

RAF Syria pic caption a

*Two of four RAF Tornados prepare to take-off from Akrotiri.*

*Four Royal Air Force Tornados took off on 14 April from RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus, to conduct strikes in support of operations over the Middle East.*

*The Tornados, flown by 31 Squadron, the Goldstars, were supported by a Voyager aircraft.*

*At 0200 UK time on 14 April, British forces joined close Allies in a precision strike on Syrian installations involved in the use of chemical weapons.*

*The UK element of the carefully coordinated joint action was contributed by four Royal Air Force Tornado GR4s. They launched Storm Shadow missiles at a military facility – a former missile base – some fifteen miles west of Homs, where the regime is assessed to keep chemical weapon precursors stockpiled in breach of Syria's obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.*

*Very careful scientific analysis was applied to determine where best to target the Storm Shadows to maximise the destruction of the stockpiled chemicals and to minimise any risks of contamination to the surrounding area. The facility which was struck is located some distance from any known concentrations of civilian habitation, reducing yet further any such risk.*

*Prime Minister May made clear such action is proportionate, specifically aimed at degrading the Syrian regime's ability to use chemical weapons and deterring further such appalling acts. The air raids were therefore focused on regime facilities linked to the production and use of chemical weapons.*

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