

## Two Pilots Killed in Russian Warplane Crash Off Syrian Coast

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**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 <u>leases</u> the Khmeimim air base in the coastal Latakia province, where it maintains fighter jets and bombers involved in a nearly <u>three-year</u> military <u>campaign</u> 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 <u>reported</u> Wednesday, citing the Russian Defense Ministry. One of the victims has been <u>identified</u> 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 <a href="https://t.co/nToMq2Pb4R">https://t.co/nToMq2Pb4R</a> pic.twitter.com/kwhPkRkMmk via @MGhorab3 #Syria

— Liveuamap MiddleEast (@lummideast) <u>3 мая 2018 г.</u>

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