

## Russian Aircraft Carrier heads for Syria

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The Russian aircraft carrier &ldquo;Admiral Kuznetsov&rdquo; is ready to head from Murmansk towards the Mediterranean and the Syrian port of Tartus. The mission comes after Syrian President Bashar Assad said he is open for a Russian base in the area. The &ldquo;Admiral Kuznetsov&rdquo;, part of the Northern Fleet and Russia&rsquo;s only aircraft carrier, will head a Navy mission to the area. The mission will also include the missile cruiser &ldquo;Moskva&rdquo; and several submarines, Newsru.com reports.

President Assad in meetings in Moscow this week expressed support to Russia&rsquo;s intervention in South Ossetia and Georgia. He also expressed interest in the establishment of Russian missile air defence facilities on his land.

The &ldquo;Admiral Kuznetsov&rdquo; also last year headed a navy mission to the Mediterranean. Then, on the way from the Kola Peninsula and south, it stopped in the North Sea where it conducted a navy training exercise in the immediate vicinity of Norwegian offshore installations.

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