



CASE STUDY: AVIATION ALERTS & ASSESSMENTS RUSSIAN AIRCRAFT CARRIER IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Executive Summary

Pilots and flight departments need trusted, independent advice and analysis to supplement publicly available NOTAMS, bulletins and advisories.

Background

On 7 October 2016, Russia said its navy was deploying three guided missile cruisers in the north-east Mediterranean Sea.

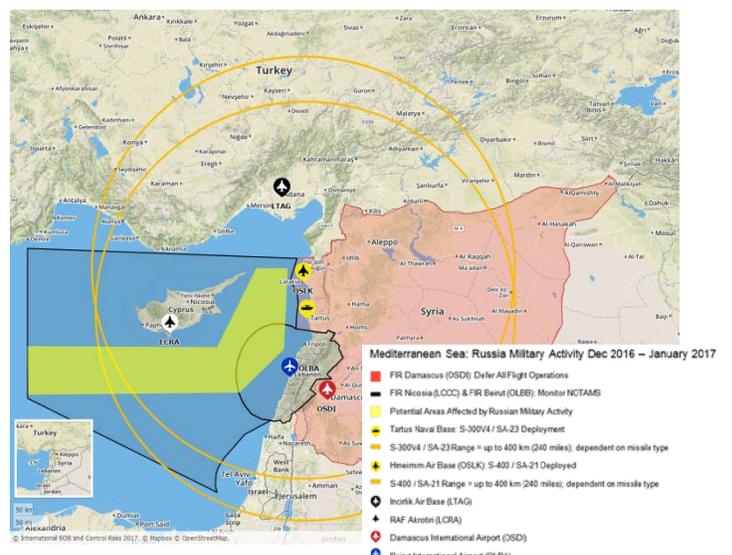
The announcement met a MedAire trigger to issue an Aviation Alert to its clients. Over the next 11 weeks, MedAire issued 6 Aviation Alerts to clients regarding risks in Cypriot airspace, FIR LCCC.

Cyprus issued three separate NOTAMs during this time. Leading aviation authorities did not issue any bulletins, advisories, or reports about the risks posed to the civil aviation community in and around the airspace.

Learn more at www.medaire.com.

Challenges to Flight Departments

- Information that is vital to safe flight operations may not be consistently distributed/ available.
- Sensitivities around politics, government relations, and a country's own agenda can influence whether NOTAMS, bulletins and special advisories are issued.
- Previous attempts to establish a global information sharing system related to conflict zones have failed.
- Pilots and flight departments do not have a reliable, independent source of assessments affecting airspace security.



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MedAire Solution

MedAire provides an additional source of information to aid flight departments in determining appropriate courses of action.

The aviation alerts developed by MedAire provide expert analysis and insight “beyond the NOTAM” with information about:

- Conflict zones and airspace risk
- Secure divert locations
- Main areas of concern within the airspace and altitude levels
- Assistance for crew and passengers at diversion locations

Results

- MedAire aviation alerts and assessments effectively predicted the type/timing of follow-on military activity
- Alerts clearly identified where/when risk to civil aviation would be present
- Reduced risks to MedAire clients and improved preparation for international flights

MedAire, as an independent, non-governmental resource, provides analysis devoid of political interference with the information pilots and flight departments need to make informed decisions about airspace risk.

MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA	INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT & ADVICE ISSUED		
	MEDAIRE	NOTAMS	AVIATION AUTHORITIES
7 OCTOBER, 2016 Russia said its navy was deploying 3 guided missile cruisers to the north-east Mediterranean Sea. Vessels reportedly equipped with ship-based cruise missiles.	YES	NO	NO
4 NOVEMBER, 2016 Cyprus issued NOTAM for FIR LCCC regarding Russian navy rocket test firings between 10–22 November	YES	CYPRUS 10-22NOV	NO
15 NOVEMBER, 2016 Russian Navy conducted multiple ship-based cruise missile strikes from the north-east Mediterranean Sea against targets in Syria. ▶ MedAire identifies pattern: Air-launched and/or ship-based cruise missile activity in support of Russian military activity in Syria previously occurred in the same area on 17-20 November 2015, 8 December 2015 and 19 August 2015. In each case, the Cypriot civil aviation authorities issued NOTAMs outlining airspace closure areas.	YES	CYPRUS 10-22NOV	NO
17 NOVEMBER, 2016 Russia conducted multiple air-launched cruise-missile strikes from the eastern Mediterranean Sea against targets in Syria on 16-17 November. ▶ MedAire identifies risk: it is likely that the air-launched cruise-missile strikes occurred from a location and altitude outside the areas specified for closure. Such activity poses a significant flight-safety risk to civil aviation.	YES	CYPRUS 10-22NOV	NO
28 NOVEMBER, 2016 Cyprus issued NOTAM for FIR LCCC regarding Russian navy rocket test firings intermittently between 29 Nov. to 27 Dec. ▶ MedAire assessment: Lack of NOTAMs issued to cover the launch areas and altitudes affected negatively impacts the safety and security of the airspace over the eastern Mediterranean Sea.	YES	CYPRUS 29NOV-27DEC	NO
28 DECEMBER, 2016 Cyprus issued NOTAM for FIR LCCC regarding Russian navy rocket test firings intermittently between 28 Dec. to 16 Jan. ▶ MedAire assessment: Air-launched and ship-based cruise missile activity by the Russian military in the eastern Mediterranean Sea could occur with little to no notice until the end of January 2017.	YES	CYPRUS 28DEC-16JAN	NO