launch site atop an empty house near the airport.

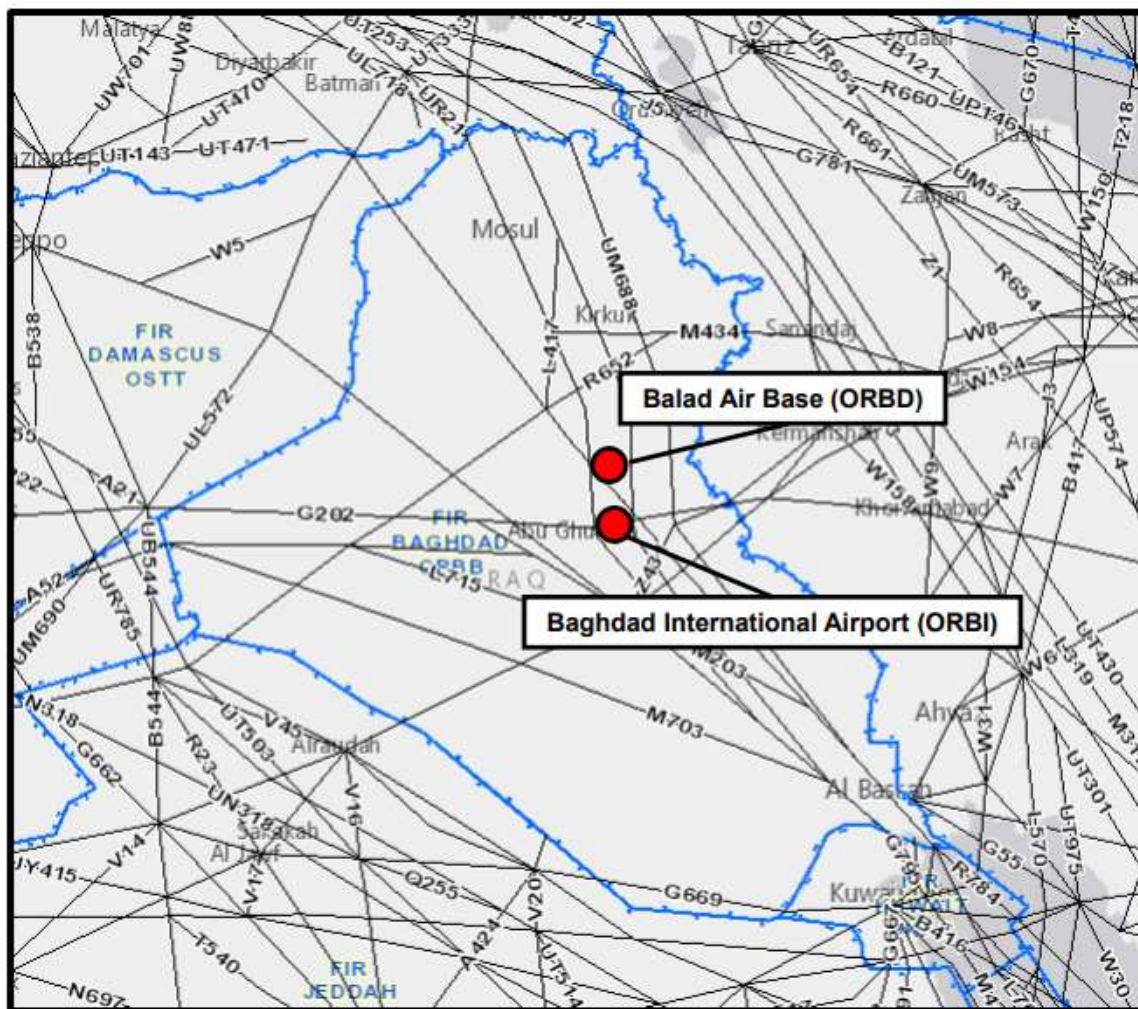
Outlook:

Militant groups in Iraq have repeatedly targeted U.S. interests, particularly at ORBI airport, during 2021. Militants may conduct additional attacks with little to no warning using indirect fire weapons such as rockets, and/or weaponized UAS. Indirect fire and weaponized UAS attacks against U.S. and coalition military sites collocated with civil airports represent a safety-of-flight hazard to civil aircraft during low-altitude phases of flight, including approach and departure, and pose a risk to civil aircraft while on the ground at targeted airports. While indirect fire and weaponized UAS attacks are typically altitude-limited, they could escalate tensions in the region, which could further increase the risk to U.S. civil aviation operations in the Baghdad (ORBB) Flight Information Region (FIR) at higher altitudes.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) maintains an all-altitude flight prohibition Notice to Airmen (NOTAM), KICZ A0036/20 for the entire Baghdad FIR (ORBB). This NOTAM is in addition to Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) 77, which prohibits U.S. civil aviation operations at altitudes below flight level (FL) 320 in the entire Baghdad FIR (ORBB). Copies of all FAA-issued flight prohibition SFARs, flight prohibition NOTAMs, and advisory NOTAMs are available on FAA's Prohibitions, Restrictions, and Notices website at: http://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/publications/us_restrictions/.

If there are any questions, please contact the FAA Threat Analysis Division (AXE-200) at 202-267-3203 or FAA-Watch@faa.gov.

This information is provided for situational awareness only.



Iraq's Baghdad FIR (ORBB) with high-level air routes.

This graphic is for situational awareness only and is not to be used for navigational purposes.

Status of FAA-Issued Overseas NOTAMs/SFARs for U.S. Civil Aviation



NOTAMs

Country	Type	Expiration Date
Afghanistan	Advisory	28 Mar 2022
Belarus	Advisory (Passenger Only)	Until Further Notice
Egypt/Sinai	Advisory	30 Mar 2022
Kenya	Advisory	26 Feb 2022
Mali	Advisory	26 Feb 2022
Pakistan	Advisory	1 Jan 2022
Russia – Specified Areas	Advisory	Until Further Notice
Syria - Airspace w/in 200nm of OSTT FIR	Advisory	Until Further Notice
Persian Gulf & Gulf of Oman	Advisory	Until Further Notice
Iraq	Prohibition	Until Further Notice
Venezuela	Prohibition	Until Further Notice

SFARs

Country	SFAR	Area Impacted	Expiration Date
Iraq	SFAR 77	Entire FIR below FL320	26 Oct 2022
Libya	SFAR 112	Entire FIR below FL300 & territory & airspace all altitudes	20 Mar 2023
North Korea	SFAR 79	Entire FIR all altitudes	18 Sep 2023
Somalia	SFAR 107	Territory & airspace below FL260	07 Jan 2023
Syria	SFAR 114	Entire FIR all altitudes	30 Dec 2023
Ukraine	SFAR 113	Specified area	27 Oct 2021
Yemen	SFAR 115	Specified area	07 Jan 2022
Iran	SFAR 117	Entire FIR all altitudes	31 Oct 2022



FAA Advisory NOTAMs for Overseas Areas

COUNTRY	AFFECTED AIRSPACE	TYPE of THREAT/CONCERN
Afghanistan A0008/21	Kabul FIR (OAKX) below FL 330 & off of established air routes	Ongoing military & militant/extremist activities; indirect fire and surface-to-air fire (SAFIRE) threat during low-altitude phases of flight and on the ground
Belarus A0017/21	Minsk FIR (UMMV) territory & airspace	Diversion of a civil passenger aircraft to Belarus and potential for repeat similar actions
Egypt/Sinai Peninsula A0010/21	Sinai Peninsula in Cairo FIR (HECC) w/in specified limits below FL 260	MANPADS, SAFIRE, indirect fire, terrorism, and counter-terrorism operations
Kenya A0005/21	Kenyan territory & airspace east of 40 degrees E longitude below FL 260	Possibility of extremist/militant activity
Mali A0003/21	Malian territory & airspace below FL 260	Ongoing fighting and extremist/militant activity; MANPADS, SAFIRE, and indirect fire
Pakistan A0001/21	Pakistani territory & airspace	Threat to civil aviation infrastructure & aircraft, on ground or at low altitude
Persian Gulf & Gulf of Oman A0016/20	Overwater airspace above Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman in the Kuwait FIR (OKAC), Jeddah FIR (OEJD), Bahrain FIR (OBBB), Emirates FIR (OMAE), & Muscat FIR (OOMM)	Continued elevated military posturing & political tensions; avoid air routes nearest to Tehran FIR (OIIX) boundary to reduce risk of miscalculation or misidentification by air defense systems; potential GPS interference and other comms jamming
Syria - Airspace Adjacent to OSTT FIR A0009/18	Airspace within 200 NM of Damascus FIR (OSTT)	Activity may include GPS interference, comms jamming, & errant long-range SAMs
Russia A0012/21	Moscow (UUWV) and Rostov-Na Donu FIRs (URRV) within 100nm of the FIR boundaries listed within A0013/21	Potential safety-of-flight risks associated with regional tensions & GPS interference



FAA Flight Prohibitions for Overseas Areas (SFARs and/or Prohibition NOTAMs)

COUNTRY	AFFECTED AIRSPACE	TYPE of THREAT/CONCERN
Libya SFAR 112	Libyan territory and airspace - surface to unlimited Remainder of Tripoli (HLLL) FIR – below FL300	Expansion and escalation of conflict for control of the country between rival governments and foreign-sponsored weapons capabilities. Instability, ongoing fighting, proliferation of MANPADS and other weapons, and airport attacks
North Korea SFAR 79	Pyongyang (ZKKP) FIR (entire FIR)	Military capabilities and activities, including unannounced missile launches and air defense weapons systems, & potential for provocative activity
Iraq A0036/20	Baghdad (ORBB) FIR (entire FIR)	Heightened military & militia activity; increased political tension; risk of miscalculation/misidentification; civ-mil de-confliction challenges
Iraq SFAR 77	Baghdad (ORBB) FIR below FL 320 (entire FIR)	Heightened military & militia activity; increased political tension; risk of miscalculation/misidentification; potential for Iranian proliferation of advanced anti-aircraft weapons to proxy groups; GPS interference; civ-mil de-confliction challenges
Somalia SFAR 107	Somali territory & airspace below FL 260	Ongoing extremist/militant activity
Syria SFAR 114	Damascus (OSTT) FIR (entire FIR)	Ongoing military ops & extremist/militant activity
Ukraine SFAR 113	Specified areas of the Dnipropetrovsk (UKDV) FIR surface to unlimited	Ongoing violence; potential for escalation; enduring risk of miscalculation/misidentification; proliferation of MANPADS and SAMs
Venezuela A00013/19	Venezuelan territory & airspace below FL 260	Political instability, increased tensions, inadvertent risks from Venezuelan military and security activities, and potential MANPADS and GPS interference
Yemen SFAR 115	Specified areas of the Sanaa (OYSC) FIR	Ongoing extremist/militant activity
Iran SFAR 117	Tehran (OIIX) FIR (entire FIR)	Heightened military activity & increased political tension; risk of miscalculation/misidentification

