



Quick Look Report



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UAS attack against RUS bases in SRY

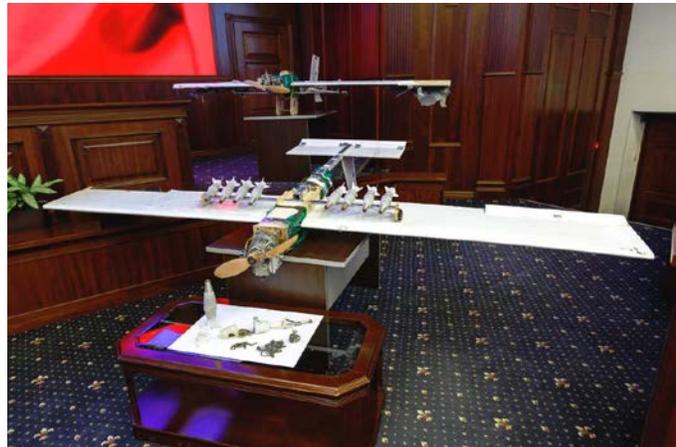
Event Date: 06 January 2018

Report Date: 16 January 2018

1) Description:

1. Based on OSINT on 6th January two Russian bases in SYR were attacked by several UAS.

The RUS ministry of defense declared in press release and later during a press conference that the RUS airbase KHMEINIM in Latakia Governorate was attacked by 10 UAS and three other UAS attacked the RUS Mediterranean repair and replenishment spot which is inside the SYR naval base in TARTUS.



2. Each of the UAS was weaponized with ten IEDs under the wings.

3. Each IED had an explosive charge weighing nearly one pound, and were reinforced by strings of metal ball bearings or BBs glued together as pre-formed shrapnel. These devices were homemade, the main charge was inside a conical container of plastic with additional fragmentation. The attached fuse looks like a homemade impact fuse with a hole for a security splint.



4. In the attack against the airbase seven UAS were shot down by the short-range air defense systems PANTSIR-S and three exploded after crashing nearby.



5. No casualties or damages were reported.

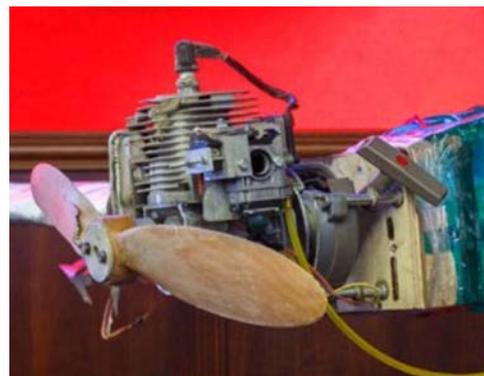
6. Based on an RUS official statement it was the first time “terrorists” had used a “massed drone aircraft attack launched at a range of more than 50km using a modern GPS guidance system”. Several images of the flight routes were displayed.



7. The RUS defense ministry also shared images of a captured weapon. It showed a winged drone and nine of the alleged improvised explosive devices (IEDs) with an attached servo to release the IED which were linked to metal bar by eyelets.



8. Based on RUS sources it was mentioned that the UAS were equipped with an on-board GPS, the “pre-programmed coordinates are more accurate than those in the Internet, was stated. During a RUS briefing several maps were displayed which shown the flight route. Based on this graphics the UAS were started more than 50km far away.



2). Assessment:

If this OSINT can be confirmed it would be the first swarm UAS attack.

The explosive devices are homemade and used an improvised impact fuse. The two stroke engine with the hand starter doesn't look like a RC model engine due to the metal hand starter.

Beside this new EN TTP the use of 10 IEDs as bombs for each single UAS is new. It can be assumed that the enemy would like to increase the payload of UAS to use them as a kind of bomber.

In addition the opportunity to launch these UAS from a distance of more than 50km and to use GPS would be new EN TTPs too and can be assumed as an increasing capability in the use of UAS. With this EN course of action own EW procedures for jamming UAS can be prevented.

Nevertheless the RUS forces were able by using the permanent anti-aircraft and missile shield to destroy most of the approaching UAS.