

NOTICE FOR THE TEHRAN (OIIX) FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION

There is a risk to U.S. civil aviation operating in the Tehran (OIIX) Flight Information Region (FIR) resulting from potential lack of deconfliction of military operations and civil flight activities. In March 2016, Iran conducted a series of unannounced surface-to-surface missile test launches, where the missile trajectories may have transited over established civil air routes in Iran. Cruise missile activity is also a concern as demonstrated on 7 October 2015, when Russian naval vessels launched multiple land-attack cruise missiles from the Caspian Sea, four of which inadvertently impacted the ground in Iran while enroute to targets in Syria. Possible air-launched cruise missile attacks launched from Russian aircraft over Iran against suspected targets in Syria presents a similar concern.

Additionally, military activities associated with the conflicts in Iraq and Syria continue to present deconfliction concerns over western Iran as military aircraft and cruise missiles transit the Tehran FIR enroute to targets in Syria. In mid-August, Russia began using Hamadan airbase, in Iran, for staging long range bomber operations into Syria. Military aircraft transiting the Tehran FIR (OIIX) enroute to these conflict zones could present a deconfliction challenge for civil air traffic control in the region. The potential also exists for heightened Iranian air defense sensitivity as a result of regional instability. As a result, international civil air routes that transit the OIIX FIR could be impacted by possibly inadvertent exposure to military activity.

U.S. civil aviators operating in the Tehran FIR should closely monitor and follow air traffic control guidance, particularly during weather or mechanical diversions from published air routes. Security conditions could change rapidly so operators are reminded to check for applicable NOTAMs, aeronautical information publications and circulars.

As a result of ongoing military activity, on 9 September 2016, the FAA published Notice to Airmen KICZ A0019/16, advising U.S. civil aviation to exercise caution when transiting the Tehran FIR (OIIX). The FAA will continually review the situation regarding the potential risk to U.S. civil aviation in the Tehran FIR (OIIX) and make adjustments, as necessary, as conditions change.