

Airfield hit by Tomahawk missiles



US Navy guided-missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71) firing a Tomahawk Land Attack Missile in the Mediterranean Sea which the US Defence Department said was part of a cruise missile strike against Syria yesterday.

Why was the airfield targeted?

The Pentagon said the airfield was used to store chemical weapons.

What was hit?

The Tomahawks targeted aircraft, hardened aircraft shelters, petroleum and logistics storage, ammunition supply bunkers, air defence systems and radars, the Pentagon said.

Were chemical weapons stores also hit?

US National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster said measures had been put in place to avoid hitting sarin gas stored at the airfield.

How much damage was caused?

- According to the Pentagon, initial indications showed that the strike severely damaged or destroyed Syrian aircraft, infrastructure and equipment at Shayrat airfield.
- Syrian state news agency Sana said nine people, including four children, were killed in the strike, which the Syrian army said caused "significant damage".
- Russian television showed craters and rubble at the site of the airbase, and said nine aircraft were destroyed.



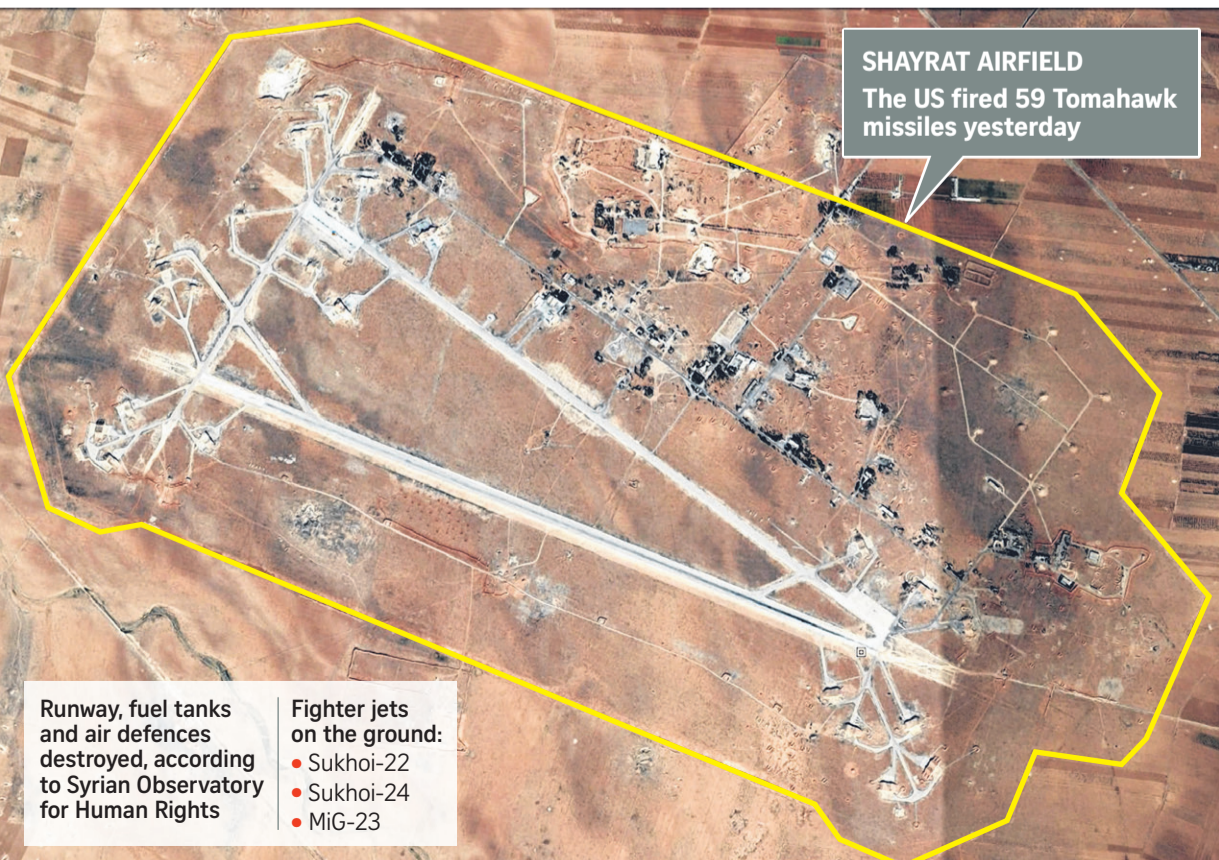
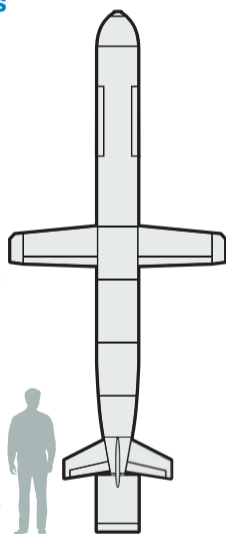
Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles

- First deployed: 1984
- Designed for long-distance, precision strikes of land targets
- Can be redirected to new target while in flight
- Launched from surface US Navy ships or submarines

Key specifications

Weight	1,600kg
Length	6.25m (with booster)
Wingspan	2.7m
Range	2,500km
Speed	880kmh
Cost	\$1.59 million each*
Maker	Raytheon

NOTE: *US Defence budget 2014



SHAYRAT AIRFIELD
The US fired 59 Tomahawk missiles yesterday

Runway, fuel tanks and air defences destroyed, according to Syrian Observatory for Human Rights

Fighter jets on the ground:

- Sukhoi-22
- Sukhoi-24
- MiG-23