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## Russian airstrikes hit Turkish convoy delivering weapons to ISIS in Syria

by JIM KOURI

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The incident involving the shooting down of a Russian warplane by the Turkish military may have had to do with Turkey's cooperation with the radical Islamic fighters in Syria and Russia's decision to help the Arab dictator Bashar al-Assad fight both the Islamists and the secular rebel fighters attempting to over-throw Assad.

In the aftermath of the Turkish military shooting down a Russian air force plane, the killing of its pilot, and the attack on a Russian rescue helicopter, the violence between those two nations is becoming more intensified, according to an American expert on radical Islam, Walter Anasara, a former police counterterrorism unit leader.

On Thanksgiving Day, Russian airstrikes blasted trucks which were allegedly transporting weapons and equipment from NATO member Turkey to the Muslim terrorists fighting in the war-torn city of Aleppo, Syria. News media in the Middle East indicate that this is not the first time such a scenario occurred, with Turkish intelligence officer assisting ISIS and Al Nusra Front, al-Qaida's Syrian offshoot.

"The shooting down of a Russian aircraft near the Syrian border was in line with Ankara's struggle to establish itself as a dominant" power," retired **US Army Major General Paul Vallely** was quoted as saying by Iran's Press TV on Thursday.

Gen. Vallely warned the United States and other NATO member nations that Turkey must be removed from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization because "it poses a big and important issue in many ways for other members."

Besides the Turkish convoy attack, the **Syrian government** air force and Russian warplanes also intensified their attacks on positions held by terrorists from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) throughout Aleppo province.

"The Russian and Syrian airstrikes hit the Takfiri [Sunni] militants' positions in the Southern countryside of Aleppo. However, there were no immediate reports of... casualties among the terrorists," Lebanon's **al-Mayadeen television** reported.