

## **FAA Background Information Regarding U.S. Civil Aviation in the Tehran Flight Information Region (FIR) (OIIX)**

On 8 January 2020, Universal Coordinated Time, the FAA published Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) KICZ A0002/20, prohibiting U.S. civil aviation operations in the Tehran FIR (OIIX). The FAA issued this NOTAM due to heightened military activities and increased political tensions in the Middle East and the associated unacceptable inadvertent risk to U.S. civil aviation operations due to the potential for miscalculation or misidentification.

There are a wide array of military activities occurring in, emanating from, or transiting the Tehran FIR (OIIX), in an environment of heightened regional tensions. The FAA assesses these circumstances present an unacceptable risk to U.S. civil aviation due to the challenge of de-conflicting military activities with civil air traffic and the potential for miscalculation or misidentification. The accidental shoot down of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 shortly after takeoff from Tehran Imam Khomeini International Airport (OIIE) on 8 January, not long after the FAA issued NOTAM KICZ A0002/20, tragically highlights this risk. Additionally, Iran's heightened air defense posture has resulted in increased sensitivity along its southern coast amidst heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman region. In June 2019, there were two incidents of surface-to-air missile fire from the southern coast of Iran targeting U.S. unmanned aircraft systems operating in the Gulf of Oman.

On 8 January, Iran conducted multiple retaliatory ballistic missile attacks targeting U.S. airbases in Iraq, which raised tensions in the region. There is also the potential for Iranian ballistic missile fire from western Iran targeting Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) and Kurdish opposition groups located in the region (such as the missile fire that occurred in September 2018 and June 2017). Iran has also conducted multiple ballistic missile launches in the Tehran FIR (OIIX), with the latest medium-range ballistic missile launch taking place in late December 2019.

Additionally, there is a potential inadvertent risk to U.S. civil aviation operations in the Tehran FIR (OIIX) from Iranian-fielded GPS jammers.

This confluence of circumstances presents a continuing unacceptable risk to U.S. civil aviation in the Tehran FIR (OIIX).

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