

## **FAA Background Information Regarding U.S. Civil Aviation in the Territory and Airspace of Pakistan**

The security situation in Pakistan continues to present an ongoing concern for U.S. civil aviation interests. There is a risk to U.S. civil aviation operating in the territory and airspace of Pakistan, particularly for aircraft on the ground and aircraft operating at low altitudes during the arrival and departure phases of flight, due to extremist/militant activity. For this reason, on 30 Dec 2016, the FAA published Notice to Airmen KICZ A0024/16, advising U.S. civil aviation to exercise caution when operating in the territory and airspace of Pakistan.

In recent years, there have been several instances of extremist/militant activity that targeted airports and aircraft at low altitudes. In June 2014, extremists/militants attacked Jinnah International Airport (OPKC) in Karachi, resulting in over 30 deaths and damage to airport facilities. During several separate incidents in 2014, aircraft on approach into Peshawar's Bacha Khan International Airport (OPPS) were fired on by small arms, which resulted in one fatality. In the summer to fall of 2015, extremists/militants attacked two remote airfields in Baluchistan Province and one Pakistani Air Force Base in Peshawar, which resulted in a number of deaths and injuries. During the August 2015 attack on Jiwani Airport (OPJI) in Baluchistan Province, extremists/militants destroyed an air traffic control radar. With the ongoing presence of extremist/militant elements in Pakistan, there continues to be a risk to U.S. civil aviation from small-arms fire, attacks against airports, indirect fire, and anti-aircraft fire.

While there have been no reports of man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) being used against civil aviation in the territory and airspace of Pakistan, some extremist/militant groups are suspected of having access to MANPADS. As a result, there is a potential risk for terrorists to target civil aviation with MANPADS at low altitudes. Some MANPADS may be able to reach a maximum altitude of 25,000 feet.

Additionally, cross-border tensions in the Kashmir region were elevated in August to September 2016 due to extremist/militant activity, and operators should be alert to the possibility of temporary airspace restrictions issued by the air navigation service providers responsible for managing that airspace.

Posted: 30 Dec 16