

OPERATION ALEPPO

Russia's War in Syria

**The Inside Story of
Putin's Military
Intervention in the
Syrian War**

TIM RIPLEY

OPERATION ALEPPO:

RUSSIA'S WAR IN SYRIA

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Operation Aleppo

Back Ground Material

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Briefing on Russian Command and Control in Syria

Background on Russian Military Equipment in
use in Syria
by Tim Ripley

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Russian Chain of Command and Strategic Links, Dec 2016



Moscow
Russian General Staff
National Defence
Command Centre

Sebastopol, Crimea
Russian Black Sea Fleet
Naval Forces in Mediterranean
Admiral Aleksandr Vitko



Baku
Russian Caspian Flotilla
Rear Admiral Igor Osipoiv



Moscow
HQ Long Range Aviation
Lt.-General Anatoli Zhikharev



Damascus, Syria
Russian Embassy?

- Commander Russian Military Contingent (Lt Gen Alexander Zhuravlev (left))
- Russian Ambassador (Alexander Kinshchak (right))
- FSB Station Chief (??)



Engels 2 AB
6950th Aviation Base

Mozdok AB
Reinforced Air Wing

Amman, Jordan
Russian Embassy
Proposed Russian-Jordanian
Co-ordination centre

Humaymim Air Base
Russian Air Group
Major General?
Russian Air Co-ordination Centre



Humaymim Air Base
Coordination Centre for
Reconciliation of Opposing Sides
Lt. Gen. Vladimir Savchenko
61 staff



Damascus
Syrian Arab Army General Staff HQ/Russian Embassy
• Russian Co-ordination Group



Baghdad, Iraq
Russian Embassy
Intelligence Sharing Facility
• 2 x Russian Brigadier Generals
• Iraqi Representatives
• Iranian Representatives
• Syrian Representatives

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Lieutenant General Sergei Kuralenko
First commander of the Coordination
Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing
Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic
Source: Russian MOD



Colonel General Alexander Dvornikov, first
commander of GRFS from September 2015
Source: TASS/Sputnik



Lt Gen Zhuravlev commander GRFS
with Colonel Suheil al Hassan in
Aleppo, 11 Aug 16. He returned to
Syria in December 2017 as
commander of GRTS for a second
time
Source @bm21grad



Colonel General Sergei Surovikin, commander GRFS from April to
December 2017, seen during a visit to Dier ez Zor in 2017
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3pW-5QfpSU>



Major General Sevryuko visits Baath Brigade in Aleppo
In Aug 16. Source: @KP.ru



Russian officer and
commander of Military
Intelligence Shield Force,
Aleppo 4 Dec 16
Source: @IvanSidorenko1

Commander of Ru Group of Forces
in Syria, Colonel-General Andrei
Kartapolov, visits Palmyra 4 Mar 17
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dn_XTbkFnVc



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Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu visits the office of the commander Humaymin airbase in Syria on 18 June 2017. Several command and control systems are on display Source: Russian MOD

Video showing flight operations across airbase

Common air picture display showing aircraft movements across Syria



Laptop displaying satellite imagery

Webcam for video conferencing

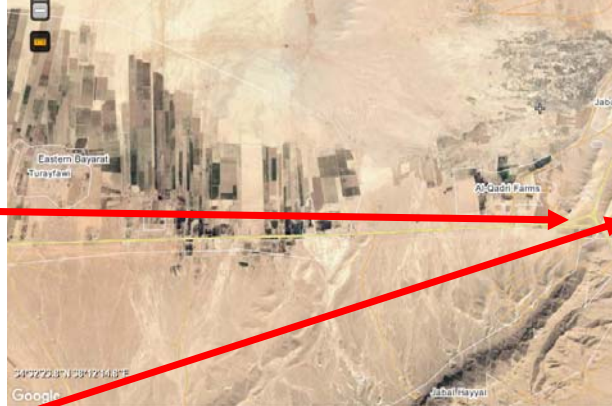
Colour marker pens – every staff officer needs them!

Russian Participation in Battle of Palmyra

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RuAF/GRU Forpost UAV imagery during Palmyra operation
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dn_XTbKFnVc



Mi-28 over Hayyal ridge
 Source@ @Qalaat AlMudiq Mar 2



TOS-1A on Mercedes HET near at Palmyra Triangle 2 Mar 17 @CT-operative



Russian SF Iveco Lynx approaches Palmyra Triangle, 3 mar 17
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQ5bBwPdZjM>



Ru SF and BTR-82 near the Palmyra Triangle, Mar 2

Russian Coordination Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in Syrian Arab Republic

Its existence was announced in February 2016 and was given the task of helping the Syrian Government to broker surrender or non-aggression deals around the country. It also co-ordinates the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Its headquarters is a Humaymim Air Base and has a staff of more than 60 officers. The current head is Lieutenant General Vladimir Savchenko who replaced the first head Lieutenant General Sergei Kuralenko (who had previously headed the Russian-Syrian-Iraqi-Iranian intelligence sharing facility in Baghdad).

By 16th September 2016, the centre claimed to have signed reconciliation deals with 623 communities and cease fire deals with 69 armed groups.

The subtext of the RCCR's operation is to peel away support from opposition ground and free up troops to fight on frontlines against hard-line rebels.



Aleppo Ceasefire Operation, September 2016

The RCCR senior representative in Aleppo is Colonel Sergei Kopitsyn

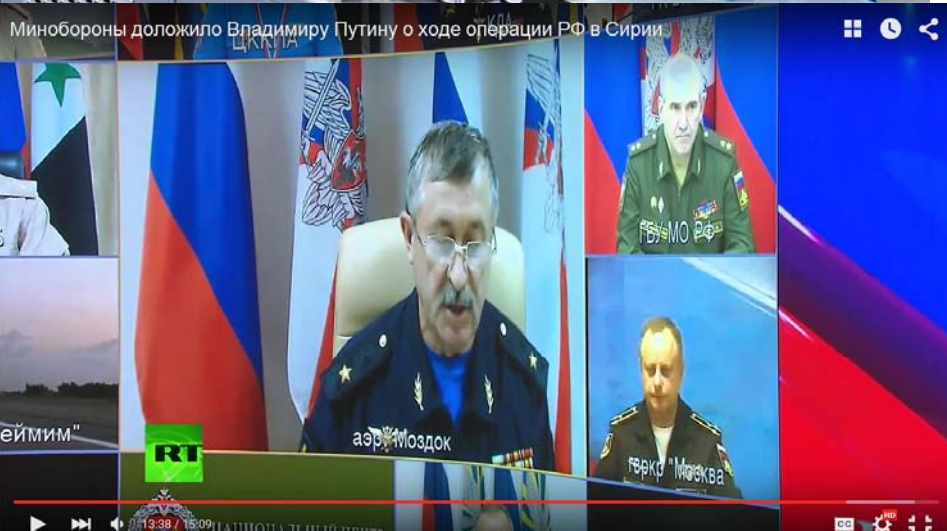
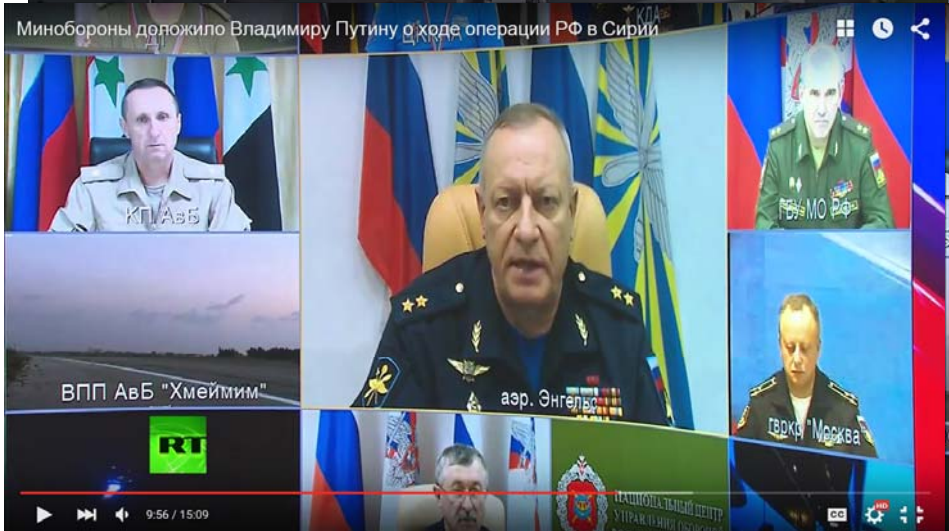
The RCCR has deployed a detachment of troops and surveillance assets to frontline areas in Aleppo to oversee implementation of the US-Russia ceasefire agreement.

These are drawn from a detachment of 120 Russian Naval Infantry who arrived in Aleppo at the end of August, with BTR armoured vehicles.

1L271 "Aistenok" locating radar of the 120th Artillery Brigade, which deployed to the Aleppo region in June have also been positioned to monitor the ceasefire.

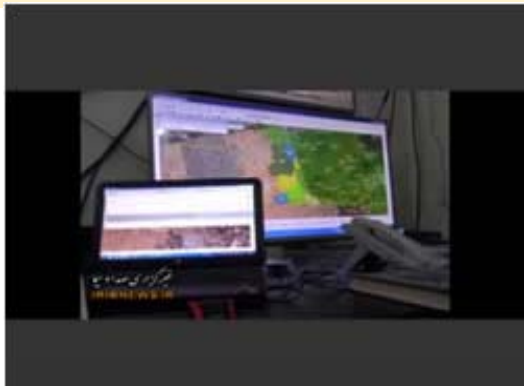
Video camera feeds of Aleppo are available at <http://eng.syria.mil.ru/en/index/syria/news/more.htm?id=12096084@egNews>

MOSCOW National Defence Command Centre (Video Conference) and links to Deployed Forces in Syria, Nov 2015
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=RS2w1zzLrmg





Syrian Special Forces Colonel Suheil Hassan directs operations around Kwaieres airbase, in Aleppo province on 12th December 2015. Note tablet computer in use source: source: [@IvanSidorenko1](#)



Computer map displays in the Syrian-Iranian Joint Operations Room in Aleppo region
Source: FARS News Agency, 22 Oct 2015



IRGC Major General Qassem Suleimani in the Syrian-Iranian Joint Operations Room in Aleppo region

Source://english.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13940824001032

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Russian Army Liaison Team using GAZ Tiger vehicle visiting telecoms site in Palmyra region, 2nd December 2015.

Source: [@Syria Protector](#)

ECM jamming kit on Russian vehicles in Syria 2016-2017.
This appears to be a variant of the RP-377 electronic counter-measures kit, made by the JSC Concern Sozvezdie, who are the main suppliers of electronic warfare equipment to the Russian Ground Forces



Russian convoy heading to Palmyra, 2 Apr 16, (Getty Images)



Russian sappers in Aleppo, with ECM antenna on BTR-82A 2 Jan 17 (@Molchan_OFF)



BTR-82a with new antenna in Salma, February 2016 (@Apulkki)



BMP-97 in Syria with ECM jammers 28 Mar 16 @towersight

Russia Sappers in Syria with counter-IED equipment in Aleppo, November 2016

JSC Concern
Sozvezdie
RP-377UVM2
manportable
electronic
counter-measures



Syrian sappers on
mine clearing duty
in Hanano,
equipped with C-
IED equipment
Source:
[@miladvisor](#)

Most Common Russian Ground Forces vehicles in Syria, January 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtnjvnLffJk>



Kamaz Typhoon MRAP



Kamaz 43501 truck



Gaz 2975 Tigr armoured utility vehicle



Ural 4320 truck

BTR-82A armoured troop carrier

Source: Video posted on 16 March 2016

<http://news.yahoo.com/video/more-russian-military-jets-leave-130120796.html>

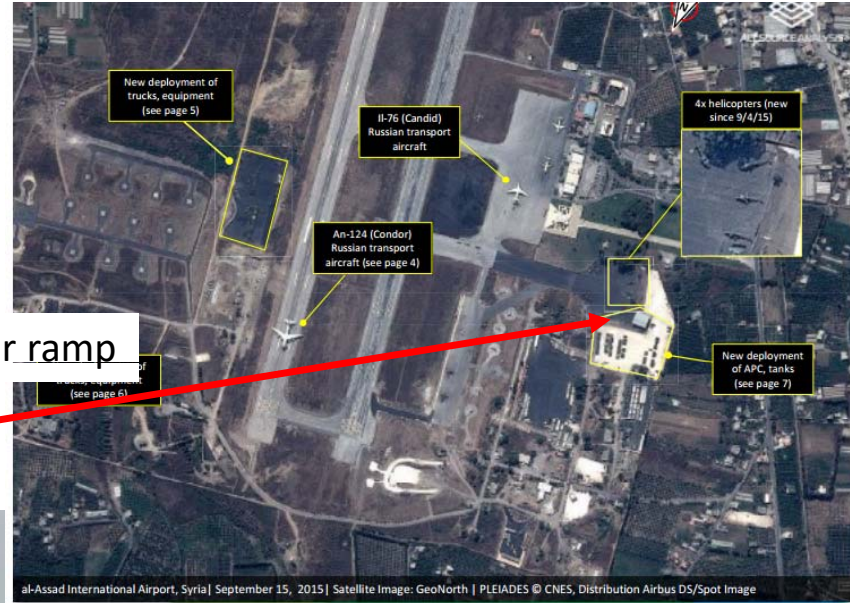


Temporary hangers next to Runway



al-Assad International Airport, Syria | September 15, 2015 | Satellite Image: GeoNorth | PLEIADES © CNES, Distribution Airbus DS/Spot Image
Multiple Russian transport aircraft, as well as helicopters, tanks, trucks, and armored personnel carriers arrived at Al-Assad Airport between September 4 and 15, 2015.

Ka-52 in Syria, 16th March 2016



Hanger on helicopter ramp



Ka-52 on helicopter ramp

Same configuration of drop tanks ready for flight back to Russia



Su-24 prepares to fly back to Russia, 16 March 2016

<http://eng.syria.mil.ru/en/index/syria/news/more.htm?id=12080759@egNews>

[Source: posted on @bm21_grad on 16th March 2016](#)