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## Four soldiers killed, five wounded in Syria: Russian Defence Ministry

27/05/2018 06:19 by admin

Russia has provided crucial military support to President Bashar Assad's forces, helping them to roll back mainstream rebels as well as the Islamic State group. Russia and Syria both refer to the armed opposition as "terrorists."

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**Moscow:** The Russian Defense Ministry says four of its soldiers have been killed in a clash with "terrorists― in northeastern Syria. The ministry said Sunday that the dead were military advisers attached to a Syrian army unit in the Deir el-Zour region.

In a statement reported by Russian news agencies, the ministry said "two Russian military advisers, who controlled fire of the Syrian battery, died at the scene.― It says five others were wounded, two of whom died in a Russian military hospital. The ministry said 43 insurgents were killed in the nighttime battle.

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- AP