

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

*Related to Chapter 16, concerning
fighting in the central Syrian desert
in January 2017*

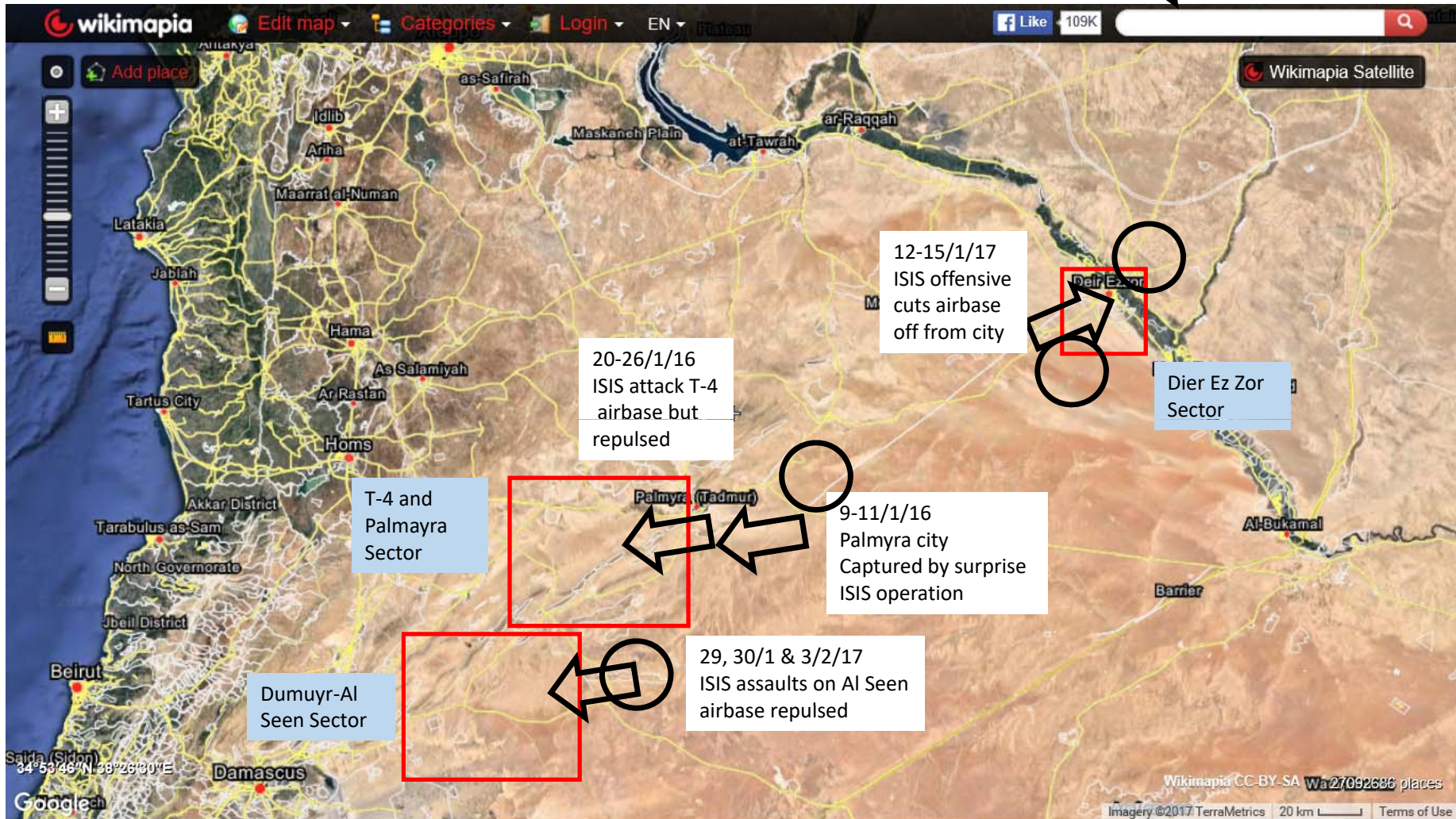
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(then search Operation Aleppo by Tim Ripley)*

Central Desert War Zone, Dec 2016 to Feb 2017

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ISIS combat group and offensive



ISIS Combat Groups in Central Syrian Desert

Each has between 1000 -2000 fighters
 This comprises several mobile assault groups of 300 to 400 fighters equipped with in SUV armed technical, tanks and artillery.
 These are supported by group holding groups of 100-200 men who garrison towns and key geographical features, such as mountains, ridge lines and oil/gas fields



IS firing grad rockets and artillery at T4 airbase in eastern Homs
 Source and date of imagery: David Kimball @dkimball12 23/1/17



Still from video shows #ISIS blowing up the #Hayan gas plant
 Source and date of imagery: WorldOnAlert @worldonaalert 8/1/17

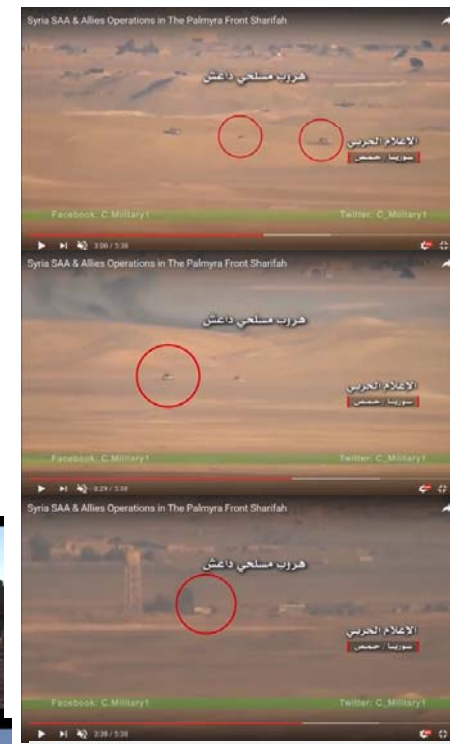


ISIS raiding force in T-4 region
 Source and date of imagery: 4/2/17 Amaq, via @ruffthecrimedog



ISIS defensive positions around Tiyas cross roads, south of T4 airbase in eastern Homs
 Source and date of imagery: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqnPRItxT-g>

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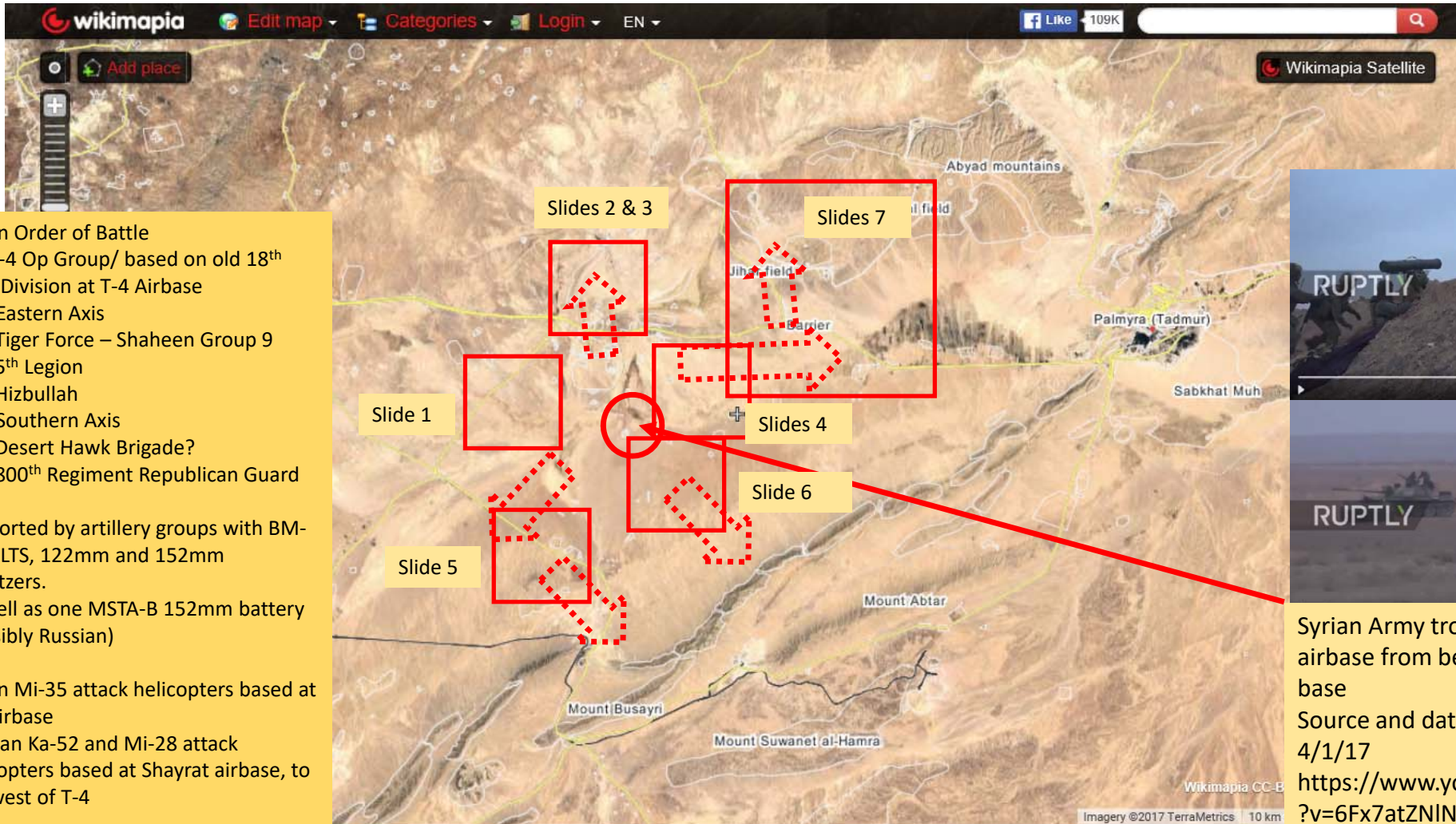
ISIS Fighters and SUV technical vehicles near T-4 airbase, Dec 2016
 Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8mHPHfB_wg

Syrian Operations Around T-4 Airbase, Jan-Feb 2017

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Syrian Axis
of Advance



Syrian Order of Battle
HQ T-4 Op Group/ based on old 18th
Tank Division at T-4 Airbase

- Eastern Axis
Tiger Force – Shaheen Group 9
5th Legion
Hizbullah
- Southern Axis
Desert Hawk Brigade?
800th Regiment Republican Guard

Supported by artillery groups with BM-21 MLTS, 122mm and 152mm howitzers.
As well as one MSTA-B 152mm battery (possibly Russian)

Syrian Mi-35 attack helicopters based at T-4 airbase
Russian Ka-52 and Mi-28 attack helicopters based at Shayrat airbase, to the west of T-4



Syrian Army troops defend T-4 airbase from berms around the base
Source and date of imagery:
4/1/17
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Fx7atZNINc>

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Slide 1 Syria troops operating in Sharifah area, village re-captured 30/12/16

Source and date 30/1/2017

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8mHPHfB_wg



Slide 2 Operations north of T-4 airbase, aimed at capturing the “armoured battalion base”, which fell on 29/1/17

Source and date of imagery: 14/1/17

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNn5xlqKBwM>



The operation hinged around the capture of series of ridge lines



Helicopter support for operation provided by RUAf Ka-52 and SyAAF Mi-35

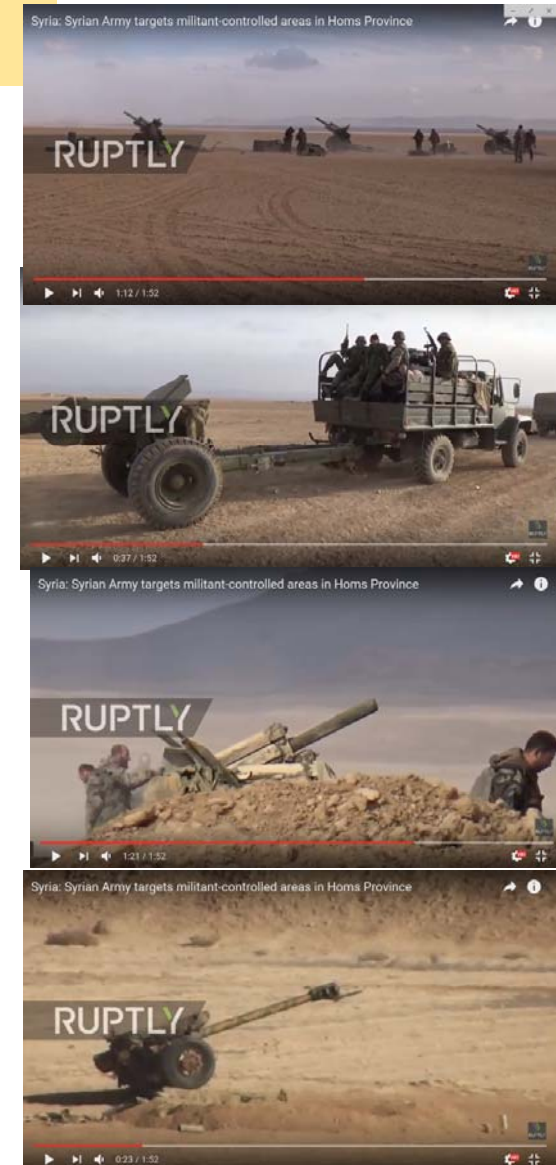
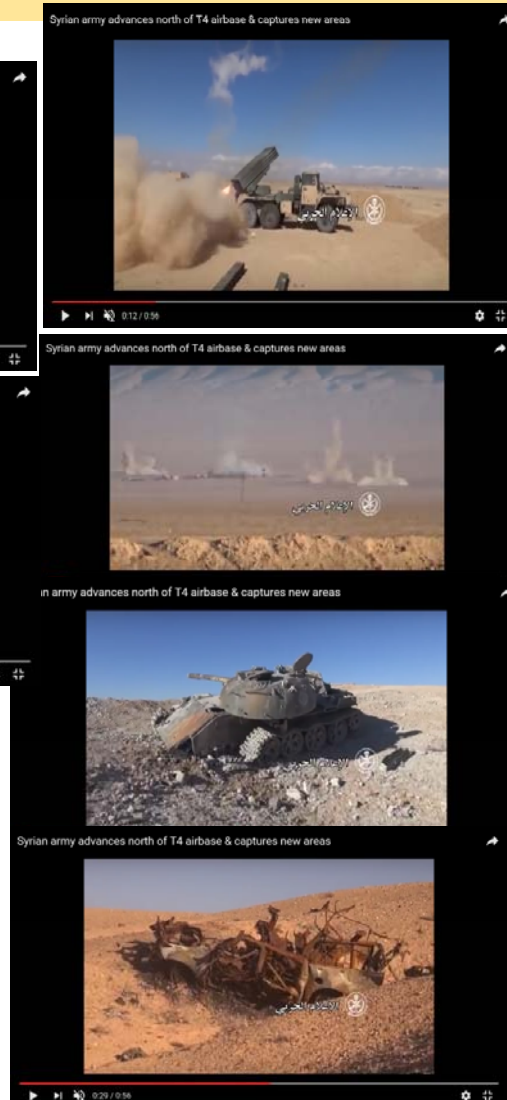
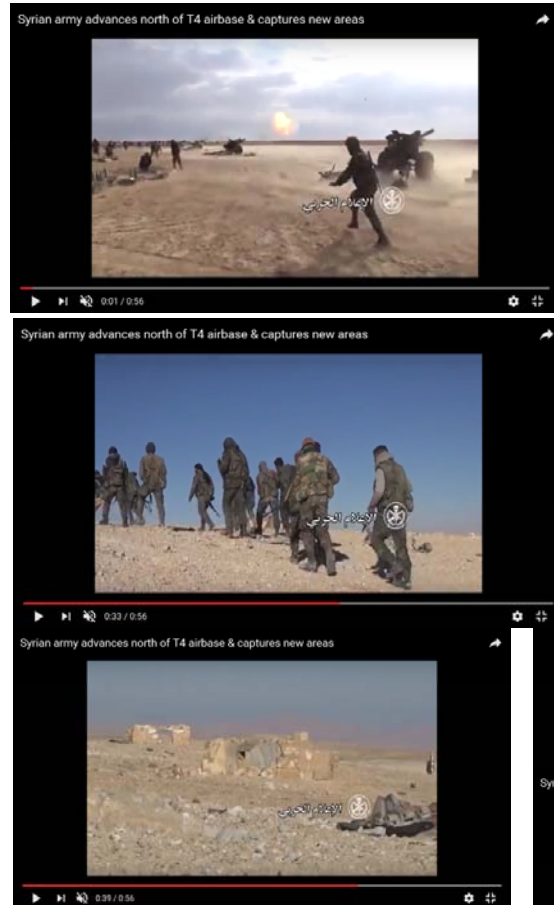
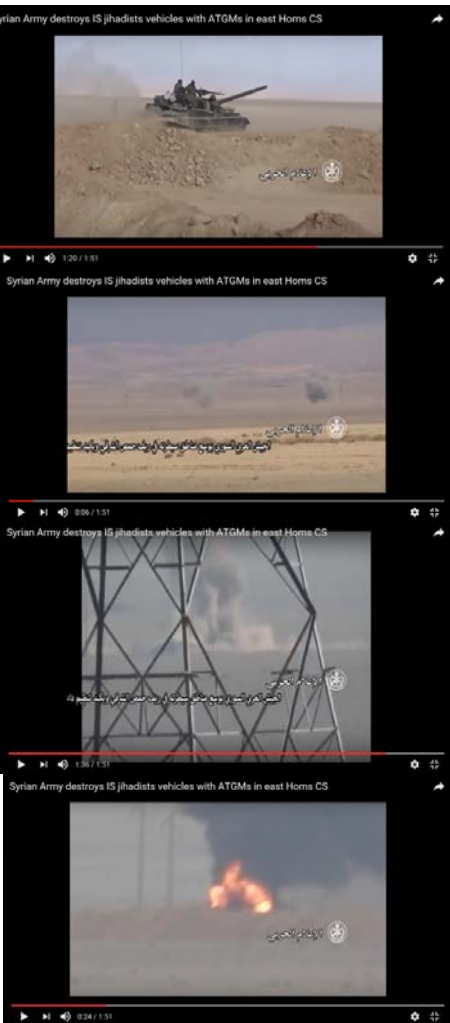


Slide 3 Operations north of T-4 airbase, aimed at clearing ridge line around "armoured battalion base"

Source and date of imagery: 27, 30, 31/1/17

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wK5VEwmHkCI>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VzPiffZAsc>,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VzPiffZAsc>



Slide 4 Operations east of T-4 airbase, aimed at pushing east of T-4 pumping station towards Palmyra

Source and date of imagery: 15/1/17

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1H71_OmYVto



Msta-B 2A65 152mm artillery battery. Possibly Russian?



Radar and berms



Syrian BM-21 MLRS battery fires over air defence base



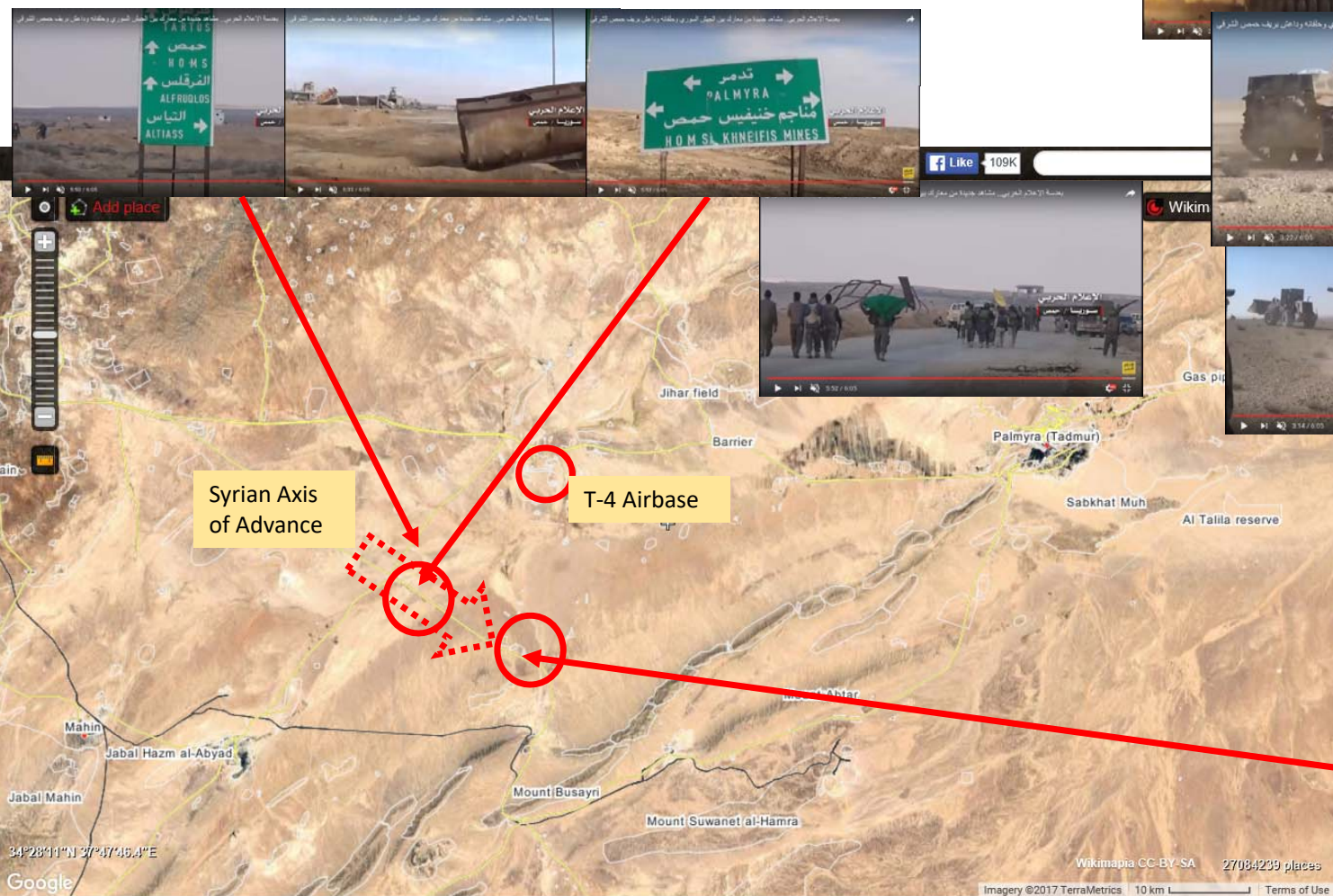
T-4 Airbase

Syrian Axis of Fire



M-30 122mm artillery battery

Slide 5 Syria troops operating in the Tiyas Crossroads region,
Source and date of imagery: 20/1/2017
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqnPRItXT-g>

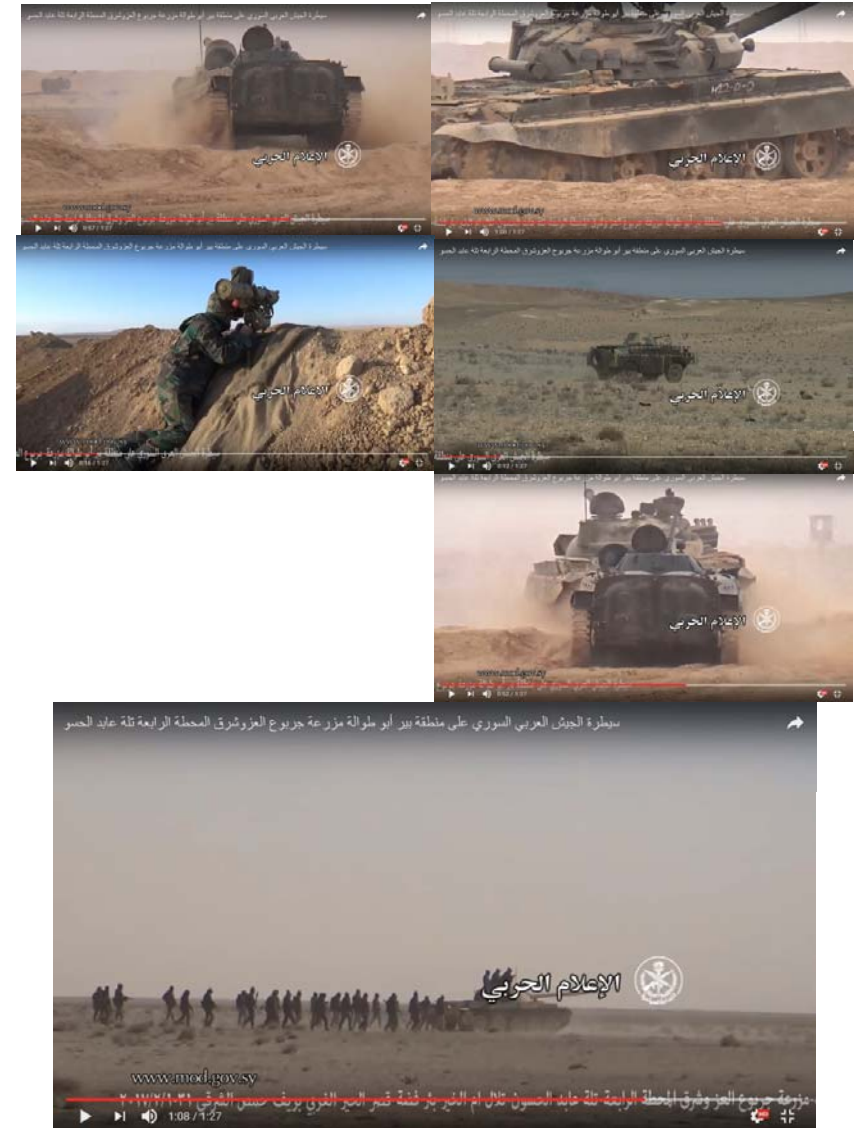


Fidda well, Fidda farm, and al-Hayr al-Gharbi castle region claimed captured 1/2/17 by Desert Hawk Brigade

Slide 6 Syrian Arab Army advance on Bir Abu Jarbou village

Source and date of imagery: 1/2/2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fsM8VbE-IU>

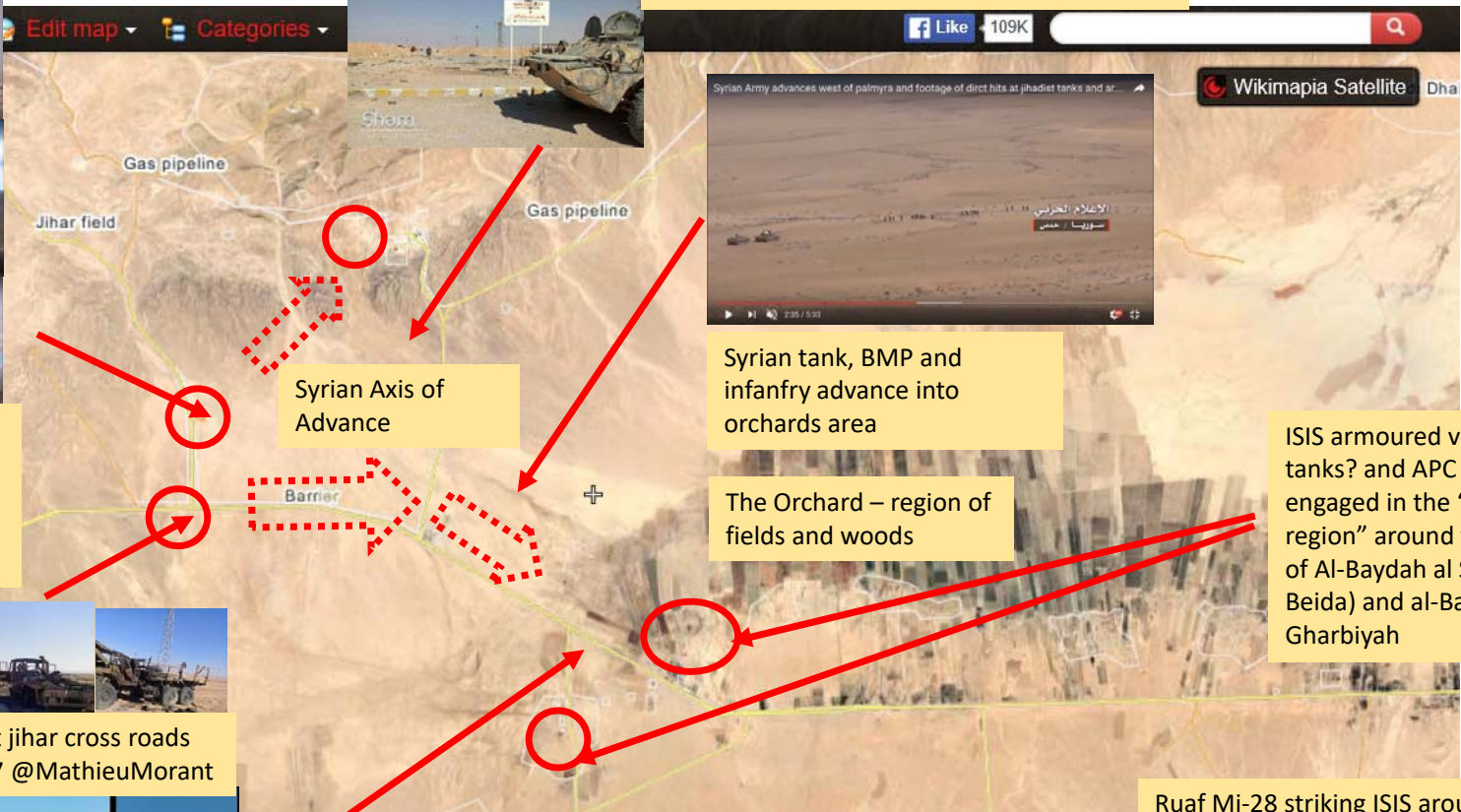


Slide 7 Operations east of T-4 airbase, aimed at pushing east from Jihar cross Roads to Majbel Asphalt area, Al-Baydah al Sharqiyah (al Beida) and al-Baydah al-Gharbiyah

Source and date of main imagery: 4/2/17

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URfwnyMSj0I>

Syrian vehicles in Hayyan Petroleum Company site
Source and date: 6 /12/17 @Morant Mathieu



Syrian fire base for BM-21 MLRS, T-72 tank and 2S1 122mm SP gun (with Republican Guard markings)

Syrian Axis of Advance

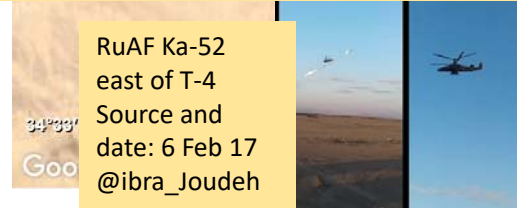
Syrian tank, BMP and infantry advance into orchards area

The Orchard – region of fields and woods

ISIS armoured vehicles tanks? and APC being engaged in the "Orchard region" around the villages of Al-Baydah al Sharqiyah (al Beida) and al-Baydah al-Gharbiyah



Destroyed ISIS vehicles at jihar cross roads
Source and date: 4/12/17 @MathieuMorant



RuAF Ka-52 east of T-4
Source and date: 6 Feb 17 @ibra_Joudeh



Ruaf Mi-28 striking ISIS around the Orchards
Source and date of imagery: 6/2/17
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utMG24t6Aps>



Dumuyr-Al Seen Sector – slide 1

Syrian convoy reinforces Al Seen/Saiqal Airbase region, in central desert region, north east of Damascus, 30/1/2017

This follows two ISIS attempts to seize airbase on 29&30/1/2017

Source images: <https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/photos-massive-syrian-army-convoy-arrived-fight-isis-qalamoun/>

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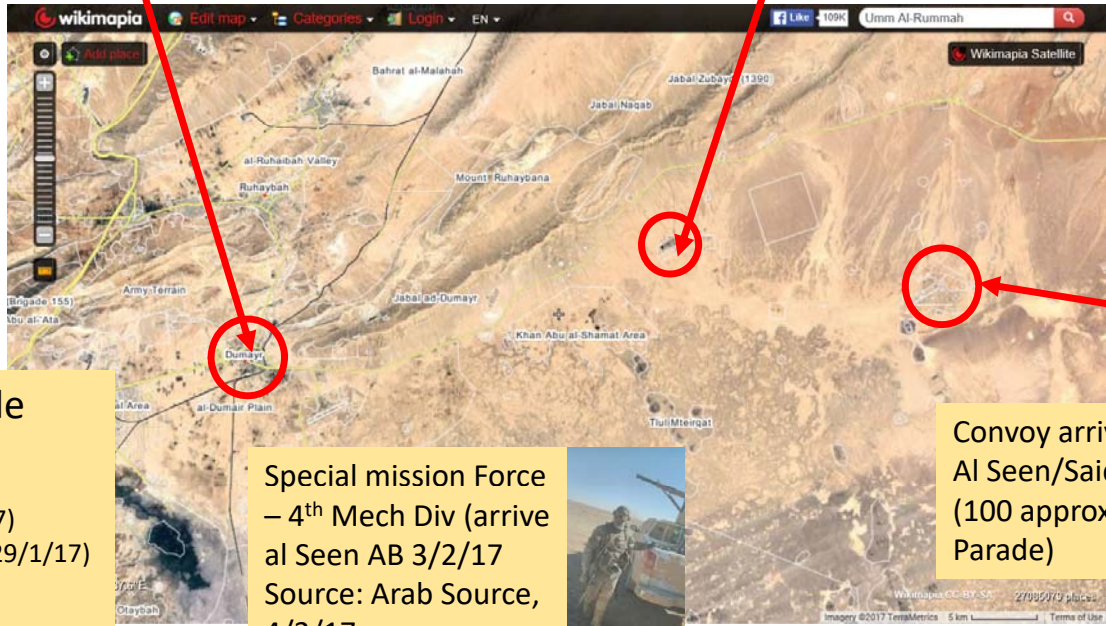


Convoy in Dumayr City. 20+ vehicles, including civilians, trucks, buses and armed technical SUVs



T-72, BMP and convoy at Badia cement factory

isis dead outside al Seen airbase
Source and date of imagery:
2/2/17 Amaq, via
@Ibra_Joudeh



- Syrian Arab Army Order of Battle**
 HQ 3rd Armoured Division
- 16th Regiment (Dumayr airbase)
 - Elements 1st Armour Division (arrive 29/1/17)
 - Air Force Intelligence combat group (arrive 29/1/17)
 - Abu Ali Haddad groups (arrive 29/1/17)
 - Ararat Battalion (arrive 29/1/17)

Special mission Force – 4th Mech Div (arrive al Seen AB 3/2/17)
 Source: Arab Source, 4/2/17

Convoy arrives at Al Seen/Saiqal Airbase (100 approx troops on Parade)



Dumuyr-Al Seen Sector – slide 2

Units of Qalamoun Shield/3rd Armored Division attacked Umm Al-Rummah town on 1/1/2017, strike north from Badia cement work with T-72 and BMPs, backed by air support

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reCWyt5SChg>



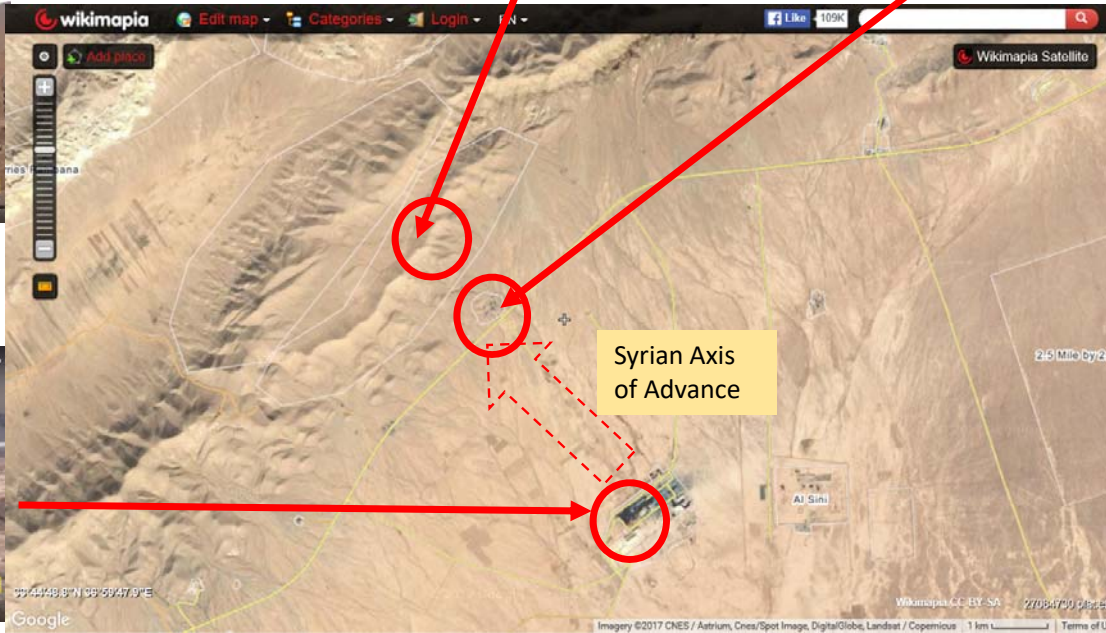
T-72 tanks move forward from Badia cement works



Air strikes on mountains behind Umm Al-Rummah town



After assault, Syrian reinforcements move into Umm Al-Rummah to garrison it.



Dumuyr-Al Seen Sector – slide 3

Syrian Army advance on abandoned air defence base, south of al-Seen airbase

Source and date of imagery: 4/2/17

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlisBsKMB2A>

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wikimapia Edit map Categories Login EN Ammunition Storage Like 109K

Sayqa/Al-Seen Military Airbase

Tiul Darwish

Syrian Axis of Advance

27100468 places

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IS fighters around al Seen Airbase
Source and date of imagery:
6/2/17 Amaq, via @MathieuMorant

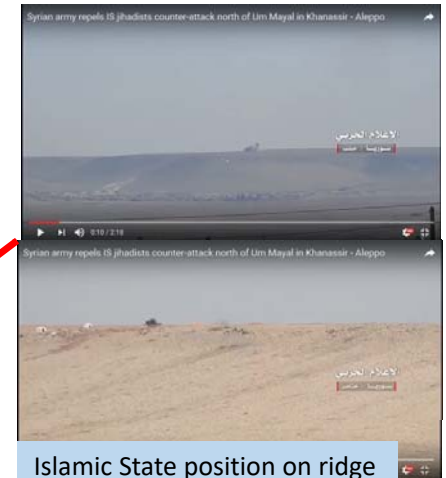


Syrian army repels Islamic State attack on Um Mayal in Khanassir region, 24/1/2017, with artillery and tank fire

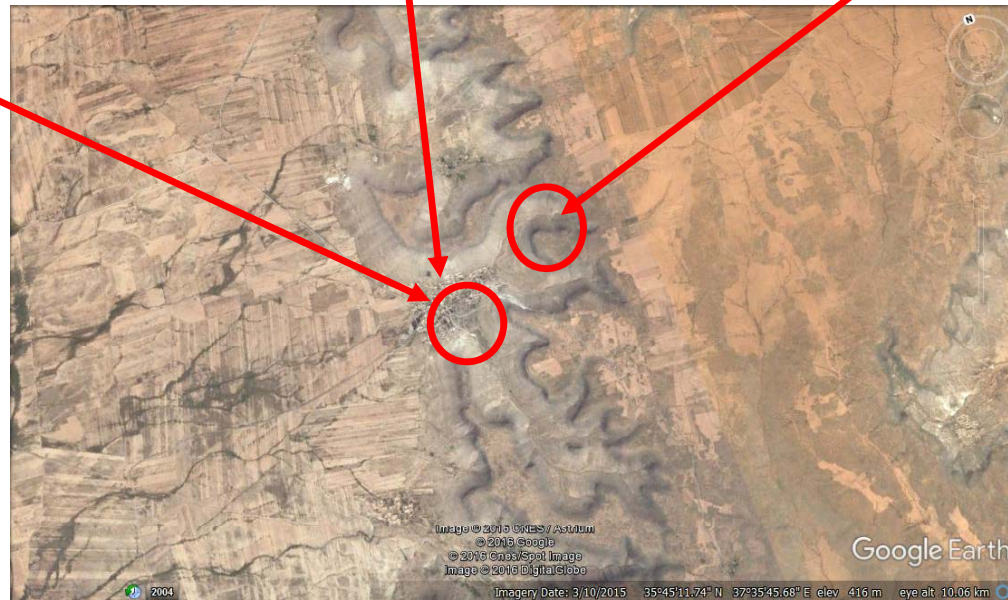
Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRw22-KTmmo>



Syrian army artillery fire base in Um Mayal, employing BM-21, M-30 122mm howitzer and D-20 152mm howitzers



Islamic State position on ridge line, including JCB



SAA PM-43120mm and Type 63 rocket launcher in Khanassir region 22/1/2017
Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=13&v=TP_QOCL191Hs

Published on 14 May 2017

The Syrian military continued to air-drop food and other emergency aid into the eastern city of Deir ez-Zor, Saturday. Reportedly a batch of fuel was mistakenly air-dropped over the Al Rashidiya neighbourhood of the embattled city. Hundreds of residents

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oMSYdKHza5g&index=2&list=PLelzHhBSrVlaGYlclJmmh2Zs5ow-rEDxc>

trapped in war-torn Deir ez-Zor - reports

Syria: SAA mistakenly air-drops fuel to civilians trapped in war-torn Deir ez-Zor - reports



mistakenly air-drops fuel to civilians trapped in war-torn Deir ez-Zor - reports



Syria: SAA mistakenly air-drops fuel to civilians trapped in war-torn Deir ez-Zor - reports



Syria: SAA mistakenly air-drops fuel to civilians trapped in war-torn Deir ez-Zor - reports

