Two Pilots Killed in Russian Warplane Crash Off Syrian Coast

May 03, 2018

Twitter / Liveuamap MiddleEast

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.

Related article: [Putin and Trump Are Headed for a Syrian Showdown That Neither Wants (Op-ed)](#)

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 https://t.co/nT0Mq2Pb4R pic.twitter.com/kwhPkRkMmk via @MGhorab3 #Syria

— Liveuamap MiddleEast (@lummideast) 3 мая 2018 г.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2018/05/03/two-pilots-killed-in-russian-warplane-crash-off-syrian-coast-a61334