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<http://news.antiwar.com/2013/08/23/pentagon-preps-cruise-missiles-to-attack-syria/print/>

## Pentagon Preps Cruise Missiles to Attack Syria

By Jason Ditz

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Officials continue hyping Wednesday's allegations of a chemical weapons strike, saying that they believe such an attack probably happened even though they don't have any actual proof to back that up. Conveniently enough, the Pentagon has new plans for attacking Syria.



The Pentagon was apparently hard at work coming up with these new plans and new targets, even though Joint Chiefs chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey had only two days prior warned against military involvement, and now has the cruise missiles ready to go, just waiting for presidential approval to launch the attack.

Now officials seem closer than ever to starting a war, and though President Obama did insist there would be “no rush” to attack Syria, there seems to be a renewed Congressional push to get the jump on Syria by not waiting for any pesky evidence to support their claims and just attacking outright.

With NATO allies France and Turkey already on the bandwagon and the Pentagon now having cruise missiles ready to go at a moment notice, it will be awfully easy for the administration to start attacking and argue that it was a “compromise” compared to some other, even bigger attack.

The case for that already seems to be getting laid out by the White House, which insists that they don’t envision “boots on the ground” during any potential military intervention.

What sort of attack that would mean remains to be seen, but officials have often discussed setting up “buffer zones,” nominally for humanitarian reasons but primarily to give Syrian rebel factions a place from which to launch attacks with impunity.

At the same time, any military intervention that seriously changes the situation on the ground will run into the same problem that has repeatedly been pointed to, that of the rebels’ dominance by al-Qaeda allies. This means that any attack that harms the Assad government too much risks bringing a jihadist faction into power that will be even more hostile toward the US.