

Conflict in Yemen

This is a situation report on current activities in and around Sana'a FIR (Yemen).

1. It has been reported in the media that various Gulf States are involved in a conflict in Yemen, including Saudi Arabia, who is using aircraft to attack targets in Yemen. As part of this operation Saudi Arabia has closed, via NOTAM, a large expanse of their Jeddah FIR that borders Sana'a FIR. Part of the closed airspace is over the Red Sea.
2. Sana'a airport is both civil and military, and there are reports that the military part of the aerodrome has been attacked. The Sana'a ACC is also situated on the aerodrome but there is no information on its serviceability or operations. There are reports that Yemeni controllers have been unresponsive to calls for overflights, that adjacent ANS providers have suggested not to enter Yemeni airspace due to ongoing airstrikes. The situation remains fluid, and additional airstrikes cannot be ruled out.
3. The United States has issued a NOTAM (FDC 5/8051 (A0010/15) advising of a prohibition of operations by their Operators in the Sana'a FIR due to the potentially hazardous situation created by the risks to civil aviation from ongoing military operations, political instability, violence from competing groups, and the continuing terrorism threat from extremist groups.
4. No NOTAMs have been issued by Yemen.
5. Currently, the airlines are determining the best way to avoid the area and where major bottlenecks exist. Because of the size (and breadth) of the Sana'a FIR significant deviations will be necessary, potentially using Khartoum FIR to the west and Muscat and Emirates FIRs to the east. Adjacent Area Control Centres are providing a flexible approach to the increase in traffic flows.
6. Coordination between ICAO HQ and the four regional offices involved (Cairo, Bangkok, Paris and Nairobi) will continue, and IFALPA will be informed of any developments.