



Hugo Spaulding and ISW Russia and Ukraine Team
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KT: Russia took steps to reassert its freedom of action in Syria in response to Turkey's downing of a Russian bomber on November 24. Russia is deterring Turkey from future attacks by deploying the long-range S-400 surface-to-air missile (SAM) system to its airbase in Latakia Province, equipping its bombers in Syria with air-to-air missiles, and reportedly preparing to deploy up to twelve additional air superiority fighters to escort its bombers. Russia is also reportedly preparing to deploy fixed wing aircraft for the first time as well as 1,000 troops to the Assad regime's Shayrat Airbase in Homs Province, likely in an effort to support an ongoing pro-regime offensive to recapture the ISIS-controlled city of Palmyra. France agreed to coordinate airstrikes with Russia against ISIS and share information on the disposition of armed groups in Syria. President Vladimir Putin agreed in turn to "avoid targeting" the "healthy" armed opposition, a term he has used to refer to the Free Syrian Army. France's military coordination with Russia will enhance Russia's false narrative that it intervened in Syria to combat ISIS and escalated in order to limit ISIS's expansion into Europe. Meanwhile, Russian-backed separatists continue to launch daily attacks on government forces in eastern Ukraine as tensions escalate over the disruption of electricity from Ukraine to occupied Crimea.

1 Moldova. 25 NOV: Moldovan authorities detained 13 alleged separatist paramilitary members including individuals from Russia and eastern Ukraine accused of planning attacks in the capital of Chisinau and the Russian-speaking city of Balti.

2 Turkey. 25 NOV. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev claimed Turkey was protecting ISIS by downing a Russian bomber on November 24 and accused unnamed Turkish officials of having "direct financial interest" in oil trade originating from ISIS-controlled facilities.

27 NOV: Speaker of the lower house of Russian parliament Sergey Naryshkin said that Russia had the "right to a military response" to Turkey's downing of a Russian Su-24, which he called the "intentional murder" of Russian troops.

28 NOV: Russia imposed economic sanctions on Turkey in retaliation for the downing of a Russian bomber, including new restrictions on Turkish nationals and companies operation in Russia as well as the import of Turkish agricultural products.

3 Syria. 26 NOV: Russia's advanced S-400 long-range surface-to-air missile system arrived at the Bassel al-Assad International Airport in Latakia Province.

25 NOV: A source within the general staff of the Russian military indicated that 10-12 Russian air superiority fighters could be deployed to Syria to escort Russian bombers in the wake of Turkey's downing of a Russian Su-24.

30 NOV: Russia's air force spokesman announced that Russian Su-34 fighter-bombers carried out their first sorties in Syria equipped with air-to-air missiles.

01 DEC: An unnamed U.S. official reported that Russia was preparing to deploy fixed wing aircraft to the Shayrat military airbase in Homs Province, likely in support of an ongoing pro-regime offensive against ISIS-held Palmyra. An unconfirmed report cited in The Times indicated that Russia was preparing to deploy 1,000 troops to the airbase.

4 Israel. 30 NOV: President Vladimir Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the effectiveness of the Russian-Israeli de-confliction hotline after a Russian plane recently violated Israeli airspace.

5 France. 26 NOV: France and Russia agreed to coordinate airstrikes against ISIS and share intelligence on the disposition of armed groups in Syria. Putin pledged to "avoid targeting" the "healthy part of the opposition," a phrase he has previously used to refer to the Free Syrian Army.

27 NOV: French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said that France would support the eventual formation of a unified ground force involving Syrian rebels and the Syrian regime, a statement that Russia's foreign minister backed.

6 Ukraine. 26-30 NOV: Russian-backed separatists launched attacks using grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms on Ukrainian positions along the front line in Donetsk Oblast.

27 NOV: Russia cut coal deliveries to Ukraine, likely in retaliation for the destruction of electricity pylons near Crimea by unknown activists, which has left much of the occupied peninsula without power since November 22. Demonstrators, including from the far-right Ukrainian paramilitary group Right Sector have prevented repairs to the pylons.

30 NOV: Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev accused Ukraine of deliberately disrupting energy supplies to Crimea and accused Ukrainian authorities of having "terrorist" objectives.

7 North Caucasus. 29 NOV: Russian authorities reportedly killed three alleged ISIS-affiliated militants and seized IEDs in Dagestan near the republic's southern border with Azerbaijan.

8 United States. 30 NOV: Head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford initiated a phone call with Russian military chief of staff Gen. Valery Gerasimov to discuss their countries' military operations in Syria, the most senior U.S.-Russian military communication since 2014.

30 NOV: President Obama insisted that Syrian President Bashar Assad must leave power as part of any political settlement in Syria and called on Russia to stop targeting Syrian rebels during a meeting with Putin on the sidelines of the UN climate conference in Paris.

9 Pacific. 01 DEC: Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoygu announced that Russia has begun constructing two military compounds on the Southern Kuril Islands disputed with Japan.