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| Checklist | Remark |
| Title | Bomb Threat on MH 122 |
| Description | MH122 departed SYD at 0340Z without any incident. During cruise, at time 0430Z, we received a report from the cabin crew that a passenger at 21G was being disruptive and making bomb threats. According to them, prior to takeoff, he was uttering and preaching his religious beliefs loudly and repetitively, disturbing passengers around him.  Finally, during cruise, the passenger’s agitation reached the point when two of our male cabin crew had to step in and issue him a warning. However, while doing so the disruptive passenger became more agitated and began to make threats such that if anyone touched him, he would set off a bomb. He continued to threaten the male cabin crew with the word "bomb" more than five times, within hearing distance of other passengers.  It was at this point that the technical crew were informed. With this information, we decided to divert to Sydney due to safety concerns about this passenger after consulting with my FO as well as a positioning captain. I instructed two cabin crew to always be with the passenger and not allow him to be out of their sight. After consulting with the cabin crew, we also decided not to put him in restraints without further establishing if his threats were genuine or not.  A ‘PAN’ call was made to Melbourne ATC requesting for clearance back to SYD due to the disruptive passenger. We were cleared direct to IAF for runway 16R. The emergency was later upgraded to ‘MAYDAY’ and full security procedures were enforced by the airport authorities.  Descend, approach and overweight landing was carried out without any incident at 0507z. After landing we were instructed to clear to the end of the runway and hold position. I instructed the crew to isolate the disruptive passenger as much as possible by relocating other passengers away from row 21. However, verbal altercations began between the disruptive passenger and other passengers while our crew tried to calm both sides as much as possible.  We were left on board for the next 3 and half hours as the airport authorities were organizing ways to approach the situation. At 0827Z, they finally sent steps and buses to begin the disembarking process. All the passengers and crew were instructed to board the buses to be taken to the terminal without any hand luggage. The disruptive passenger was detained by the airport authorities while the passengers and crew were taken to a holding lounge and held while the security staff took statements from passengers and crew.  Finally, at 1230z, we arrived at the crew hotel and were able to take our rest.  |
| State of Occurrence | Australia |
| Location | Airspace |
| Aerodrome of Airspace (ICAO) | YMMM |
| Location on Aerodrome (if any) | Not Applicable |
| Detecting Phase | Cruise |
| Occurrence Class | Incident |
| Occurrence Category (Taxonomy) | **SEC : SECURITY RELATED** |