

# About those ‘Nice, New, Smart’ Missiles and the ‘Chemical Weapons’ Sites in Syria

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Global Research, April 19, 2018  
[Sott.net](#) 15 April 2018

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)  
Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Media Disinformation](#),  
[US NATO War Agenda](#)  
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*Throughout the 20th century, the US ability to project power and dominate global geopolitics was, to a large extent, based on the general perception that the US was the most powerful military force in the world. In most cases, the mere threat of this military prowess was enough to ‘get things done’ the American, or Western, way. The maintenance of the widespread belief in US military preeminence is therefore extremely important to the US establishment, and any event that might expose a different reality is to be avoided at all costs. When US/Western military might is physically demonstrated, a careful propaganda campaign and media management of the outcome is necessary, up to and including outright lies about the performance of the military tech used. No surprise there.*

In the first 1990 Gulf War, for example, the performance of US Patriot missiles in shooting down Iraqi Scud missiles fired at Israel, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait was lauded by Western powers and the media. A 95% success rate was claimed at the time, with then **President [George Bush claiming](#)** that the Patriot’s record was “near perfect”. Over the following year however, the US Army lowered this estimate to 79% over Saudi Arabian skies and 40% over Israel. A later report by the General Accounting Office concluded that Patriot missiles destroyed only 9% of the Scuds they attempted to engage. **The Israeli Defense Force calculated the hit rate at just 2%.**

On the night of Jan. 25, 1991 in Tel Aviv, three Patriots that were fired into the air fell back to earth and exploded. Two of them hit residential areas and the Israeli newspaper [Ma’ariv reported](#) at the time that one Israeli was killed, 44 were wounded, and 4,156 apartments were destroyed. That incident and a few others like it led **Ted Postol**, an MIT weapons scientist, to testify before a congressional committee that,

**“it is possible that if we had not attempted to defend against Scuds, the level of resulting damage would be no worse than actually occurred.”**

In a documentary aired on Israeli television in 1993, **Moshe Arens**, who was Israel’s Defense Minister in the Gulf War, **Gen. Dan Shomron**, who was chief of staff of the Israel Defense Force during the war, and **Haim Asa**, a member of an Israeli technical team that worked with Patriots during the war, all dismissed the Patriot anti-missile system. General Shomron [described](#) accounts of the Patriot’s success as “a myth.” Mr. Asa called them “a joke.” All concurred with a 1991 report by the Israeli Air Force, which concluded that **“there is no evidence of even a single successful intercept” although there is**

## **“circumstantial evidence for one possible intercept.”**

The point being, the US has a track record of lying about the effectiveness of its missiles.

After 100+ cruise missiles or cruise missile variants were fired at targets in Syria early in the morning of April 14th, President Trump declared “mission accomplished” and tweeted that it was “a perfectly executed strike.” Pentagon officials [said](#) that none of the 105 allied missiles fired were hit by Syria’s Soviet-era anti-missile ground systems, that the raids were “precise and overwhelming,” and Syrian air defences remained “largely ineffective.”

An important point that seems to have gotten lost in the media propaganda offensive is that [only 3 locations were targeted and hit](#). Or, at least, that’s the official story. **Lieutenant-General Kenneth F. McKenzie** told reporters on Saturday that the prime target of the operation was the Barzeh Research and Development Center in the greater Damascus area. **A total of 76 missiles, including 57 Tomahawk missiles, were fired at the facility**, he said. He also said that 22 missiles were fired against a ‘chemical weapons storage facility’ near Homs, and some seven missiles at another ‘chemical weapons bunker’ in the same area.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph Dunford, **confirmed that only those three targets were hit**, including the Barzeh ‘scientific research centre’ in the greater Damascus area, which he claimed was used for research, **development, production and testing of chemical weapons**, a facility **just west of Homs which the US claimed was a centre for sarin gas production**, and a command post located near the first facility.

The Barzeh ‘scientific research center’ isn’t really a ‘scientific research center’. First and foremost, it is a University called the ‘Higher Institute for Applied Science and Technology’ (HIAST):

“HIAST was established in 1983. Its aim is to qualify personnel in order to conduct scientific and technological research in all applied sciences and technology fields, so they can participate in the scientific and economic process in Syria. HIAST provides opportunities to make progress in applied research fields by joining courses to be awarded the degree of engineering Diploma, Master and Doctorate.”



You can [check out their website](#).

As part of their 'reporting' on the US government claim that this university housed a "chemical weapons facility", the media reproduced satellite images showing the target area before and after the missile strike. These images were provided to the media by the US government.



HIASAT campus before



HIAST Campus after

Maybe grainy satellite images are preferred by the media because it affords a measure of mystique and distance between the reader and the reality of what they are looking at, but I can't understand why Western media hacks didn't just go to Google Maps and check the HIAST campus out themselves.

Below is an image of the general area of the HIAST campus from Google Maps, where you can see that it's located on the outer edge of the Barzeh district of Damascus. The "chemical weapons lab", part of the campus that was targeted by US missiles, is circled in red.



And here's a video of a bunch of people hanging out around the ruins of the "chemical weapons buildings" 24 hours after the alleged chemical weapons were hit with 76 cruise missiles. **Note that there is not a hazmat suit in sight...**

Look again at the area that the buildings occupied. **76 cruise missiles, each with a**

**1,000lb warhead, are said to have hit those 3 buildings, only partly demolishing them.** That's 35 tons of high-grade military explosives. For comparison, here's a video of just 9 1,000lb bombs hitting a building that covers roughly the same surface area as the HIAST buildings:

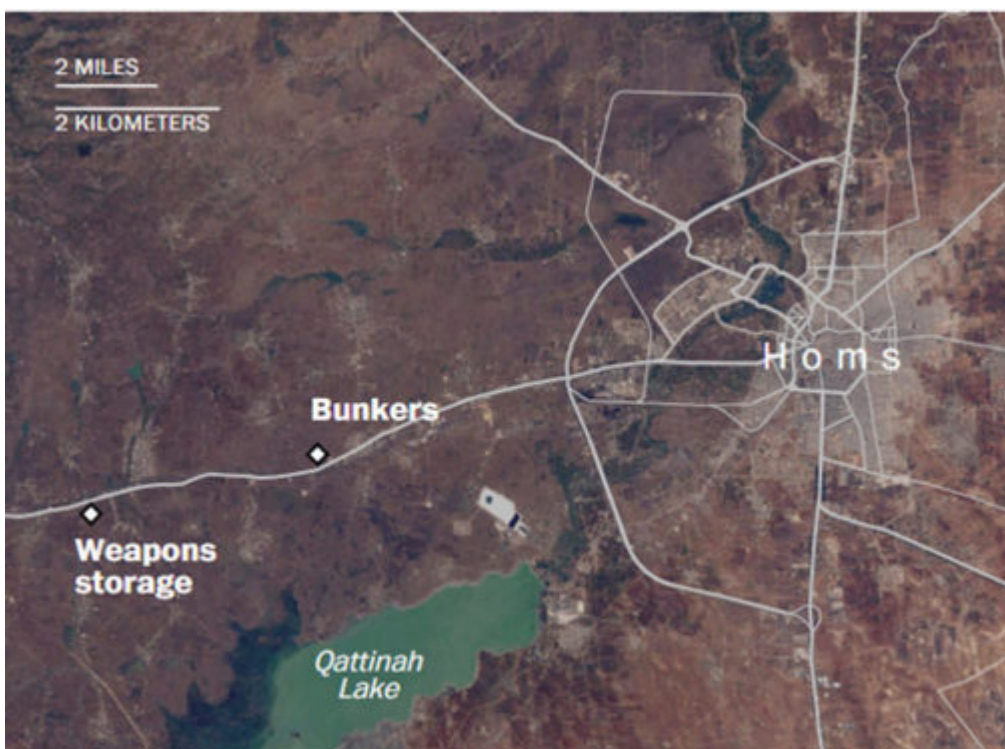
The UK's *Independent* [reported](#) on the cruise missile strikes in general with the headline, "Images show buildings turned to ruin and rubble by Syria air strikes," but then **proceeded to show 13 images of the same demolished HIAST buildings in the Barzeh suburb of Damascus.** Is that perhaps because this is the only 'impressive' evidence they have for the dubious US government claims?

[According to Saeed Saeed](#), head of the Institution for the Development of Pharmaceutical and Chemical Industries, the area of the HIAST campus that was bombed was previously used by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), but now works on pharmaceutical products.

**"Since the Syria crisis broke out, the country has been short of all kinds of medicines due to the sanctions from Western countries. Foreign companies stopped exporting high-quality medicines to Syria, especially anti-cancer medicines. So we have been conducting researches on anti-cancer medicines here, and three cancer drugs have been developed,"** he said.

Hang on a minute... something's coming back to me... 1998, Sudan, Bill Clinton... cruise missiles... [pharmaceutical factory!](#)

The two other areas allegedly targeted by US cruise missiles were to the west of Homs. A "centre for sarin gas production" and a "command post" or a "bunker" (or something like that. It might have been a cow shed).



Now it's time for some 'before and after', not very close up, grainy satellite photos, courtesy of the media (courtesy of the US government) of the two areas shown above. Here's the "center of sarin gas production" site:



"Sarin gas production site" target. West of Homs. Before



And after

Now that's some nice shooting there. I count maybe 4 or 5 impacts (small craters) on the ground there, and those 3 little buildings gone.

Let's move on to the last of the 3 targeted sites. The "command post bunker" thingy, just a few miles up the road from the above image:



“Command post bunker”. West of Homs. Before



And after

Not so good on this one. Looks like a single impact to the left of the target. The “chemical weapons command post bunker” thingy is, sadly, intact.

So what’s our tally? Let’s be generous and give 9 x 1000lb cruise missiles to the HIAST campus buildings. Let’s give 5 more to the “sarin gas production site” west of Homs, and 1 more to that little shed thingy above. That’s 15 successful impacts in total, by the US government’s own statements and imagery on the 3 targeted sites.

But in the interest of impartiality and objectivity, I’ll include the reports that the Mezzeh military airbase just south of Damascus was also hit by cruise missiles, as reported by the Syrian government. Here’s a video clip published by Ruptly:

No damage is shown in the above video, but as a sign of good faith, we’ll assume that significant damage was done there too, somewhere off-camera. So let’s give 10 cruise

missiles strikes to that airbase. That brings our tally up to 25. Heck, since I'm feeling generous today, I'll throw in another 10 missiles that may have gone off course and hit some empty fields in the Homs or Damascus countryside. That's 35 maximum impacts out of a total of 103 (or 105, or 118 depending on your sources). **So the question is; what happened to the rest of Trump's 'nice new and smart' missiles?**

The Russians have an answer. According to their radar data on the event, 6 other airbases and airports were also targeted. Why didn't the Pentagon include those in its report on the strikes?

- Duwali airbase - **4** missiles fired, **4** shot down
- Dumayr airbase - **12** missiles fired, **12** shot down
- Baley airbase - **18** missiles fired, **18** shot down
- Shayrat airbase - **12** missiles fired, **12** shot down
- Marj Ruhayyil airbase - **18** missiles fired, **18** shot down
- Damascus international airport - **4** missiles fired, **4** shot down

Assuming this information is true, and we have good reason to believe it is based on my analysis above, we're left to ponder the distinct possibility that the US government initially targeted at least 10 locations with cruise missiles. After the missiles were launched however, (some of them taking 2 hours to reach their destination) **many of them were shot down, forcing the US to dramatically down-size its planned report to the media about how many locations were targeted.**

But this then posed another problem. How to distribute the 100+ missiles among only 3 locations? Should they divide them equally, 33 (or so) at the HIAST buildings and 33 each at the two Homs locations? But would the visible damage tally with the reported number of missiles? The two locations outside Homs were problematic because they were in open farmland and the buildings were far too small to plausibly cover up the missing impact craters. There was only one thing for it: the HIAST target, with its 3 sizable towerblocks, would have to take the lion's share of the missing missiles. The outrageous number of 76, to be exact.

Apart from the shocking level of FUKUS lies and obfuscation around this most recent attack on Syria - all of which were nauseatingly repeated by the Western press - **media hacks also neglected to note the obvious point that blowing up suspected chemical weapons production and storage facilities located in densely populated areas amounts to reckless endangerment of the local population, and possibly a war crime.** Then again, maybe the Americans are lying (ya think?). Maybe they know very well that these targets housed no chemical weapons. Maybe they know that, as the US Dept. of State tweeted to John Kerry in 2014:





Maybe they also know that very few of their “nice new smart” missiles made it to their destinations, and on Friday morning, “shock and awe” came, not to Syria, but the halls of the Pentagon.

The conflict in Syria is but one part of a much broader geopolitical conflict between ‘East and West’ that portends nothing less than a radical restructuring of the global order. In that sense, it is an existential war for those that currently sit atop the pile and stand to lose their privileged and powerful positions. But if there’s one thing about any war that never changes, it’s the ‘racket’ aspect of it. To that end, there was only one real winner as a result of Friday morning’s events.

### [Syria Airstrikes Instantly Added Nearly \\$5 Billion to Missile-Makers’ Stock Value](#)

Raytheon stock surged Friday morning, after 59 of the company’s Tomahawk missiles were used to strike Syria in Donald Trump’s first major military operation as President.

If it had been publicly revealed how well the Tomahawks *really* did, Raytheon stock would have *lost* a similar amount.

\*

**Joe Quinn** is the co-author of [9/11: The Ultimate Truth](#) (with Laura Knight-Jadczyk, 2006) and *Manufactured Terror: The Boston Marathon Bombings, Sandy Hook, Aurora Shooting and Other False Flag Terror Attacks* (with Niall Bradley, 2014), and the host of Sott.net’s [The Sott Report Videos](#) and co-host of the [‘Behind the Headlines’ radio show on the Sott Radio Network](#).

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