

Kremlin Brushes Off Defense Ministry's Video Game Gaffe

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The Kremlin doesn't think the Russian Defense Ministry's use of video game footage as "irrefutable evidence" of U.S. support for terrorists in the Middle East is a big deal.

While social media users actively mocked the ministry for posting simulation footage in support of its claim, Russia's state-run media broadcast the ministry statement in full on Tuesday. The Defense Ministry later replaced the erroneous tweet and Facebook post with new images.

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[#RusMoD](#) shows irrefutable evidence that US are actually covering ISIS combat units to recover their combat capabilities, redeploy, and use them to promote the American interests in the Middle East <https://t.co/jcb7G4MAfZ>
pic.twitter.com/VIMjFGJEg

— Минобороны России (@mod_russia) [14 ноября 2017 г.](#)

“I would say that the Russian Ministry of Defense statements are about as accurate as their air campaign,” U.S. military spokesman in Iraq, Colonel Ryan Dillon, [said](#) at a briefing in response.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov downplayed the faux-pas as an exaggeration on Wednesday, saying “I wouldn’t exaggerate the significance of this error.”

“Mistakes happen and it’s no big deal if they’re corrected in a timely manner,” he was [cited](#) as saying by the state-run TASS news agency.

Shortly after taking down the posts, the Defense Ministry attributed the error to a “civilian staffer” who it claimed mistakenly attached development footage from a mobile phone game that simulates a U.S. military aircraft.

The other attachments appeared to come from Iraqi air raids last year.

Peskov [added](#) in Wednesday’s statement, citing the Defense Ministry, that the staff member “was punished accordingly.”

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