

Notice Regarding EGYPT Sinai Peninsula

In mid-2013, Egyptian forces significantly intensified airstrikes and ground counterterrorist operations against militants in the Sinai Peninsula in response to attacks against Egyptian infrastructure, military bases, police facilities and both military and law enforcement personnel. U.S. Embassy Cairo prohibits the travel of U.S. government personnel to Sinai, except by air to Sharm el-Sheikh.

Local media reports that military operations in the northern Sinai have uncovered numerous weapons caches, which have contained Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS), including advanced, shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles. Israel's Eilat Airport (LLET) suspended operations briefly in August 2013 as a result of threats emanating from the northern Sinai. Civil aircraft operating into, out of, within, or over northern Sinai may be at risk of encountering small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades, anti-aircraft fire and MANPADS.

U.S. operators planning to fly into, out of, within, or over the Sinai Peninsula in the Cairo Flight Information Region north of 30 degrees north latitude, at or below FL240, must obtain current threat information; comply with all applicable FAA regulations, operations specifications, management specifications, and letters of authorization (specifically OpSpec/MSpec/LOA B450); and provide advance notice of planned operations to the FAA at aeo-citewatch@faa.gov with specific flight details.

Also, U.S. operators should cease or suspend operations in response to attacks affecting air and/or ground operations and exercise vigilance to avoid potential hazards posed by military operations, including flights at all altitudes. Additionally, U.S. operators must report security incidents to the FAA at +1 202-493-5833 or +1 202 267-3333.

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