
Combat report: Over 1,600 terror targets destroyed in 1 month of Russia's Syria op

30/10/2015



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Among the destroyed targets are 249 command posts, 51 militants' training camps, 131 ammunition and fuel depots and 786 field bases, Colonel General Andrey Kartapolov of Russia's General Staff said on Friday.

Despite Islamic State's "*considerable losses and mass walkout*," it's too early to talk about "*complete victory*" over the terrorists in Syria, Kartapolov stressed, adding the militants are continuing their stand against Syrian government troops in a number of regions. But "*all their [terrorists'] efforts of counter attacks have been timely suppressed by the Syrian Army*," the Russian military official said.

In some regions, it is more difficult to defeat the jihadists. Over the years they have turned the areas into powerful organized tactical localities, with a wide network of underground passages and hideouts, Kartapolov said.

Commanders from several militant groups that were part of Al-Nusra Front, have decided to join the ranks of the so-called "*moderate opposition*," the General Staff said, adding that in this way they hope "*to receive political and financial support from abroad*."

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Trying to stop the decreasing number of fighters, Islamic State is redeploying forces into Syria from Iraq and other neighboring countries, Kartapolov said, adding that this move is now being widely observed in the Aleppo province. To prevent their fighters from deserting, Islamic State also publicly executes the militants who try to flee, the Russian military said.

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The Russian Air Force began carrying out airstrikes against Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL) targets in Syria on September 30, *"in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Commander of the Russian Armed Forces, Vladimir Putin."* The Ministry of Defense has been providing regular combat reports on the mission, the deadline of which is classified.

Due to the increased amount of confirmed intelligence information on IS facilities, the number of Russian fighter jets sorties has considerably risen since the launch of the mission, with more jihadists' targets hit and destroyed.

A week into the anti-terror mission, Russian Navy joined Russia's Air Force in the operation, with four Russian warships having [launched](#) missiles against Islamic State in Syria. The attacks came from Russia's fleet in the Caspian Sea, which borders Russia, Iran and three other littoral countries; the precision weapons hit all intended targets.

With warplanes of the Russian Air Space Forces having destroyed units of military equipment, communication centers, arms and fuel depots belonging to IS terrorists, as well as plants producing explosives, field camps and bases, militants have [lost](#) "most" of their ammunition, heavy vehicles and equipment, the Defense Ministry said. Growing numbers of jihadists appeared to have become discontent with their command and reportedly deserted IS ranks.

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During the ongoing operation in Syria, with the Russian military providing air support to Syrian Army troops, Syrian President Bashar Assad [visited](#) Moscow and held talks with Vladimir Putin. Before Moscow launched its operation in the Middle Eastern country, Syrian government had asked for Russia's help, which became the legal ground for sending troops to Syria.
