

## **FAA Background Information Regarding U.S. Civil Aviation - Kenya**

Due to cross-border extremist/militant activity originating in Somalia, there is potential risk to U.S. civil aviation operating into, out of, within or over the territory and airspace of Kenya east of 40 degrees east longitude at altitudes below Flight Level (FL) 260. As a result, on February 26, 2019, the FAA published Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) KICZ A0002/19, advising U.S. civil aviation to exercise caution when flying into, out of, within or over the territory and airspace of Kenya east of 40 degrees east longitude at altitudes below FL260.

While primarily active in Somalia, al-Shabaab, an al-Qa'ida-affiliated extremist/militant group, is the predominate extremist/militant concern in Kenya and has demonstrated their capability and intent to conduct attacks targeting Kenyan government security forces, civilians, and Western interests in Kenya, primarily near Kenya's eastern border with Somalia and in the coastal region of Kenya adjacent to Somalia. Al-Shabaab possesses, or has access to, a variety of weapons, including small arms; indirect fire weapons, such as mortars and rockets; and anti-aircraft-capable weapons, including man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS). Anti-aircraft-capable weapons could target aircraft at low altitudes, including during the arrival and departure phases of flight, and other weapons could target airports and aircraft on the ground. Some MANPADS have the capability to reach a maximum altitude of 25,000 feet. Al-Shabaab has previously demonstrated the capability and intent to use MANPADS against civil aviation.

Despite Kenyan security efforts, al-Shabaab continues to plot high-profile attacks in Kenya, as demonstrated by the January 2019 attack on the DusitD2 compound and the 2013 attack on the Westgate Mall. In addition to high-profile attacks, al-Shabaab has conducted multiple small-scale attacks against ground-based targets in eastern Kenya in the Kenya-Somalia border region.

Due to continued concerns over the risk to U.S. civil aviation in eastern Kenya in the Kenya-Somalia border region and the coastal region of Kenya adjacent to Somalia, areas in which al-Shabaab continues to operate, U.S. operators and airmen are advised to exercise caution when operating into, out of, within, or over the territory and airspace of Kenya east of 40 degrees east longitude at altitudes below FL260. Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (HKJK) and Moi International (HKMO) are not within the area covered by the flight advisory.

Al-Shabaab has publicly declared their intent to conduct attacks in retaliation for Kenya's counter-terrorism operations in Somalia, which Kenya conducts as part of the African Union mission. In January 2014, al-Shabaab demonstrated their capability and intent to target civil aviation interests in Kenya when operatives attempted an improvised explosive device (IED) bombing outside of the terminal at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (HJKJ) in Nairobi. In neighboring Somalia, al-Shabaab has conducted multiple attacks targeting civil aviation, including ground assaults on Aden Adde International Airport (HCMM) and weapons fire against military and civil aircraft operating at low altitudes. Al-Shabaab maintains the capability to develop concealed IEDs and the intent to use them against civil aviation, as demonstrated by the attack on Daallo Airlines Flight 159 in February 2016, which involved the use of an insider to help smuggle a concealed IED onto the aircraft.

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