

Claim

Claim: "



This image shows a Ukrainian F-16 fighter jet which was shot down by Russia as part of the large-scale Russian invasion in Ukraine."

Actions

```
reverse_search(![image 22] (media/73.jpg))  
web_search("Ukrainian F-16 shot down")
```

Evidence

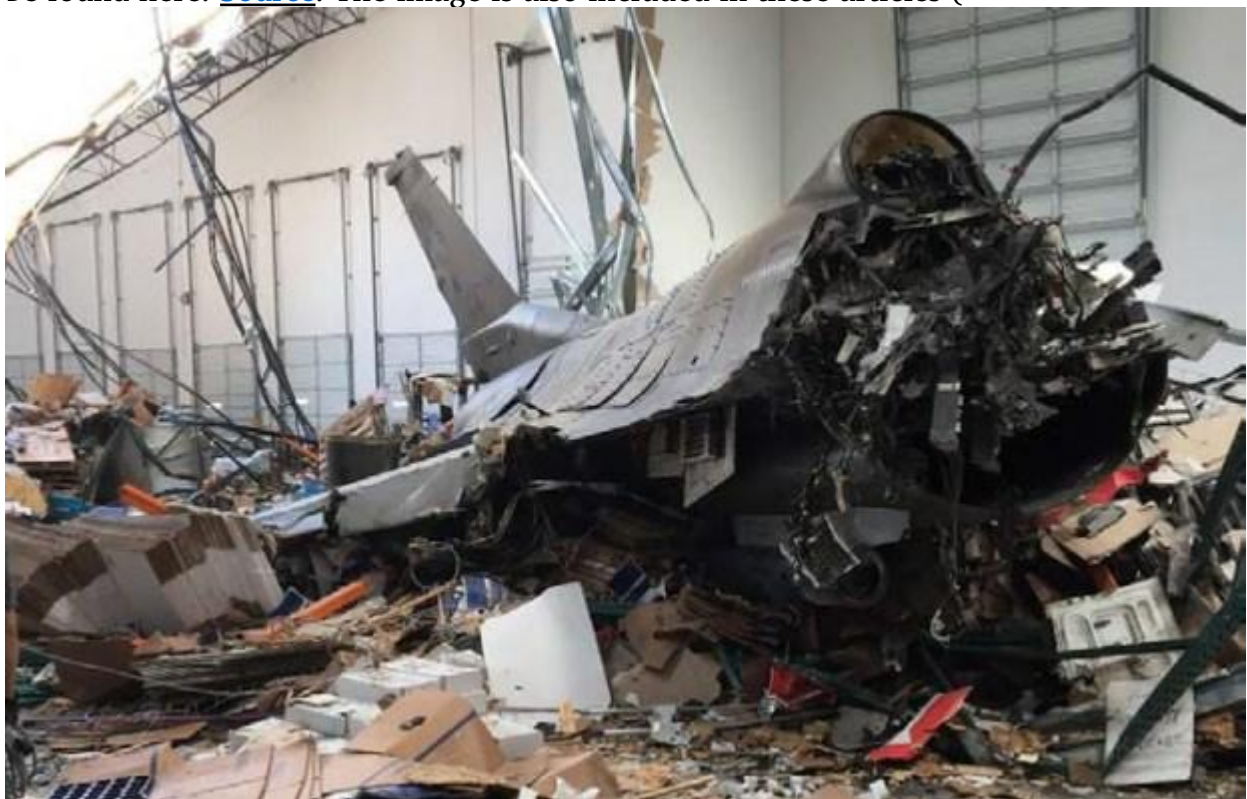
Evidence from **reverse_search**

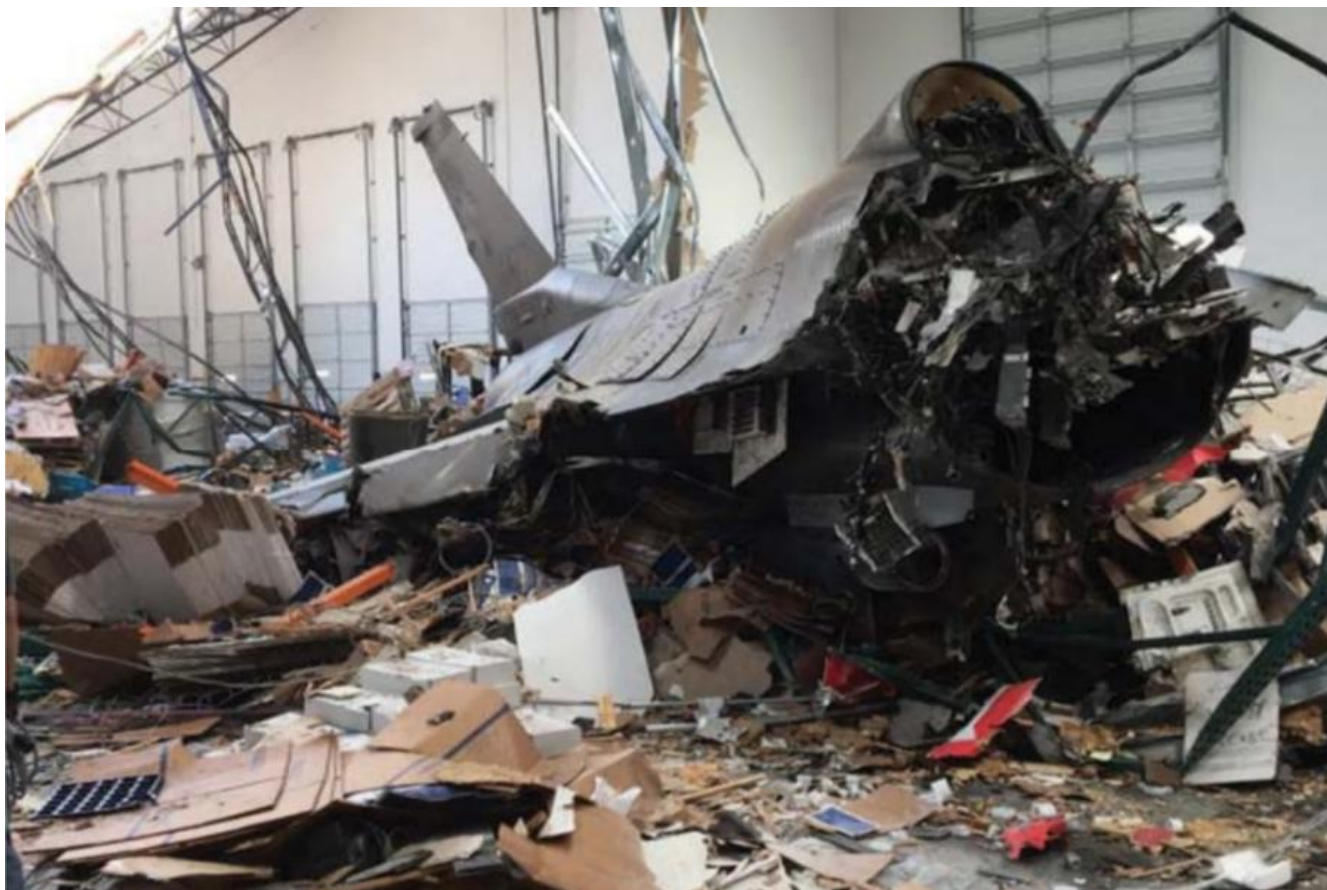
The image (



) shows the wreckage of an F-16 that crashed into a warehouse near March Air Reserve Base, Calif., in May 2019. The crash was caused by a loss of hydraulic pressure due to improperly installed parts. The pilot ejected and survived. The missiles on board did not explode.

The Press-Enterprise published an article on May 1, 2020, about the crash, which can be found here: [Source](#). Another article from April 28, 2020, by Brian W. Everstine, can be found here: [Source](#). The search result from The Press-Enterprise, published on April 23, 2020, can be found here: [Source](#). The image is also included in these articles (



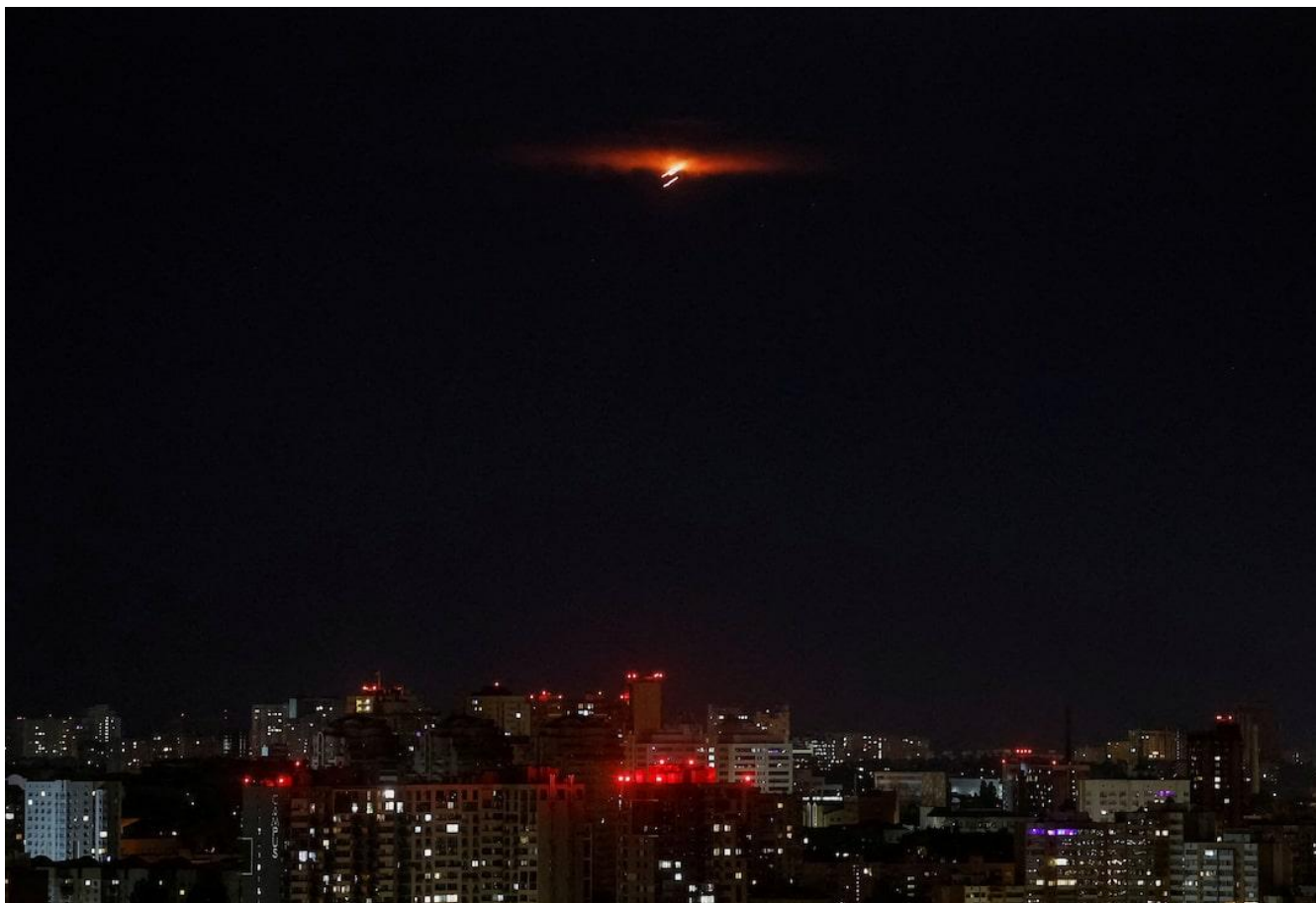


Evidence from web_search

CNN (<https://www.cnn.com/2025/06/29/europe/ukraine-f-16-pilot-killed-russia>) and Reuters (<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/least-six-wounded-large-scale-russian-air-attack-ukraine-ukrainian-authorities-2025-06-29/>) report that a Ukrainian F-16 pilot died in a crash during a Russian air attack. ABC News (<https://abcnews.go.com/International/ukraine-loses-16-fighter-amid-massed-russian-drone/story?id=123315001>) also reports the loss of a Ukrainian F-16, identifying the pilot as Lt. Maksym Ustimenko.

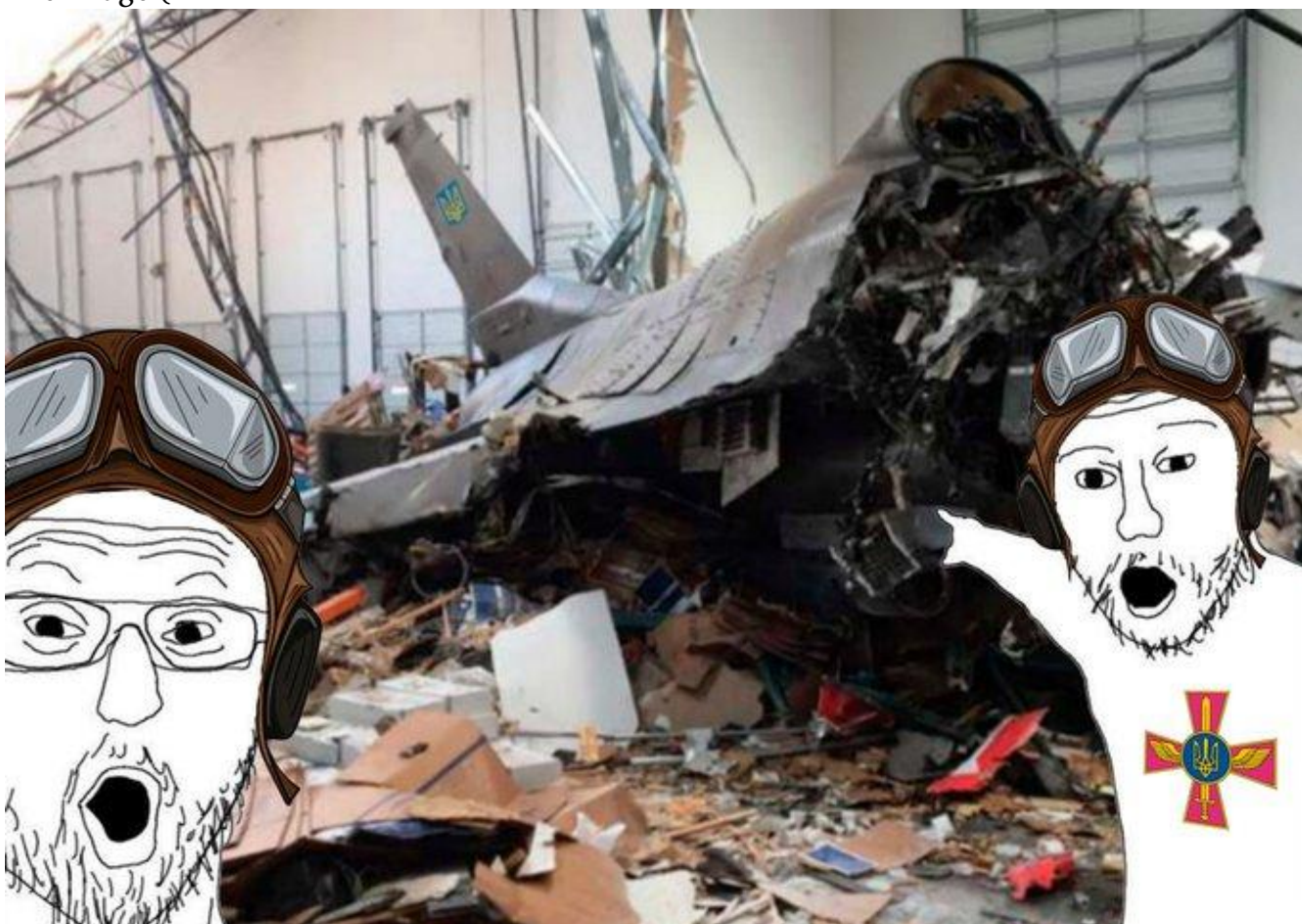
The ABC News article mentions that Russia launched 537 drones and missiles into Ukraine overnight. Reuters states that Ukraine has lost three F-16s since it began operating the jets last year. The articles were published on June 29, 2025. [image:k](#),





Elaboration

The image (



Final Judgement

The image in the claim shows the wreckage of an F-16 that crashed in 2019 near March Air Reserve Base, California, due to mechanical failure, not being shot down. While there have been recent reports of Ukrainian F-16 losses, the image is not related to those events.

false

Verdict: FALSE

Justification

The image in the claim depicts the wreckage of an F-16 that crashed in 2019 near March Air Reserve Base, California, due to mechanical failure, as confirmed by sources like [The Press-Enterprise](#). While there have been recent reports of Ukrainian F-16 losses, the image is unrelated to those events.