

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

TIM RIPLEY

Operation Aleppo

Back Ground Material

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Operation Damascus

Russia's Intervention in Syria – 2015-16



Updated
10th October 2016

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Operation Damascus
Russian Intervention in Syria 2015-16



Russian Chain of Command and Strategic Links



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 Osipov

Damascus, Syria Russian Embassy

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



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



Moscow
HQ Long Range Aviation
Lt.-General Anatoli Zhikharev



Mozdok AB
Reinforced Air Wing

Engels 2 AB
6950th Aviation Base

Humayyim Air Base

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

Humayyim 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
(RUGF Sept 15=Feb 16)

- 2 x Russian Brigadier Generals
- Iraqi Representatives
- Iranian Representatives
- Syrian Representatives

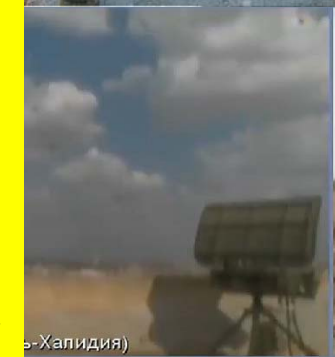
Russian Coordination Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in Syrian Arab Republic

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.



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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>

Russian Group of Forces in Syria – September 2016

The main elements of the Russian Group of Forces in Syria

Command Group and co-ordination teams (based in Russian Embassy in Damascus)

Air Group (with Su-34, Su-35S, Su-30SM, Su-35, Su-24 combat aircraft)

- Helicopter Group (Mi-24/35, Mi-28, Ka-52 attack, Mi-8 utility helicopters)
- Airlift Contingent (An-124, Il-76, An-72 and Tu-154 aircraft)
- Air Base Protection Force (army troops from Airborne Forces, 74th Separate Motorised Rifle Regiment with 7 x T-90 tanks, 35 x BTR armoured troop carriers)
- Air Defence Regiment (based at Latakia, from 25th November)
- Logistic Support Group (operating ammunition and fuel stores)

Naval Forces

- Black Sea Fleet contingent in Eastern Mediterranean (providing cruise missile strike support, logistic sealift and air defence “umbrella” over Latakia and Tartus regions)
- Caspian Sea Flotilla (cruise missile strike support)
- Tartus Port Protection Force (Guard troops drawn from 810 Separate Naval Infantry Brigade)

Russian Ground Forces Contingent

- Co-ordinating elements with Syrian Arab Army Headquarters in Damascus, Homs, T-4, Hama and Aleppo)
- Training and Advisor Teams from 810 Separate Naval Infantry Brigade across Syria
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Units (3? x Orlan 10 UAV Detachments)
- 120th Guards Artillery Brigade (6-12 x D30 122mm howitzers, 6+ x 2A65 Msta-B 152-mm, ?x Smersh MLRS, ? x TOS-1A)

GRU Intelligence/Surveillance Contingent

- Airborne surveillance Group (An-32, Il-20 and Tu-214)
- Forpost surveillance UAV detachment
- Ground-based SIGINT detachments
- Auxiliary Intelligence Gathering (AIG) ships

TOTAL PERSONNEL COMMITTED

In Syria: 2,500 air force, 3,000 naval infantry and army personnel. Total 5,500+

In Support: Crews of navy vessels, 3,000. Air force & logistics, 5,000

TOTAL: 13,000+ in Syria and in support

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Operation Damascus
Russian Intervention in Syria 2015-16



Russian Air Group in Syria – September 2016

Fixed Wing Aircraft – Deployed to Humaymim Air Base, Latakia



Su-30SM Fighter Jets
120th Aviation Regiment
4 deployed
Air-to-Air Missiles



Su-24M Strike Bomber
6980th Guards Air Base
12 deployed
Laser guided/Unguided bombs
(1 x shot down 24/11/15)



Su-35S Fighter Jets
23rd Fighter Regiment
4 deployed
Air-to-Air Missiles



Su-34 Strike Bombers
4 deployed
KAB-500S GLONASS-guided bomb



Il-76 Transport Aircraft
2 deployed
Intra-theatre Transport/Airdrop

Operation Damascus
Russian Intervention in Syria 2015-16



Russian Fixed Wing Strike Operations

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Battlefield Attacks

Russian Air Group's strike aircraft have been in action across Syria region on a daily basis. The main Russian types involved are Su-24s and Su-34.

Russian strikes appear to be well co-ordinated with Syrian ground troops, being used to hit rebel frontline positions, often just before the start of large assaults or during on-going battles. There has only been one suspected case of "friendly fire" involving Russian aircraft bombing Syria troops by accident in Dier Ez Zor at the beginning of December 2015.

The Russians appear to be carrying out close air support, the targeting "deep" positions just behind the front line of troops and interdiction of vehicle movement in rear areas.

Russian strike aircraft, with exception of the Su-34s, almost exclusively use 'iron' or 'dumb' bombs.

During battlefield strikes, the Russian jets usually dropped in stick of four or six bombs at a time to devastate a large area and have 'shock' effect to traumatise rebel fighters, immediately prior to Syrian ground assaults. During the Syrian assault on Sheikj Miskin in December 2015, 80 Russian strikes were carried out in first 48 hours of the battle to have maximum impact on the defenders. The Russian Air Group carries out at least one of these main effort attacks each work, with an average daily strike rate of between 20 and 30 strikes.



Strike Missions

The Russian Air Group is regularly tasked to attack "symbolic" targets in rebel controlled towns in a bid to hit the symbols of Jihadi power. These include hitting:

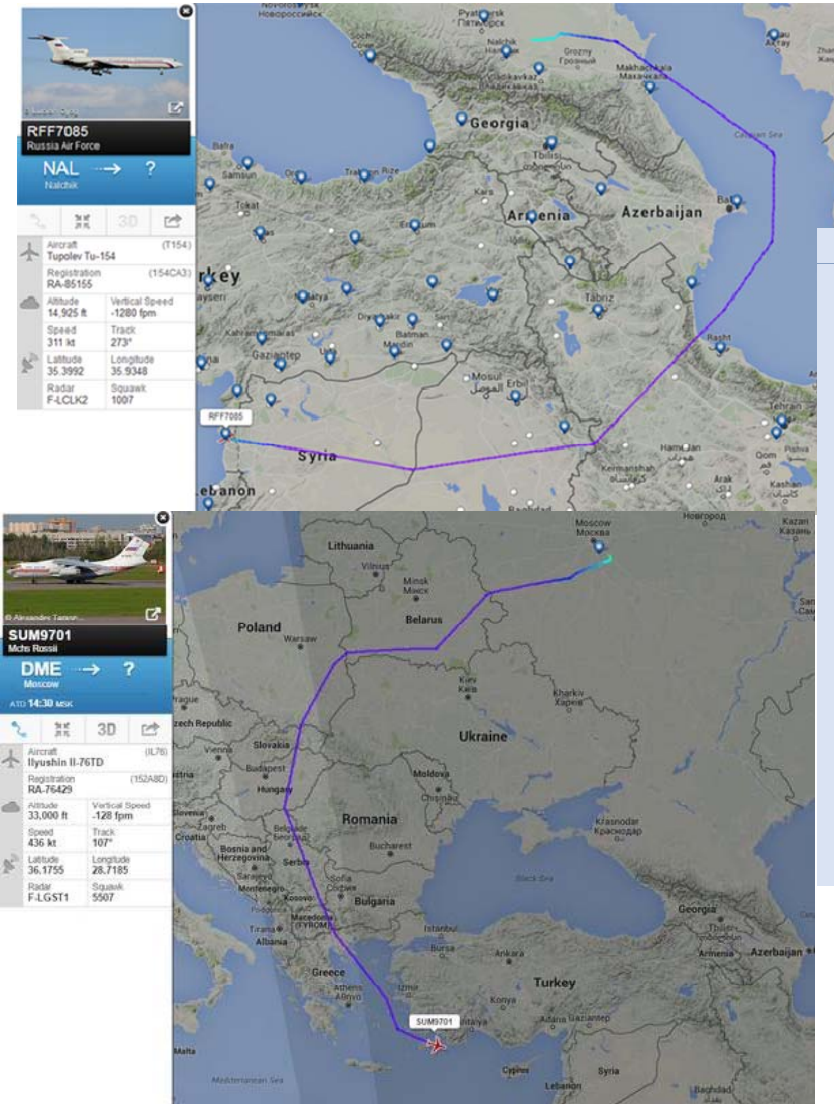
1. The Islamic Sharia Court in Idlid (20/12/15)
2. The Central Prison in Ma'arat Al-Nu'man (10/1/16)
3. ISIS Media Production Centre in Manbij (19 Nov 15)

The employment of 'dumb' bombs by the Russian Air Group close to civilian populated areas has led to accusations that Russian air attacks are indiscriminate and lead to unnecessary civilian casualties



The Su-34 is the RuAF's main night strike aircraft, deployed to Syria, that is able to employ satellite guided munitions.

Russian Air Bridge to Syria



On 9th Jan 2016, the Russian air force announced that Il-76 and An-124 'Ruslan' aircraft made more than 280 sorties and transported 13,750 tons of cargoes preparing infrastructure at the Humaymim airbase in Syria during 2015. This tempo of operations has continued through the year.



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Operation Damascus
Russian Intervention in Syria 2015



Intra-Theatre Airlift and Air Drop



Russian Mi-8 helicopters fly daily to shuttle Iraqi and Iranian Shia volunteer fighters from Latakia airbase to front lines positions around Aleppo. missions



Russian Il-76 transport aircraft have played an important role flying Syrian troops to crisis points within the country. They have also flown to Tehran and Baghdad to pick up Iraqi and Iranian Shia volunteer fighters to Latakia



15th January 2016, a Russian air force Il-76 carried out the first air drop of 22 tons humanitarian aid to the town of Dier Ezor in eastern Syria, which is besieged by Islamic State fighters.



Russian air drops in Syria

- From Dec 15 to 27 Dec 16, 29 sorties of IL-76 have delivered 102 platforms of humanitarian cargo (food, medicine and fuel) with total weight of 534 tons
 - 15th Jan – Dier Ez Zor, 22 tons
 - 18th Jan – DZZ and other locations, 40 tons
 - 20th Jan – DZZ (seen being loaded by BBC)
 - 21st Jan – “Syrian drops” to Zahra and Nubl enclaves
 - 23rd Jan – Russian drops to Zhra and Nubl enclaves
 - 10th Feb – Russian drop to Dier Ez Zor, 20 tons
- These air drops have continued through 2016



Russian Helicopter Group in Syria –September 2016

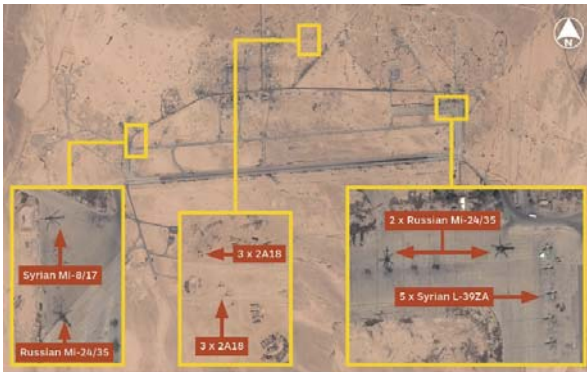
The Russian Helicopter Group is deployed forward in the central desert region, around Palmyra, T-4 and Shayrat. A handful of Mi-8AMSht are kept at Humaymim Air Base, Latakia for search and rescue duty. Maintenance is carried out at Humaymim Air Base.



Mi-28 Attack Helicopter
Unidentified unit
4 x Deployed in March 2015
Anti-Tank Guided Missiles
Rockets and guns
(1 x lost 12/4/2016)



Mi-8AMShT Armed Utility
562nd Army Aviation Base Helicopter
5 x deployed
Rockets and guns
(1 x lost 24/11/15, 1 x lost 1/8/16)



Airbus Defence and Space imagery showing Syrian and Russian assets at Tiyas Air Base in Syria on 31 March. The Mi-8/17 has not moved since at least December 2015 and is likely derelict. Also visible are 122 mm 2A18 (D-30)



Ka-53 Attack Helicopter
Unidentified unit
4 x Deployed in March 2015
Anti-Tank Guided Missiles
Rockets and guns



Mi-35 Attack Helicopter
Unidentified unit
4 x Deployed in December 2015
Anti-Tank Guided Missiles
Rockets and guns



Airbus Defence and Space imagery from 8 November showing Russian helicopters deployed at Syria's Al-Shayrat Air Base and the final stages of the resurfacing of the southern runway. © CNES 2015. Distribution Airbus DS / © 2015 IHS: 153997

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Russian Intervention in Syria 2015-16



Russian Helicopter Operations

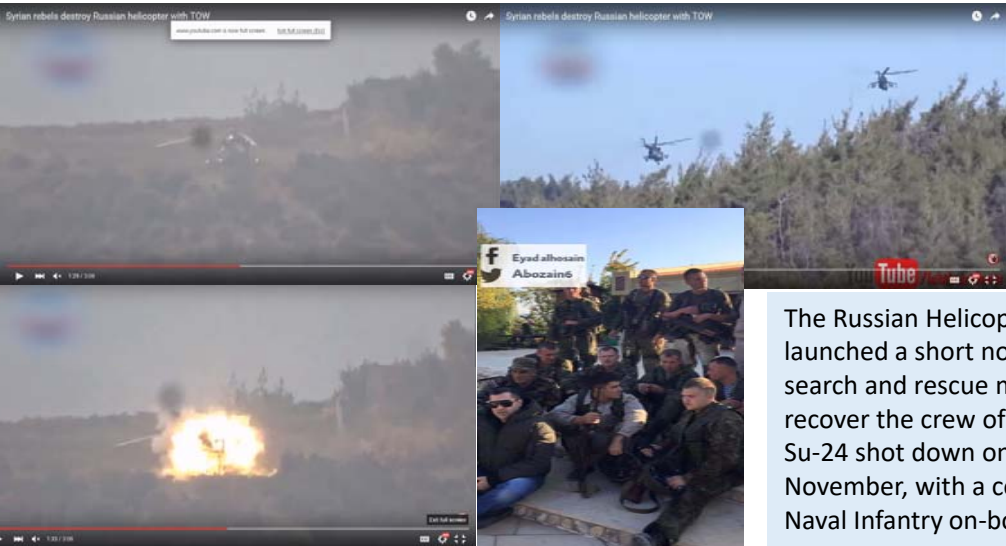


Russian Mi-24 helicopters are detached to forward airfields in central Syria to carry out low level strikes against rebel positions. These missions are the nearest thing to close air support flown by the Russians and involve radio co-ordination with Syrian ground troops. In February 2018, 4 x Mi-24 and 4 x Mi-35s were deployed to Shayrat air base in central Syria

Russian Mi-8 helicopters fly daily missions to shuttle Iraqi and Iranian Shia volunteer fighters from Latakia airbase to front lines positions around Aleppo.



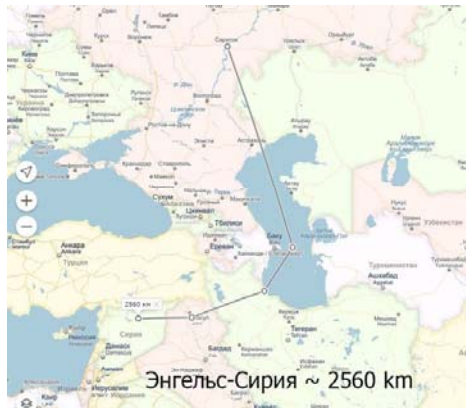
Mi-28 engagement video, released 31 Mar 2016 by Russian MOD
Source:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msRy7XiHK3s>



The Russian Helicopter Group launched a short notice combat search and rescue mission to recover the crew of the Russian Su-24 shot down on 24th November, with a contingent of Naval Infantry on-board



Russia-based Bombers supporting Operations in Syria



Route from Engels Airbase to Syria by Tu-95 and Tu-160s



Tu-22M3 bombers dropped iron or dumb bombs



- Mozdok Airbase, Ossetia Reinforced Air Wing
- 2 x A-50 AWACS
 - 12 x Tu-22M3 heavy bombers
 - 4 x Su-27M fighters
 - 8 x Su-34 Strike Jets



Tu-95 Bombers Armed with Kh-55 cruise missiles

Tu-160 Bombers Armed with Kh-55 cruise missiles

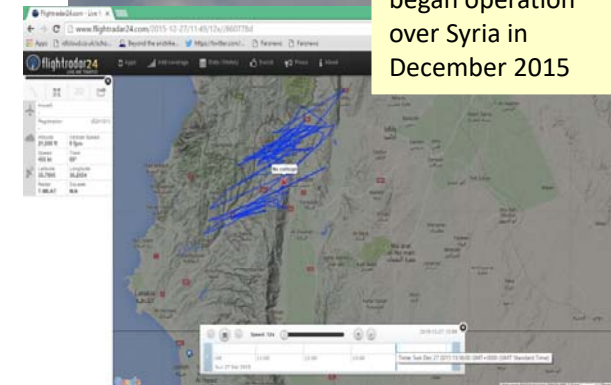
Route from Mozdok Airbase to Syria



Route from Kola to Syria by 2 x Tu-160 bombers on 20th November



A-50 Mainstay AWACS aircraft began operation over Syria in December 2015



From 17th -20th November 2015 The Russian Air Force launched waves of heavy bombers on each day into Syria from Mozdok and Engels airbases. These are a mix of 25 Tu-22M3s, Tu-95, Tu-160s bombers, as well as 4 x Su-27SM and 8 x Su-34 strike jets.

Maj Gen. Anatoly Konovalov, deputy commander of Russia's long-range aviation force said on 19th December 2015 that long range aircraft had flown 145 sorties in total against targets in Syria, dropping over 1,500 bombs and fired about 20 air-launched cruise missiles.

Tu-22M3 Strikes in Eastern Syria, Jan-Jul 2016

22-24 January 2016

Tupolov Tu-22M3 strikes on Dier Ez Zor, 18 sorties in total flown week in that phase and then a further 24 the week up to 2nd Feb 16

12 July 2016

6 x Tu-22M3 made a concentrated strike on ISIS in eastern Palmyra, Es-Suhne & Arak A large militants' field camp, 3 ammo depots, 3 tanks, 4 IFVs, 8 automobile vehicles and a great number of personnel were claimed destroyed

14 July 2016

6x Tu-22M3 carried out a strike on ISIS in the east from Palmyra, and near al-Sukhnah, Araq, and T-3 oil transfer station in the Homs province.

21 July 2016

6 x Tu-22M3 hit IS facilities east of Palmyra, as well as in the areas of the cities Es-Sukhne, Arak, Et-Teibe in the Homs province



Russian Air Group in August 2016



7 Aug

6? X Tu-22M3 fly from Razan in Russia, via Mozdok, to hit targets in east Palmyra

11 Aug

6 x Tu-22M3 fly from Razan in Russia, via Mozdok, hit south Raqqa

14th Aug

6 x Tu-22M3 hit Dier Er Zor region, flying from Engels in Russia, using air-to-air refuelling from Il-76s over Caspian

15th Aug

4 x Tu-22M3 and 4 x Su-34 arrive at Hamadan Airbase, Iran then fly raid to hit Aleppo, Idlib and Dier Ez Zor overnight

17th Aug

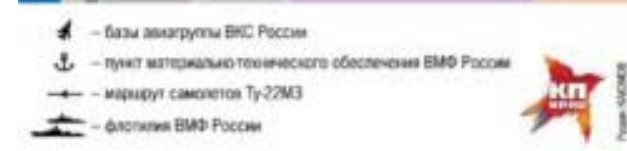
4 x Su-34 launch raid into Syria

18th Aug

4 x Tu-22M3 fly raid into Syria

22nd August

Russian aircraft leave Iran



Russian Naval Forces in Syria Theatre, October 2016 on wards



Buyan-M class Corvettes Serpukhov and Zeleny Dol (3M-14T Kaliber NK capable)
Moved to Atlantic Early Oct 16



Survey Ship Yantar



Pytlivyy Krivak Class Frigate



Nanuchka-III Guided Missile Corvette Mirazh



Frigate Admiral Grigorovich due to Sail from Sebastapol late Oct 16



IVAN GOLUBETS mine counter measures vessel

On Call Assets - Black Seas Fleet and Caspian Sea Flotilla

BLACK SEA FLEET

Guided Missile Cruiser	Moskva	Slava
Guided Missile Destroyer	Smetlivyy	Kashin
Guided Missile Frigate	Ladnyy	Krivak-class frigate
Guided Missile Frigate	Admiral Grigorovich	Admiral Grigorovich-class frigate
Guided Missile Frigate	Admiral Essen	Admiral Grigorovich-class frigate
Guided Missile Corvette	Bora	Dergach
Guided Missile Corvette	Samum	Dergach
Guided Missile Corvette	Shtil	Nanuchka-III

Caspian Sea Flotilla
(3M-14T Kaliber NK capable ships)
Dagestan Gepard-class frigates (Project 1166.1) and the Buyan-M corvettes *Grad* *Sviyazhsk*, *Uglich*, and *Veliki Ustyug*

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Russian Naval Forces cruise missile strikes against Syria



Cruise missile photographed over Idlib province, 9 Feb 16
Source: @Adbuhark



3M-14T Kaliber NK



Rostov-on-Don (Kilo class sub)
Firing from Med, 8th December 2015



Source: Russian Defence Ministry, ISW



- Russian Naval Cruise Missile Strikes**
- Caspian Sea Flotilla
 - 7th October 2015
 - Cruise Missile Strike
 - 26 x 3M-14T Kaliber NK
 - 20th November 2015
 - 18 x 3M-14T Kaliber NK
 - Mediterranean Fleet
 - 8th December 2015
 - 4 ?? x 3M-14T Kaliber NK fired from Rostov-on-Don (Kilo class sub)
 - 9th February 2016
 - Suspected launch - missile seen over Idlib
 - 1st March 2016
 - Suspected fire – 3 x missiles from ship in Med at Al-Mastouma in Idlib
 - 19th August
 - 3 x missiles fired from Buyan class Corvettes Serpukhov and Zeleny Dol in the Med

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Russian Intervention in Syria 2015-16



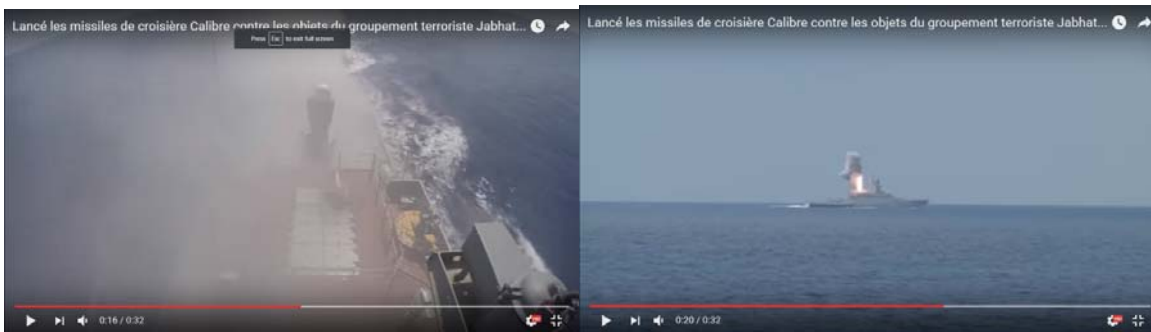
Russian Black Sea Fleet Kalibr Missile strikes on Syria from Mediterranean, 19 Aug 2016

Russian MOD report: http://eng.mil.ru/en/news_page/country/more.htm?id=12093238@egNews
Video Clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONF0njeYQKA>

Launch #1



Launch #2



Launch #3

Russian Intelligence Gathering Platforms in Syria Theatre, September 2016

Russian Orlan 10
Tactical UAV
Up to 140km range



Russian Air Force II-20 ISTAR/SIGINT aircraft have been regularly photographed over Aleppo and Damascus. One appears to have a SLAR (Side-Looking Airborne Radar) canoe to "see" through camouflage and foliage to track vehicle movement



Russian Forpost (versions of IAI Searcher II) Operational Level UAV
300km range/beyond line of sight imagery download.
It is the most likely source of the high quality drone imagery of Syria operations published by Russian MOD



TU-214R Reconnaissance Aircraft
1 deployed to Syria for two weeks in Feb 2016, it returned to Syria on 29th July 2016
It is equipped for SIGINT/SLAR Radar/electro-optical reconnaissance with video camera.



Russian Auxiliary Intelligence Gathering Ship Kildin



This Aerostat was deployed to Humaymim Air Base, Latakia in August 2016 for local security tasks

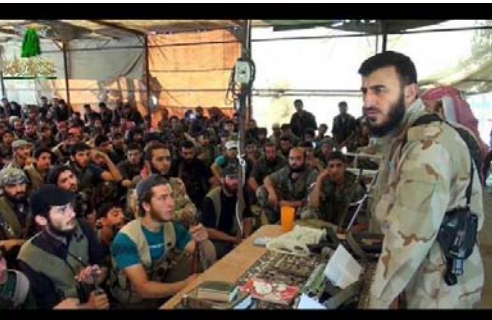


An-30 imagery intelligence gathering aircraft

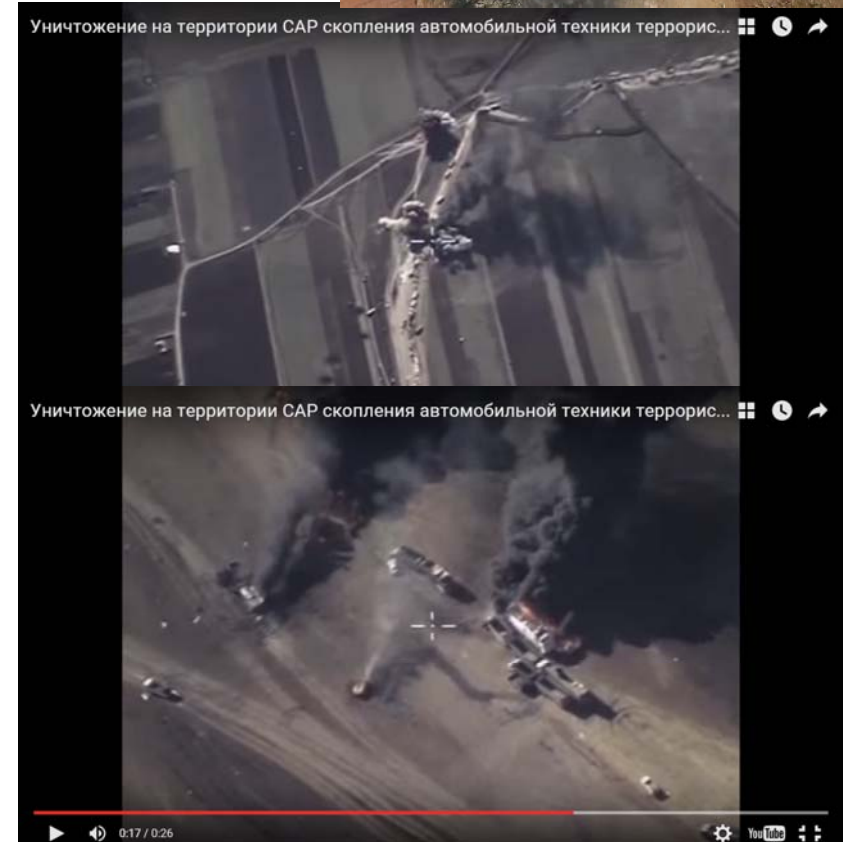


Intelligence-Led Air Strikes

Russian aircraft have regularly conducted time-sensitive targeting of rebel leaders and important targets using intelligence gathered in real-time from UAVs/drones, reconnaissance aircraft, signals intelligence and human intelligence. Drones are used to monitor these attacks in real-time.



As the campaign has progressed the Russians have increased the frequency of these types of attacks, suggesting they are gaining experience in pulling them together multiple intelligence sources and then rapidly tasking attack assets. The incident on the (left) targeted a rebel leader, Mahran Alloush, in eastern Damascus on 25th Dec 2015. On the (right) an ISIS oil tanker convoy is attacked in north west Syria on 24th Dec 2015.



Russian Intelligence Imagery



UAV or drone video imagery is regularly released by the Russian MOD or via the Syrian state news agency (SANA). A rebel compound was identified (above) and trucks at a Turkish border crossing are seen (below) in the thermal imaging mode. The types of UAV used are not identified but the quality of the imagery and location of the Turkish border crossing suggest a long range system, such as the Forpost (Russian-manufactured IAI Searcher II variant), is in use.



Since the start of its intervention the Russian military has released a considerable quantity of still and video imagery collected by its airborne reconnaissance systems operating over Syria.



The speed at which the Russian are able to generate imagery for release to the media suggests they have a high bandwidth communications network to move high resolution imagery between command posts in Russia and the Air Group in Syria



Russian satellite imagery (above) of a ISIS oil tanker concentration in eastern Syria. This imagery is similar to commercial imagery posted on the Google Earth site.



Russian satellite imagery of a ISIS oil tanker activity on the Turkish border (above). This black and white imagery is valued by intelligence analysts because it can be manipulated to determine shadow and perspective from objects, to work out their size and volume.



Video imagery (above) from Su-24 and Su-34 strike jets is collected for bomb damage assessment and intelligence assessments

Air Defence Operations



On 1-2 Oct 2016 Russia deployed a single S-300 battery to Tartus port in Syria by ship. The Russian MOD said it was operational by 6th October 2016.

When the Russian Air Group deployed to Syria in September 2015 the air defence capability was limited to Pantsir S-1 gun/SAM close-in weapon systems and a surveillance radar



After Turkish F-16s shot down a Russian Su-24 on 24th November, the Russian government order a beefing up of air supremacy and air defence capability in Syria.

1. A battery of S-400 surface-to-air missiles was flown to Latakia by An-124.
2. Russian Su-30 and Syrian MiG-29s were sent up to escort Russian strike aircraft
3. A-50 Mainstay AWACS aircraft began operating over north West Syrian
4. A Pantsir S-2 system was deployed in Jan 16



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Russian Intervention in Syria 2015-16



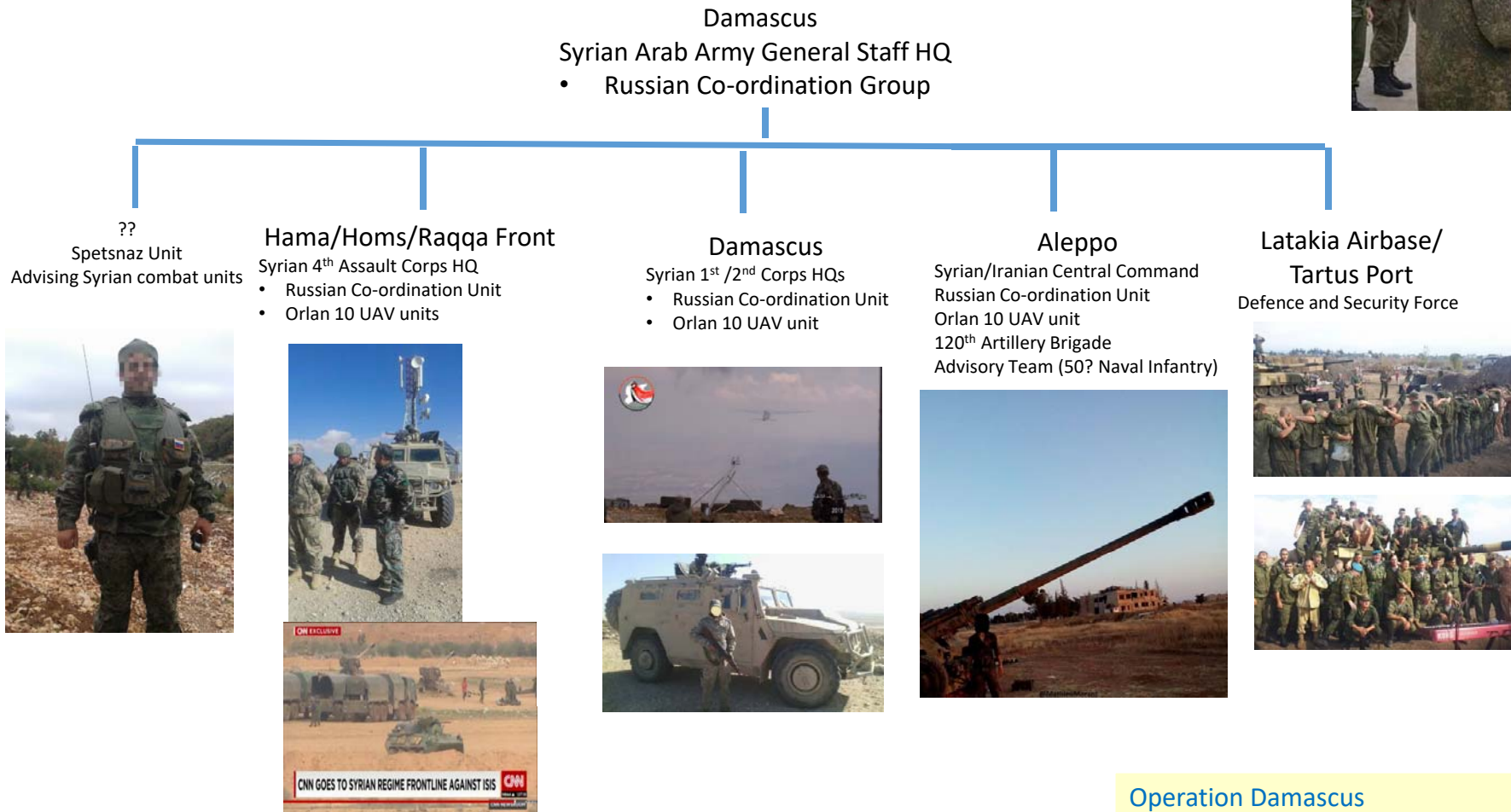
Iskander ballistic missile launcher at Humaymim Air Base, Latakia, 27 March 2016



Islander ballistic missile launcher identified at Humaymim Air Base, Latakia, 27 March 2016. This is most likely the M variant of the missile, which has a range of 500km

Airbus Defence and Space imagery showing a probable transporter-erector-launcher (TEL) for an Iskander-series missile at Humaymim Airbase in Syria. The vehicle is located in the position noted in a video released by Russian media. © CNES 2016, Distribution Airbus DS / © 2016 IHS: 1650980

Russian Ground Forces in Syria



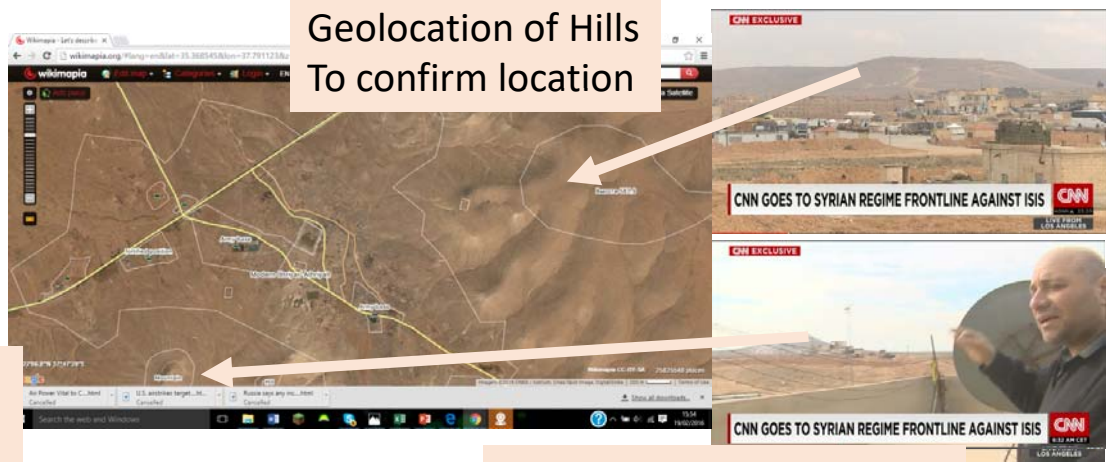
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Suspected Russian Army 5th Battery of 120th Artillery Brigade Deployment to Ithriyah, in north east Hama



Russian Army 152mm 2A65 MSTA-B howitzer and Kamaz 6350 prime mover in Latakia province Sept 2015. They match with vehicles and guns in photos above.



Force Protection Unit Syrian BMP, Russian? BTR-82 and Syrian? T-90



Source:
<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/02/15/middleeast/syria-isis-frontline-hama/>

Operation Damascus
 Russian Intervention in Syria 2015-16



Russian troops at Palmyra, 24 March 16

Mine Crossing Line Charge rocket, note cable behind rocket

MCLC charge detonates



Ural Truck



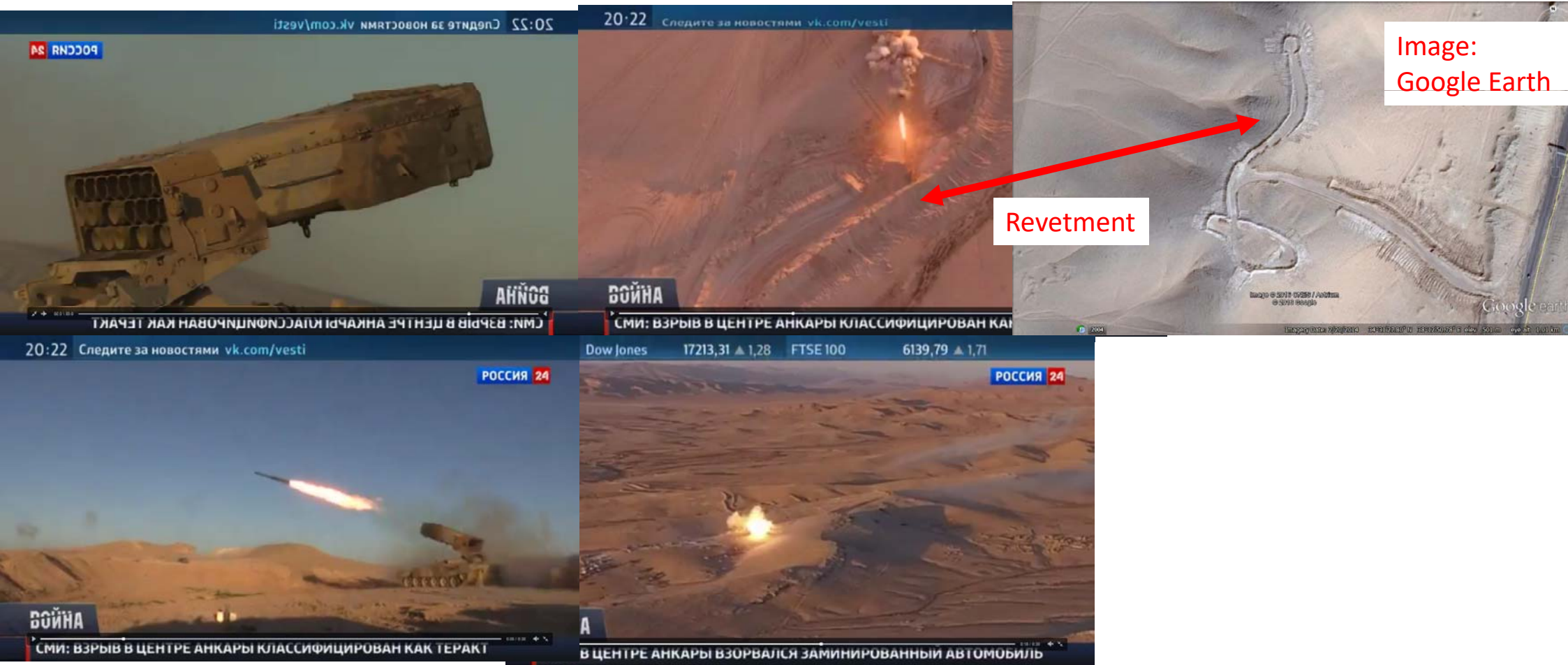
Russian Special Forces FAC team on hill over looking palmyra 26 Mar 16 @towersight

T-90 tank

Video Source:
<http://lifenews.ru/news/192442>

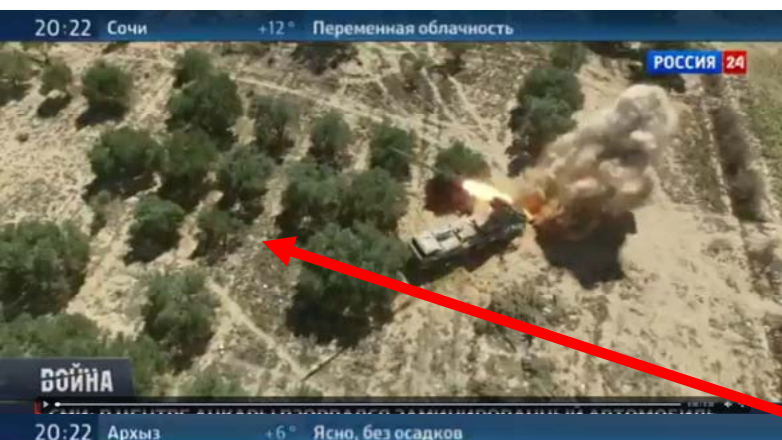
TOS-1A in fire position outside Palmyra, as seen on Russia 24, 13 March 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIPfD8Kpееc>



BM-30 Smerch in fire position outside Palmyra, as seen on Russia today 13 March 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIPfD8Kpееc>



Footage of TOS-1A impacts, incendiary cluster munitions, TOS-1A launches in Aleppo region, 4-5 Sept 2016

Source: @bm27_uragan_ 5th September 2016



Weapon impacts on Artillery Training Centre Buildings



Russian convoy with 63501-AT tractors towing Msta-B howitzers, trucks and BM-21s moving to Aleppo in June 2016

Source: https://twitter.com/bm27_uran, 2nd September 2016



Msta-B # 1



Msta-B # 2



Msta-B # 3



Msta-B # 4



Msta-B # 5



The convoy included BM-21s and support vehicles



BM-21 # 1



BM-21 # 2



BM-21 # 3



Support vehicles: 1 x water tanker, 9 x trucks

Russian Casualties in Syria 2015-16

Fatal casualties among the regular Russian Armed Forces:						
Date of death	Name	Rank	Age	Branch	Cause of death	Location of death
24-Oct-15	Vadim Kostenko	Private	19	Russian Air Force	Non-hostile (suicide)	Khmeimim airbase, Latakia Governorate
19-Nov-15	Fyodor Zhuravlyov	Captain	27	Russian special operations forces	Hostile fire	N/A
24-Nov-15	Oleg Peshkov	Lieutenant colonel	45	Russian Air Force	Hostile fire (shootdown)	Syria–Turkey border, Latakia Governorate
24-Nov-15	Alexander Pozynich	Seaman	29	Russian Marines	Hostile fire (shootdown)	Syria–Turkey border, Latakia Governorate
01-Feb-16	Ivan Cheremisin	Lieutenant colonel	N/A	Russian special operations forces	Hostile fire (mortar attack)	Latakia Governorate
17-Mar-16	Alexander Prokhorenko	Senior lieutenant	25	Russian special operations forces	Hostile fire (air-strike)	Palmyra, Homs Governorate
12-Apr-16	Andrey Okladnikov	Commander	N/A	Russian Air Force	Non-hostile (helicopter crash)	Homs, Homs Governorate
12-Apr-16	Viktor Pankov	N/A	N/A	Russian Air Force	Non-hostile (helicopter crash)	Homs, Homs Governorate
07-May-16	Anton Yerygin	Sergeant	31	International Mine Action Center	Hostile fire (sniper fire)	Palmyra, Homs Governorate
24-May-16	Asker Bizhoev	N/A	N/A	N/A	Hostile fire (shelling)	Palmyra, Homs Governorate
07-Jun-16	Mikhail Shirokopoyas	Junior sergeant	35	35th Army	Hostile fire (shelling)	Moscow, Russia (wounds from Aleppo Governorate)
16-Jun-16	Andrey Timoshenko	Sergeant	N/A	Russian Marines	Hostile fire (suicide car-bomb)	Khmeimim airbase, Latakia Governorate (wounds from Homs Governorate)
08-Jul-16	Evgeny Dolgin	Lieutenant	24	Russian Air Force	Hostile fire (shootdown)	Palmyra, Homs Governorate
08-Jul-16	Ryafagat Khabibulin	Colonel	50/51	Russian Air Force	Hostile fire (shootdown)	Palmyra, Homs Governorate
22-Jul-16	Nikita Shevchenko	Private	N/A	N/A	Hostile fire (Improvised explosive device)	Aleppo Governorate
01-Aug-16	Roman Pavlov	Captain	33	Russian Air Force	Hostile fire (shootdown)	Idlib Governorate
01-Aug-16	Oleg Shelamov	N/A	29	Russian Air Force	Hostile fire (shootdown)	Idlib Governorate
01-Aug-16	Pavel Shorohov	Captain	41	Russian Air Force	Hostile fire (shootdown)	Idlib Governorate
01-Aug-16	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	Russian Center for Reconciliation	Hostile fire (shootdown)	Idlib Governorate
01-Aug-16	Unknown	Unknown	N/A	Russian Center for Reconciliation	Hostile fire (shootdown)	Idlib Governorate

Identified Fatal casualties among Russian PMCs
Some estimates suggest “hundreds” of fatalities killed in Syria

Date of death	Name	Age		Cause of death	Location of death
03-Feb-16	Maksim Kolganov	38	PMC	Hostile fire	Latakia Governorate
08-Feb-16	Sergei Chupov	51	PMC	Hostile fire (mortar attack)	Damascus Governorate
17 March 2016 (around)	Vadim Tumakov	31	PMC	Hostile fire	Palmyra, Homs Governorate (possibly)

ISIS news agency, Amaq, published images of Lt Alexander Prokhorenko of the Russian Spetznaz, his equipment and photographs taken from his camera. The officer was killed in action near Palmyra, 17 March 2016

