

FAA Security Notice Concerning Flight Operations in Yemen

Due to the security threat level in Yemen resulting from terrorist activities and civil unrest, there is a significant risk to flight operations in Yemen. The United States (U.S.) Government remains highly concerned about possible attacks against U.S. citizens, facilities, businesses, and perceived U.S. and Western interests. Terrorist organizations continue to be active in Yemen, including al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). The group publicly claimed responsibility for the attempted bombing of Northwest Airlines Flight 253 in December 2009 and the October 2010 attempted bombing of two U.S. cargo aircraft using explosives concealed in printer cartridges shipped from Yemen. They are also suspected as the perpetrators of the May 2012 foiled aviation bomb plot.

In addition, Sana'a International Airport is a continuous target because it is used as a military airport as well as for commercial flights. The airport has been shut down on numerous occasions due to threats or attacks, including an October 2011 incident in which bombings at the air base adjacent to the airport forced the closure of the airport. In April 2012, Yemeni Air Force members loyal to the former commander of the Air Force shut down Sana'a International Airport and threatened to attack arriving and departing aircraft in protest of the removal of the general from his position. The airport reopened after Yemeni Air Force members assured aviation authorities that there would be no further threats to aviation. In such cases, there were no Notices to Airmen issued.

U.S. operators planning operations in Yemen are advised to obtain current threat information and comply with all applicable FAA regulations and operations specifications, or letters of authorization as appropriate. Additionally, U.S. operators are encouraged to report security incidents to the FAA. Information may be passed to the FAA Watch at 202-493-5833 or 202-267-3333.

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