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US Spy Chief: Possible ISIS Downed Russian Plane in Sinai

By Jason Ditz
November 2, 2015



The Saturday crash of a Russian airliner in the Sinai Peninsula, killing all 224 people on board, was immediately claimed by the local ISIS affiliate. Though most of the day that followed was

people spurning this suggestion, the US Director of National Intelligence James Clapper isn't dismissing the idea so quickly.

"It's unlikely, but I wouldn't rule it out," Clapper said during a Monday address to the Defense One Summit, saying there are a lot of holes in the ongoing investigation and too much that is not known about the incident.

Russian officials have said it's too soon to determine the actual cause of the crash, but after suggesting Saturday it was likely a technical problem have since ruled that out. ISIS did not offer any details of "how" in their statement claiming responsibility either.

Most of the dismissing of ISIS' claims center from the plane flying much higher than the anti-aircraft weapons they have could reach, though sabotage or a bombing of the plane itself still appears to be on the table, with no real alternative explanation being conclusively proven.