

Gaza and Israel: David and Goliath

Classic Asymmetric Warfare

By Ann Wright

In military lingo, they call it “asymmetric warfare,” or the “enemy” using tactics that do not correspond in size, force and technology to those tactics used on them--tactics that cause powerful militaries great problems from militia or insurgent forces equipped with simple and inexpensive, but effective, weapons and techniques.

In the case of Iraq and Afghanistan, asymmetric warfare centers on Iraqi and Afghan “insurgents” using powerful, but unsophisticated, roadside bombs against the tanks, armored personnel carriers and humvees of the United States military.

In the case of Gaza, it is Palestinians using homemade unguided rockets (and infrequently more sophisticated rockets from Iran), rocks and horses against U.S. supplied F-16 jet fighter planes, Apache attack helicopters, tanks, D9 Caterpillar bulldozers, naval bombardment and white phosphorus and dense inert metal explosive (DIME) bombs, drones and surveillance balloons of the Israeli military.

Those in Gaza who have fired missiles at nearby Israeli towns and attack Israeli military posts on the border, have essentially used “pea shooters” against the Israeli military, the largest and most powerful military in the region, funded and equipped by the United States in a \$3 billion annual military aid program. The Israeli military received 3,000 tons of arms and weapons from the United States in December, 2009 to replenish the Israeli military as it smashed the people in Gaza in its 22 day attack and occupation of Gaza.

[\(http://mydailyclarity.com/2009/01/us-ships-weapons-to-resupply-israel/\)](http://mydailyclarity.com/2009/01/us-ships-weapons-to-resupply-israel/)

In contrast to the Israeli military supply line directly to the United States government and military contractors, Gaza is dependent for its supplies on a network of tunnels under the Egyptian border. These tunnels provide food and supplies to its 1.5 million population jammed into a territory 25 miles long and 5 miles wide. No doubt some weapons come through the tunnels to military groups, but the overwhelming use of the tunnels is to bring supplies to the beleaguered people caged in the open air prison called Gaza.

The international community justifies the siege and blockade as a technique to stem the flow of weapons into Gaza and reduce the rocket attacks on the border towns in Israel that have killed about 30 people in the past 5 years.

In fact, the blockade is collective punishment of the people of Gaza for democratically electing Hamas to run the government of Gaza after the Palestinian Authority failed miserably at providing sufficient funding and attention to the people of Gaza. The U.S. and other countries have placed Hamas on the list of terrorist organizations because of rocket attacks on Israel and are blockading Gaza while Hamas is in power.

Asymmetric warfare in Gaza took an interesting twist in June, 2009. Confronting the powerful Israeli military machine, militants in Gaza on June 8, 2009 attempted a low tech method to breach a barrier on the Gaza-Israeli border.

In the early morning fog, they reportedly placed explosives onto several horses and sent them into border area where the explosives blew up killing the horses, but failing to breach the fence.

The June 8, 2009 edition of the Jerusalem Post in an article titled "After foiled Gaza attack, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) says Hamas risking another Gaza offensive," reported "Under the cover of morning fog, some 10 gunmen staged a failed assault at the Karni cargo crossing into Gaza on Monday, in which horses laden with explosives were used." The report said that at least four "terrorists" and a number of their horses were killed in the ensuing exchange of fire with the IDF. No IDF soldiers were wounded. The report said that the group belonged to the Janud Ansar Allah (Soldiers Loyal to Allah) organization, linked to Iran and Hizbullah. A security source quoted in the article added, "Hamas did not carry out this attack but they certainly provide general coverage for these small groups."

The source said, "These terrorists were armed with a huge quantity of explosives. They launched a combined attack, using mortars, and attempted to approach the border fence with booby-trapped horses to harm our soldiers, before firing on our force."

Members of the cell, some of whom had suicide-bomb belts strapped around their bodies, led the horses off of trucks and began placing bombs along the fence. The soldiers returned fire and called for backup. At first, tanks were

dispatched to the scene, and fired at the terrorists. Air force helicopter gunships then joined the battle.

"We are slowly beginning to understand the magnitude of [the threat from the Gaza Strip]," the security source said.

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1244371036350&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

8 days later, on June 16, 2009, the Jerusalem post reported on another type of "animal" that would be used in warfare. This time the combat animal was to be a "mule," but nothing like their cousins the horses used by militants in Gaza.

The Israeli "MULE" is a Medical Evacuation Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, an unmanned helicopter, can deliver supplies weighing up to 700 pounds and land and take off without a pilot to ferry casualties up to 50 miles within a battle zone.

The Israeli military industrial complex has developed three new unmanned aerial military vehicles (UAV) which were on display this summer at the Paris Air Show. The other two UAVs include a self-destructing drone that "loiters above the battlefield" and attacks air defense systems. Gaza has no air defense systems unless one counts the kites flown by children. A second Israeli UAV on display was the Picador unmanned helicopter.

While in Gaza in May, 2009, we heard of other remote controlled vehicles, including the huge D9 Caterpillar bulldozer used for house demolitions. A D9 Caterpillar bulldozer, operated by a member of the Israeli Defense Forces, six years ago, in March, 2003, ran over and killed American activist Rachel Corrie as she tried to stop the demolition of a home in the city of Rafah, Gaza.

The Jerusalem Post also reported that the Israeli military has developed a six foot long robotic "snake" that can operate in tunnels, cracks and buildings and mimicking the movements of real snakes, while sending images and sound back to a soldier who controls the device through a laptop computer. The "snake" may also be capable of carrying explosives.

Every time we enter Gaza through the Rafah, Egypt crossing we see Israeli surveillance balloons with their cameras recording every movement in Gaza. Sometimes in Gaza you see a glint in the air, which certainly could be an Israeli drone ready to fire. And virtually every day, usually in the morning, you hear Israeli military shelling some place in Gaza.

I will witness again the devastating effects of asymmetric warfare of the Israeli attack on Gaza next week, my fourth trip to Gaza this year. I am participating December 27, 2009 through January 2, 2010 in the Gaza Freedom March. I will join with 1400 international delegates who will march with 50,000 people of Gaza to remind the world that one year after the attack on Gaza, not one country has come to the aid of the people of Gaza.

Homes destroyed one year ago are still in rubble because the Israeli government will not let construction materials into Gaza. No major power challenges the blockade. Instead they are active participants in the inhumane treatment of 1.5 million people in Gaza who drink contaminated water because the water filtration plant was blown up and cannot be repaired without materials from outside Gaza. Likewise, an sewage plant that suffered major damage almost one year ago must have parts from outside of Gaza to stop the flow of raw sewage onto the lands of Gaza and into the Mediterranean Sea.

The siege of Gaza must end and the people of Gaza must be treated with respect! Solidarity vigils for the people of Gaza will be held December 31, 2009 in 13 countries and in 20 states in the U. S.-please join one!

ASYMMETRIC WARFARE

ISRAEL



PALESTINIANS



U.S. F16 FIGHTER

US Built, speed of over Mach 2; 4,200 km;
one 20 mm cannon, missiles, and bombs



QASSAM ROCKETS

Homemade, steel rocket without
guidance system

F-15 Fighter, U.S. built



In September, 2009, US Congress approved the Sale of 1,000 bunker-buster missiles to Israel. The GPS-guided GBU-39 is said to be one of the most accurate bombs in the world.

<http://mydailyclarity.com/2009/01/us-ships-weapons-to-resupply-israel/>

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1020702.html>



U.S. APACHE HELICOPTER

US built, 365 km/h; 690 km; 30 mm cannon;

16 [Hellfire II](#) missiles, rockets



SLINGSHOTS and ROCKS



ISRAELI MERKAVA BATTLE TANK

Israeli built, weighs 65 tons, fires 48 120 mms rounds, machine guns, mortars and smoke grenades



U.S. M109 self-propelled howitzer

U.S. built, Weight 27.5 Tons, 155mm shells,
Range 18,000-30,000 meters, 50caliber machine gun



U.S. M270 Multiple Rocket Launcher

U.S. built, Weight 22.5 Tons, can fire 12 rockets
in 60 seconds to a distance of 26.1 miles



**ISRAELI SOLTAM M-71
155mm TOWED HOWITZER**

Israeli built, fires a 43.7 kg high-explosive shell up to a maximum range of 23,500 meters at a muzzle velocity of 820 meters-per-second



U.S. D9 COMBAT CATERPILLAR BULLDOZER

U.S. built, weighs 54,000 Tons, used to destroy houses and government buildings. A D9 bulldozer operated by an Israeli military soldier ran over and killed American citizen Rachel Corrie



SUPER DVORA MKIII PATROL BOAT

There are no military boats in

Gaza, only fishing boats that are routinely boarded, and either towed to Israel and impounded or are sunk

Israeli built, range 700 miles at 42 knots,
has a Typhoon 25-30mm stabilized cannon/
Oerlikon 20 mm cannon, 2X 12.7 mm machine gun.
US Israeli naval vessels frequently shell Gaza.



**WHITE PHOSPHORUS BOMBS MADE IN THE U.S
USED ON CIVILIAN AREAS IN GAZA**

ISRAELI ROBOTIC VEHICLES AND SNAKES



ISRAELI SPY SNAKE

The spying robot snake, is about two meters long and covered in military camouflage, mimics the movements and appearance of real snakes, slithering around through caves, tunnels, cracks and buildings, while at the same time sending images and sound back to a

soldier who controls the device through a laptop computer.



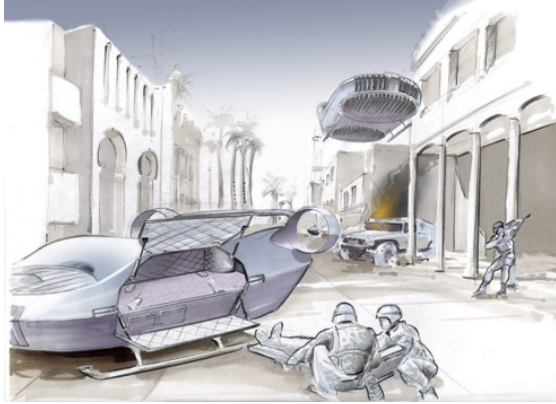
ISRAELI PICADOR UNMANNED HELICOPTER

unmanned helicopter designed for naval and land-based operations with a range of 200 km. and a 180-kg. payload capability



HAROP LOITERING MUNITION DRONE

Rather than carrying a separate missile or warhead, the HAROP drone itself is the weapon and is designed to be a hunter and killer by loitering above a battlefield and attacking targets, specifically designed to suppress enemy air defense systems.



MULE (MEDICAL EVACUATION HELICOPTER)

AND (in insert with HAROP drone)

Israeli Vertical Take-off and landing unmanned medical evacuation helicopter for urban areas





Kids Fly Kites Over Gaza

Thousands of Gaza kids flew kites in Gaza trying to break the record for the largest number of kites flown in the same place at once.

Israeli Military Surveillance Balloons

Controp's new SPEED-A camera pods and tethered balloons have proved themselves a powerful combination in recent months, particularly during the Gaza war that the Israeli military called operation Cast Lead. Operating at, typically, 1,000 ft, their persistent surveillance capability with continuous-zoom IR cameras detected a number of rocket attacks and ambushes in the preparation phase, giving warnings timely and precise enough for the attacks to be prevented.

(from Israeli advertisement)

<http://www.shephard.co.uk/news/1754/>

israeli-confidence-in-aerostat-surveillance-grows/

Resupply of Military Equipment



Four days after the Israeli attack on Gaza, on December 31, the US Navy's Sealift Command hired ships to deliver another 3,000-odd tons of arms to Israel through Greece. This last shipment was halted mid-January due to Greek protest.

The US has long been the largest arms supplier to Israel; under a current

ten-year agreement negotiated by the Bush administration, the US will provide \$30 billion in military aid to Israel.

<http://mydailyclarity.com/2009/01/us-ships-weapons-to-resupply-israel/>

<http://www.projectcensored.org/top-stories/articles/9-us-arms-used-for-war-crimes-in-gaza/>

The Tunnel Economy of Gaza



<http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1931308,00.html>

STATISTICS ON DEATHS OF PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS

October 29, 2000 to January 18, 2009

Research by Israeli human rights group [B'Tselem](#)

ISRAEL

PALESTINIANS

495 Israelis

6231 Palestinians

(4400 in Gaza and 1791 in

Occupied Territories)

**(13 killed 12/27/2008-1/18/2009
during Israeli attack on Gaza)**

**(1440 killed 12/27/2008-1/18/09
during Israeli attack on Gaza)**

About the Author:

Ann Wright is a retired US Army Reserve Colonel and a former U.S. diplomat who resigned in March, 2003 in opposition to the war on Iraq. She served as a US diplomat in Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sierra Leone, Micronesia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. She is the co-author of "[Dissent: Voices of Conscience](#)". Her March 19, 2003 letter of resignation can be read at <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0303/032103wright.htm>. She has been to Gaza three times in 2009.