
Mexico City International Airport (MMMMX)

BACKGROUND

Mexico City International airport was declared as over capacity in 2014. As a result, the Santa Lucia Military Airbase (MMSM) has been developed into a mixed civil/military airport for simultaneous operations between MMMX and MMSM. MMSM opened 21 March 2022.

CONCERNS

In the past month IFALPA has been made aware of several incidents involving aircraft arriving at MMMX with low fuel states due to unplanned holding, diversions for excessive delays, and significant GPWS alerts where one crew almost had a Controlled Flight into Terrain (CFIT).

It would appear that with the opening of this newly converted airport, ATC has apparently received little training and support as to how to operate this new configuration in the airspace.

Crews have received clearances that do not adhere to terrain avoidance restrictions on the STAR. Additionally, proper ICAO phraseology is not being used, adding to confusion on altitude restrictions.

CONSIDERATIONS

It is recommended that crews consider carrying additional fuel to allow for the prolonged holding and possible diversions and also consider that MMMX is a high altitude airport and be prepared for operating in that environment.

It is also recommended that crews exercise heightened terrain situational awareness and strictly adhere to published altitude restrictions.

If you receive a clearance that you find questionable, resolve the clearance to your satisfaction.