

Russian Media Reports 3 Deaths in Syria, Including Russian Soldier

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Rodi Said / Reuters

At least one Russian soldier died in an ambush in Syria last week, a Siberian news outlet [reported](#) late on Wednesday.

An estimated 36 Russian servicemen have died since Moscow launched its campaign in Syria in late September 2015, according to a tally by Kommersant based on official figures.

But a Reuters report last month [said](#) that at least 40 Russians have died fighting in Syria this year alone, a claim which the Russian Defense Ministry denies.

Vladimir Tarasyuk, a resident of the city of Bratsk in the Irkutsk region, was ambushed upon returning to a military base on the morning of Sept. 16, his sister told the [newirkutsk.ru](#) website. He died from a shrapnel wound, she said.

The report also claimed an unnamed colonel and a general had died in the attack. It was unclear whether they were Russian citizens.

The Bratsk-based television channel, which major Russian outlets cited in their reports of Tarasyuk's death, appeared to have [deleted](#) the original report on their website on Thursday morning.

Russia's Defense Ministry has not commented on the reported deaths.

The General Staff's Colonel-General Sergei Rudskoi was [quoted](#) as saying on Wednesday by the state-run RIA Novosti that three Russian special forces troops were wounded in a militant attack in northwestern Syria. He did not specify the date of the ambush in the province of Idlib.

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