

## **FAA Notice Concerning Flight Operations in Yemen**

Due to the threat from ongoing terrorist activity and the potential for hostilities as a result of civil unrest, there is a significant risk to U.S. civil flight operations in Yemen. The U.S. Government remains highly concerned over possible attacks against U.S. citizens, facilities, businesses, and other U.S. or Western interests. Terrorist and other extremist organizations, including al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), are active in Yemen. AQAP has demonstrated the capability and intent to target western aviation interests. The group publicly claimed responsibility for the attempted bombing of Northwest Airlines Flight 253 in December 2009, the October 2010 attempted bombing of two U.S. cargo aircraft using explosives concealed in printer cartridges shipped from Yemen, and is suspected to have been behind a foiled aviation bomb plot in May 2012.

In addition, Sana'a International Airport (OYSN) is at constant risk of attack from terrorists and anti-government elements due to its role as a dual-use military and commercial airport. In recent years, the airport has been shut down on numerous occasions due to threats or indirect fire attacks against the airport and against arriving and departing aircraft. During these events, the Civil Aviation and Meteorological Authority of Yemen did not issue any NOTAMs. As a result of security concerns, Yemeni airports may close or become inaccessible with little or no notice.

In addition to the risk to U.S. civil aviation posed by terrorism, Yemen's government is facing civil unrest, which threatens regime security and stability. Insurgent activity in the vicinity of Sana'a International Airport, could pose a threat to U.S. civil flight operations.

The risk to flight safety in Yemen involves direct and indirect fire from small-arms, rocket propelled grenades, mortars, anti-aircraft fire and shoulder-fired, man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS), including but not limited to in the vicinity of major airports, most notably, Sana'a International Airport. Although to date, MANPADS have not been used to target civil aviation in Yemen, the potential use of MANPADS poses a significant threat to U.S. operators and U.S.-registered civil aircraft during approaches, departures, and at altitudes below FL260.

U.S. operators should exercise extreme caution to avoid potential flight hazards and must report safety and/or security incidents to the FAA as stated in NOTAM FDC 4/6334. A general depiction of the territory and airspace of Yemen described in the NOTAM is shown below. Please note that, although not shown in the depiction below, the airspace over Yemen's territorial sea is included within the scope of the advisory in NOTAM FDC 4/6334.



System Operations  
Security  
Yemen

