
British air force admits involvement in airstrikes which hit Syrian govt troops

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Britain's military has admitted involvement in an airstrike in eastern Syria which reportedly killed over 60 Syrian Army troops. Subsequent reports suggest a Reaper drone may have been used.

The strike in the area of Deir el-Zor was originally attributed to Australian, US and Danish forces operating as part of the US-led coalition but the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) tweeted on Monday that it had been involved.

MOD statement on involvement in recent [#Syria](#) air strike. pic.twitter.com/DyPxE8rmiL
— Ministry of Defence (@DefenceHQ) [September 19, 2016](#)

An MoD spokesman said: *"We can confirm that the UK participated in the recent coalition air strike in Syria, south of Dayr az Zawr on Saturday, and we are fully cooperating with the coalition investigation."*

Today's Defence news includes coverage of air strikes in Syria and
IHAT <https://t.co/T86PCtXceTpic.twitter.com/rr0juRtCbW>
— Ministry of Defence (@DefenceHQ) [September 19, 2016](#)

"The UK would not intentionally target Syrian military units. It would not be appropriate to comment further at this stage."

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On Monday afternoon Defence Command Denmark, the headquarters of the Danish military, also admitted it's involvement in the deadly strike.

"Two Danish F-16s participated along with other nations' aircraft in these attacks. The attack was immediately stopped when a report from the Russian side said that a Syrian military position had been hit," a statement said.

"It is of course unfortunate if the coalition mistakenly struck anything other than ISIL forces," the statement

continued.

It was reported Sunday that sixty-two Syrian soldiers were killed and over 100 injured in the airstrike by the US-led coalition, Russia's Defense Ministry spokesman, Major-General Igor Konashenkov, said, citing information received from the Syrian General Command.

The Russian Defense Ministry said that the aircraft which carried out the bombings had entered Syrian airspace from the territory of Iraq.

Four strikes against Syrian positions was performed by two F-16 jet fighters and two A-10 support aircraft, it added.

"If the airstrike was caused by the wrong coordinates of targets than it's a direct consequence of the stubborn unwillingness of the American side to coordinate with Russia in its actions against terrorist groups in Syria," Konashenkov stressed.

UK airstrikes have been officially carried out as part of Operation Shader in Syria since a vote in favour in December 2015. A previous vote in 2013 did not authorize air strikes.

UK forces have been operating from RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus. It emerged in August that [British Special Forces](#) were also operating on the ground in the country.
