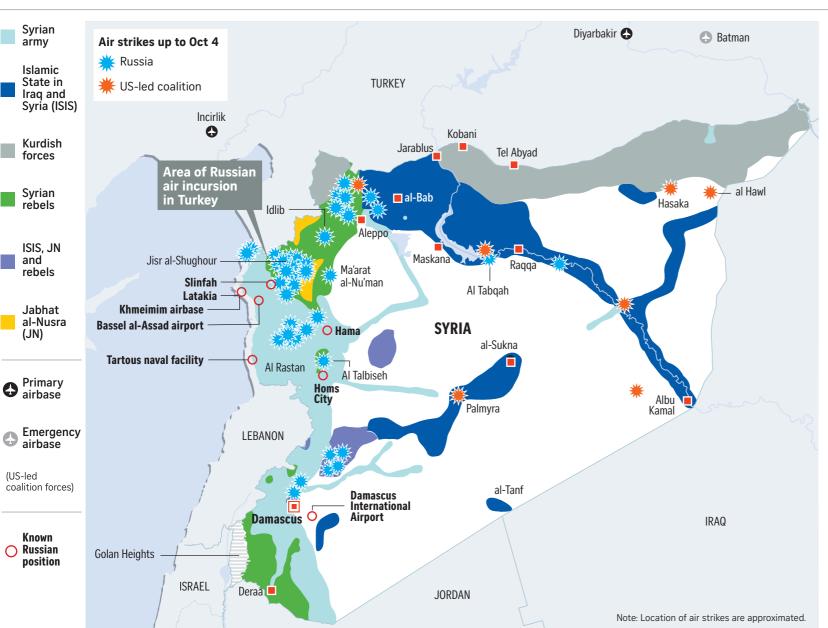
## Different strikes, different agendas

The strategies of Russian and US air strikes in Syria show divergent goals. Moscow has come under fire for raids on Western-backed moderate opponents of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, instead of ISIS-linked targets.



- On Sept 30, Russia's Parliament approved President Vladimir Putin's request to launch air strikes in Syria, and the operation began within hours.
- Russia, like the US, said it is not conducting operations in Syria involving its ground troops. But US military officials said they believed more than 600 Russian military personnel were already on the ground in Syria, and tents for nearly 2,000 people had been seen at an airbase in Latakia.
- Russian planes have been flying missions from Syria's Khmeimim airbase in Latakia.
- Russian violation of Turkish airspace on Sunday is the second in as many days.
  Turkish fighter jets intercepted a Russian warplane close to the Syrian border on Saturday.
- Some of the airbases used by the US include Incirlik and Diyarbakir in Turkey and Jordan's Shaheed Mwaffaq.

Source: BBC, AFP, NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, REUTERS ST GRAPHICS