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RUSSIA'S WAR IN SYRIA

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# Shayrat Airbase – Update on US Missile Attack 7th Apr 2017

Analysis by Tim Ripley

The Following presentations is drawn from Russian MOD and Media footage filmed on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017, as well as US DoD satellite imagery

## Assessment

The airbase was “hardened” in the 1970s by the Soviets after the Israeli surprise attack wiped out the Syrian air force in the 1967 war. There is a mix of single aircraft HAS and double or pair HAS which can take two aircraft in each bay. There are a total of 40 HAS on the base.

The footage appears to show missile hits and penetrations of at least 18 hardened shelters (HAS)

It is not possible to assess damage inside most of shelters or if aircraft were hit. One picture shows the burnt out remains of 3 aircraft inside a pair of shelters

Two HAS appears to have debris blasted out of their front doors.

Just under half of the 40 HAS on the base appear to have been damaged or destroyed.

The two main runways are undamaged, apart from some superficial shrapnel damage. It has not been cratered.

No Russian helicopters appear to have been at the base, although satellite imagery from January shows Russian helicopters there to support the Palmyra offensive.

The SA-6 battery positioned just outside the main gate appears untouched by the US missile strike, with four missile launcher vehicles and a radar operational

**The airbase remains operational, after only suffering limited damage**

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Shayrat Airbase<br><i>normal</i><br><i>compliment</i> |        |
| 50th Air Brigade                                      |        |
| Aircraft Type   | Number |
| Su-22M-4<br>bomber                                    | 10     |
| MiG-23 bomber   | 18     |





HAS with blast doors blown off after roof penetrated



HAS with intact Su-22 bombers inside

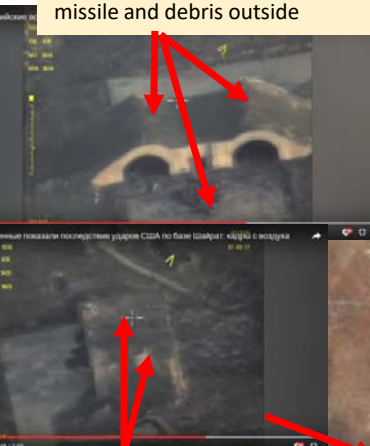
Imagery of Shayrat airbase strike, 7 Apr 17 taken from following clips

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ow5Ux17YKdM>

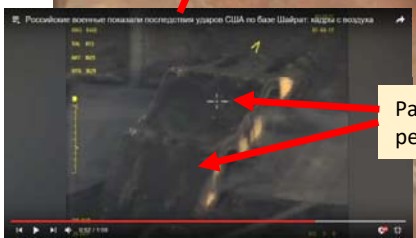
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKtJjPypT7I>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzMRwtMVhZ4>

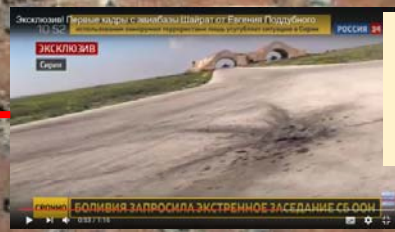
Pair HAS with roof penetrated by missile and debris outside



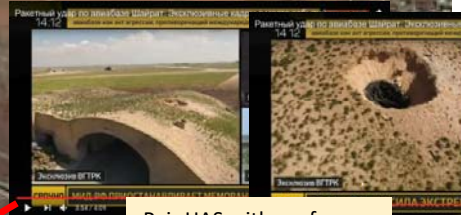
Pair HAS with roof penetrations by missiles



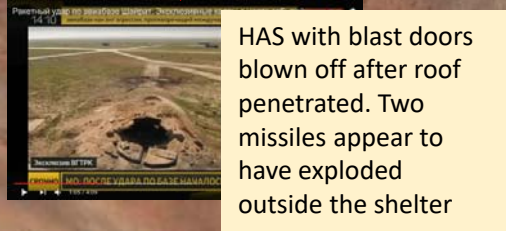
Pair HAS with roof penetrations by missiles



Shrapnel damage to runway. It has not been cratered so easily repaired



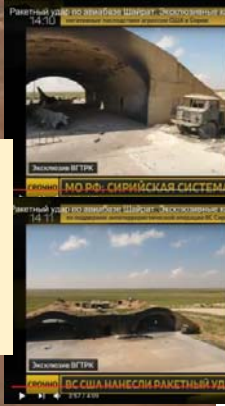
Pair HAS with roof penetrations by missiles



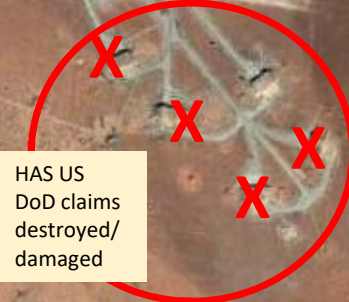
HAS with blast doors blown off after roof penetrated. Two missiles appear to have exploded outside the shelter



Missile debris on Runway



Remains of 2 x aircraft inside, including 1 x Su-22, unidentified HAS



HAS US DoD claims destroyed/damaged

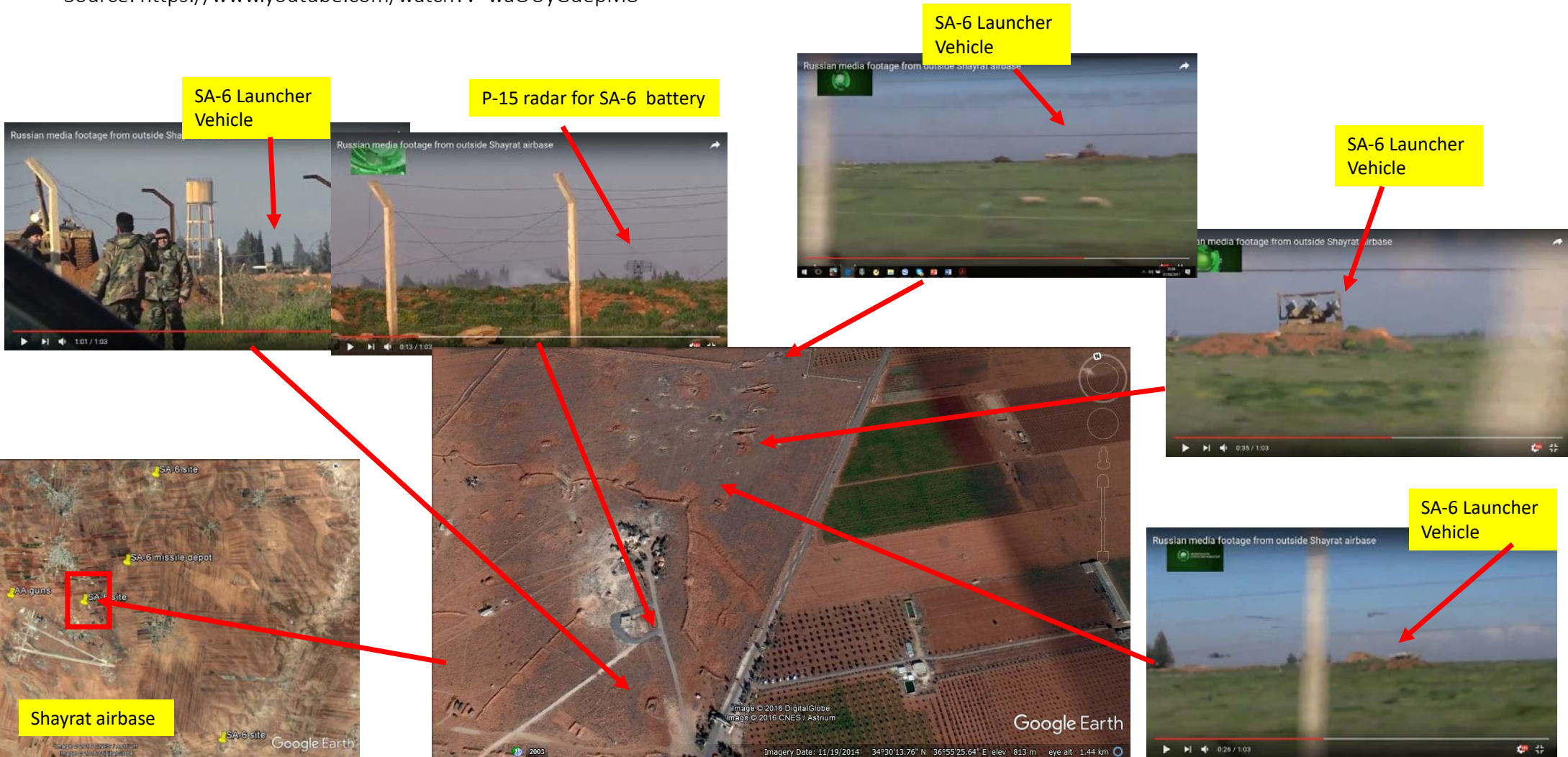
**X destroyed aircraft shelters**

Google Earth



# Syrian SA-6 Kub surface-to-air (SAM) battery next to main gate of Shayrat Airbase, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Appears untouched by US missile strike.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waOUyGdepM8>





# Shayrat Airbase – Support Infra-structure

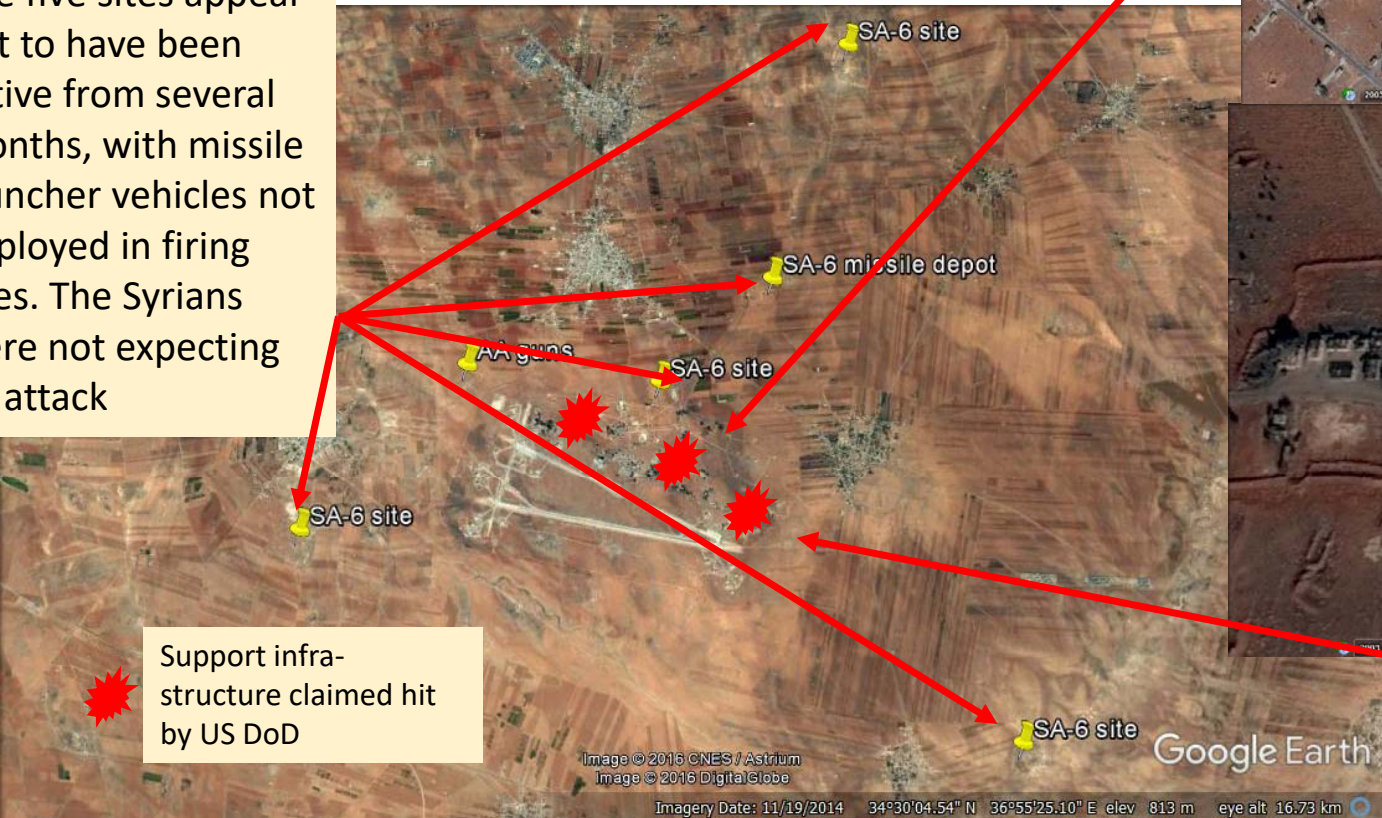
SA-6 (also known as Kub) Air Defence Missile sites around Shayrat. The five sites appear not to have been active from several months, with missile launcher vehicles not deployed in firing sites. The Syrians were not expecting an attack



Damage to airbase support equipment? (source: Sputnik)



Bomb Dump



Support infrastructure claimed hit by US DoD



Storage sites

Image © 2016 CNES / Astrium  
Image © 2016 DigitalGlobe  
Imagery Date: 11/19/2014 34°30'04.54" N 36°55'25.10" E elev 813 m eye alt 16.73 km  
Google Earth





Al Sharyat Airbase - Syria  
 Pleiades: 2017-04-09  
 RP: 34° 29' 24" N / 036° 54' 29" E

AIRBUS



Analysis made from Pleiades Image acquired on April 8th and 9th, 2017 highlighted the US Battle Damage Assessment on the night of April 7th. The aeronautical infrastructures were not damaged and still fully operational. Only the fuel depots, the depot in the East and some aircraft shelters were struck. At least 3 Mig-23 have been destroyed or damaged. There is nothing to confirm that the damaged shelters weren't home aircraft. On April 9th 3 Albatros, 1 Mig-23 and 2 Su-22 still seemed operational.