

# Two Pilots Killed in Russian Warplane Crash Off Syrian Coast

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A Russian military plane has reportedly crashed off the coast of Syria near a Russian air base, killing two pilots in what appears to be an accident.

Russia [leases](#) the Khmeimim air base in the coastal Latakia province, where it maintains fighter jets and bombers involved in a nearly [three-year](#) military [campaign](#) in support of the Syrian government.

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The Sukhoi Su-30SM fighter jet crashed into the Mediterranean Sea after taking off from Khmeimim, Interfax [reported](#) Wednesday, citing the Russian Defense Ministry. One of the victims has been [identified](#) as Major Albert Davidyan.

The ministry said the crash was not caused by artillery fire.

“According to preliminary information, the cause of the crash could have been a bird hitting the engine,” Interfax quoted the ministry as saying.

**Embed:**

Fall of a Russian plane in the sea off the port city of Jabla in Syria

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