



1.3.4. Russia

Russia significantly reduced its military footprint in Syria after the collapse of the Assad regime [295](#) but continued to maintain troops at the Hmeimim air base and the Tartous naval base. [296](#) At Qamishli airport, where Russian forces had been stationed since 2019, [297](#) Russia reinforced its military presence towards the end of 2025 [298](#) but then fully withdrew its troops in late January 2026. [299](#)

- [295](#)

New Arab (The), Exclusive: Russia reinforces Qamishli airport base amid Syrian govt advances against SDF, 23 January 2026, [url](#)

- [296](#)

WSJ, Russia Resupplies Its Syria Air Base, Hanging On to a Strategic Foothold, 1 June 2026; UNN, The Russian Federation maintains troops, aviation, and ships in Syria despite claims of a reduced presence, 29 April 2026, [url](#); Le Monde diplomatique, Syria's new leaders keep Russia in play, December 2025, [url](#)

- [297](#)

New Arab (The), Russia withdrawing troops from airport in northeast Syria, sources say, 26 January 2026, [url](#)

- [298](#)

RUSI, Russia's Enduring Grip on Syria, 11 November 2025, [url](#)

- [299](#)

Al Jazeera, Al-Sharaa meets Putin as Russia seeks to secure military bases in Syria, 28 January 2026, [url](#); New Arab (The), Russia withdrawing troops from airport in northeast Syria, sources say, 26 January 2026, [url](#)