Notice Regarding EGYPT Sinai Peninsula

There is a risk to U.S. civil aviation from potential extremist activity across the Sinai Peninsula. Extremists, operating throughout the Sinai Peninsula, have conducted terror attacks using small arms, improvised explosive devices, rocket-propelled grenades, and shoulder-fired man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS). In particular, these extremists have demonstrated the ability to use more advanced MANPADS to down an Egyptian military helicopter. Although MANPADS have not been used to date to target civil aircraft in the Sinai, these MANPADS could be used to potentially engage civil aviation flying within the parameters of the missile’s capability.

Sinai-based extremist groups have demonstrated their ability to operate outside of their northern Sinai stronghold areas and conduct activity elsewhere on the Sinai Peninsula. This extremist activity has been ongoing for the past several years. Since the issuance of the first Egypt Sinai Peninsula NOTAM in 2013, the Ansar Bayt Maqdis (ABM) has demonstrated the intent and capability to target and destroy aircraft using MANPADS. In January 2014, ABM shot down an Egyptian military helicopter using MANPADS in the northern Sinai, killing all five crew members.

U.S. operators should exercise extreme caution to avoid potential hazards and must report safety and/or security incidents to the FAA as advised in NOTAM FDC 4/8353. A depiction of the Sinai Peninsula area described in the NOTAM is shown below.

Information current as of November 5, 2014