



# IDF's Annual Report

## FY 2018



# Contents

Strategic Overview	1
IDF General Structure	4
Operational Annual Report (AOR)	5
Training and Exercises	18
Navy	21
Israeli Air Force	26
Northern Command	31
Southern Command	34
Home Front Command	36
J1	38
J6 & Cyber Defense Directorate	41



## Strategic Overview

Israel continues to face persistent and multi-domain challenges posed by a complex, volatile, unstable and multi-actor (both local and global) region. Despite these circumstances, some opportunities present themselves.

### Shapers that will influence the strategic environment during 2019-2020:

- **Israel** – continues to face a wide range of security challenges and threats in the following areas: border security, proliferation of advanced weapon systems, terror networks, "lone wolves", cyber and EW, missile defense, and civil defense. Israel employs cutting-edge technologies and concepts to address each of these challenges, which rely on its rich and hard-earned combat experience and innovative civic & defense industries. When combined, they offer a hotbed for cooperation, operational learning and R&D with various partners around the globe.

Israel's Defense and Military Outreach and Engagement policy is a part of a focused effort to widen the nation's strategic depth, promote security, and enhance stability through the prevention of threats. This also aids in leveraging Israel's unique strategic place in the region and its culture of innovation and flexibility. Israel considers its defense and military partnership with the United States as having prime strategic importance. It also maintains close ties with other nations which share the same values, interests, and mindsets on various issues in both the wider region and global landscape.

- **Iran** – the American campaign to coerce Iran from its current destabilizing efforts, combined with Iran's internal challenges, will place the Iranian leadership under continuous pressure with potent implications. Regardless of these efforts, Iran unremittently continues its attempts to gain strategic superiority in the Middle-East as well as international leverages – primarily by globally promoting its malign influence and increasing access to and proliferation of Advanced Weaponry and Equipment (AWE) to create area denial capabilities (A2AD) threat to competitors. Closer to Israel's borders,

“  
 Israel continues to face challenges posed by a complex, volatile, instable and multi-actor region  
 ”

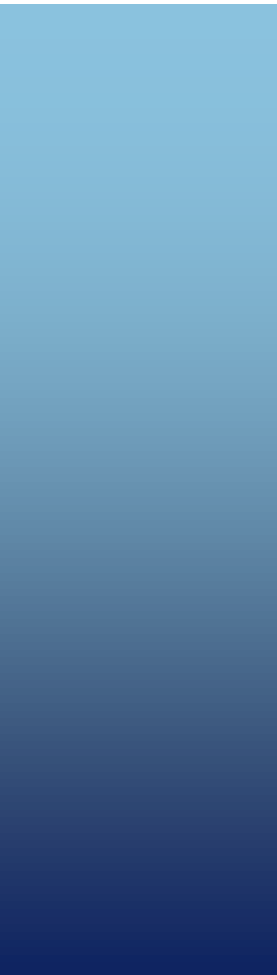




the Iranian entrenchment in Syria has so far been met with fierce opposition – due to the Israeli, American, and Russian alignment of interests. Despite the challenges, Iran has not abandoned its intention to strengthen its efforts in the northern arena. In fact, it has increased its entrenchment attempts in Iraq as well as invested heavily in increasing the efficiency of its maritime, ground, and air smuggling routes. Iran has also continued to fund and support through arms transfers the Houthi rebels in Yemen, and the PIJ in Gaza, while continuing to fund Lebanese Hezbollah in Lebanon. This has enabled it to strategically jeopardize maritime air traffic in three major choke points: the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, the Suez Canal, and the eastern Mediterranean. Israel is determined to do whatever is in its power to prevent Iran from achieving nuclear capabilities in addition to countering its malign regional activities – for as long as Iran poses a threat to Israel and to the security of the region.

- **Syria** – the return of the Assad regime to its previously controlled territories is a domestic Syrian issue, which presents a potential future threat, both conventional and non-conventional, specifically from Iranian proxies in the Golan and Syria. While Israel maintains its non-intervention policy, it continues its focus on defense, specifically regarding efforts to counter Iranian attempts to use Syrian territory as a guise for future entrenchment attempts as well as a corridor for the transfer of arms into Lebanon. The reconstituting of UNDOF will continue to receive Israeli support and efforts to develop deconfliction mechanisms in this area.
  
- **Lebanon** – Hezbollah's Cross Blue Line tunneling project funded by Iran, its continued force buildup efforts, combined with the organization's attempts to gain area denial capabilities (A2AD) and PGMs, are proof of its continuous violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. Hezbollah is a major threat both to Lebanon and the region. Israel's policy regarding the threat posed by Hezbollah remains unequivocal. Israel will continue to use all of its governmental capabilities to disrupt and deny the organization's destabilizing efforts and to prevent it from acquiring advanced weapon systems. The international community's focused efforts are essential to preventing LH's force buildup in order to ensure regional stability, as well as to ensure a prosperous and secure Lebanese state. LAF continues to be a potential stabilizer, but due to LH influence and dominance it has yet to show any ability to provide security to Lebanon. UNIFIL will



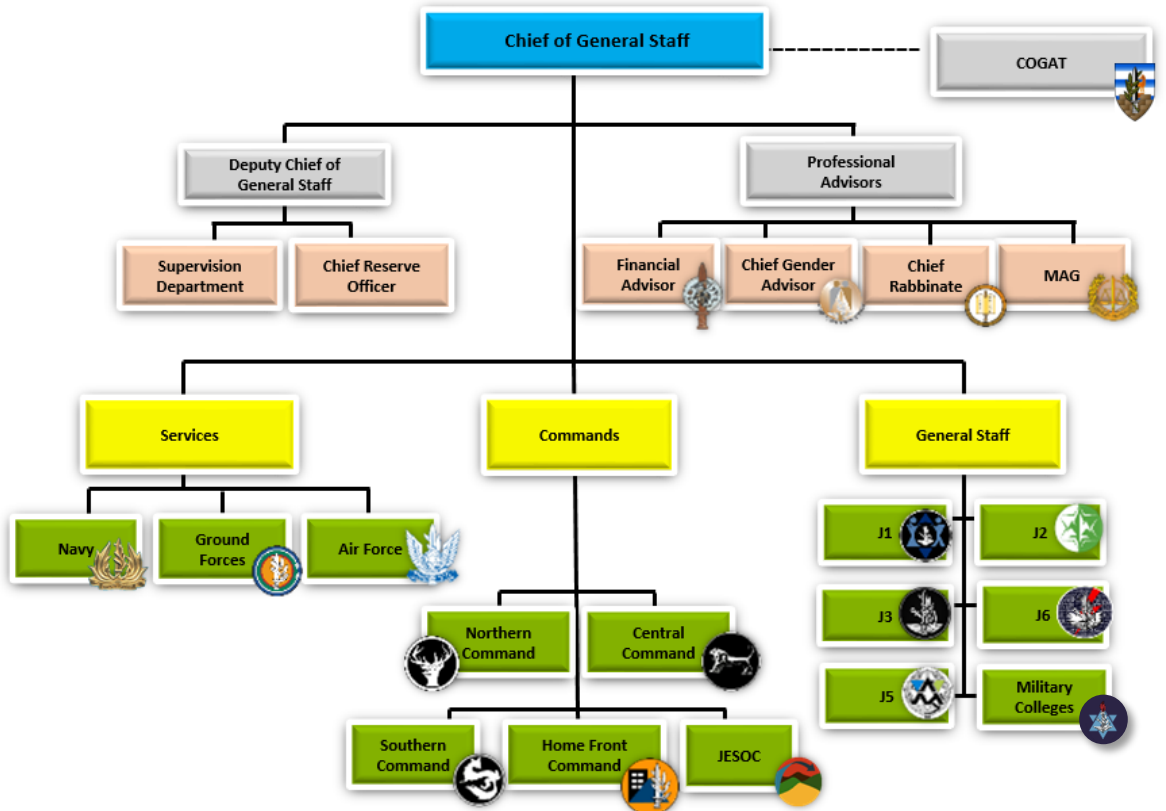


continue to receive Israeli support, providing potential Israeli-Lebanese engagement and Blue Line (BL) stability.

- **Palestinians** – despite the destabilizing growing trends of internal, economic and political challenges faced by the Palestinian Authority, the IDF continues to counter terror cells while maintaining close coordination with the Palestinian security forces. In Gaza, Hamas remains the leading actor – but one that is in grave economic, civil and strategic distress. Hamas is likely to continue to challenge Israel, despite its own domestic problems. It is in Israel's best interests to maintain maximum stability and to utilize every opportunity for economic and civilian development in Gaza and the West Bank. Israel will show zero tolerance to terror and strive to promote a more peaceful environment for the benefit of both sides.
- **Jordan, Egypt, and the Gulf to Mediterranean region** – the peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan are two major strategic assets to which Israel remains fully committed. They both encompass a potential for strengthening existing bonds as well as having additional prospects of security and civilian cooperation opportunities. Furthermore, increasingly aligned interests with other nations in the area create the opportunity for wider regional cooperation in regards to the Iranian malign activity (as well as civilian and security cooperation).
- The IDF's international approach is based on creating potential for IDF mission success in our immediate surroundings and when needed abroad; ever increasingly engaging in the Mediterranean, Africa, and the Persian Gulf. The IDF strives to maintain military diplomatic engagement with partners worldwide focused on operational requirements, force development, and partnership capability building. The IDF military diplomatic community thanks its colleagues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense and many others in the Israeli foreign affairs fellowship who further enable us to best reach our goals overseas and at home.



# IDF General Structure



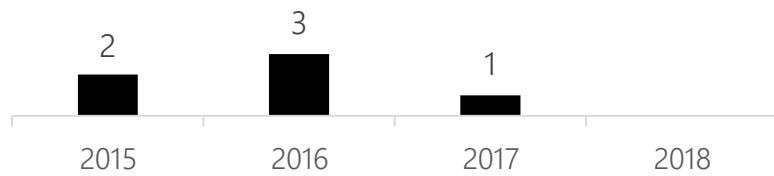


# Operational Annual Report (AOR)

## Lebanese Front



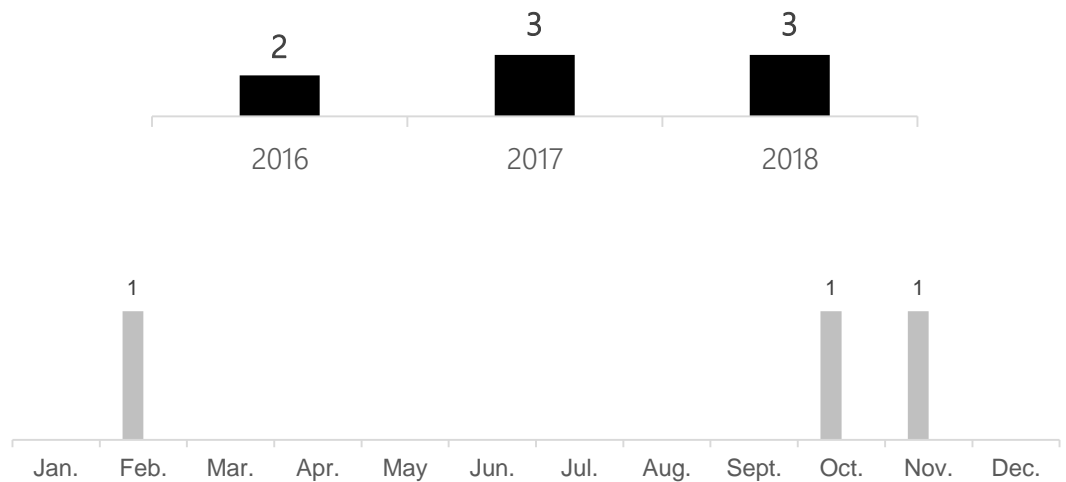
### Hostile Destructive Activities (HDAs)



None occurred along the Blue-Line during 2018

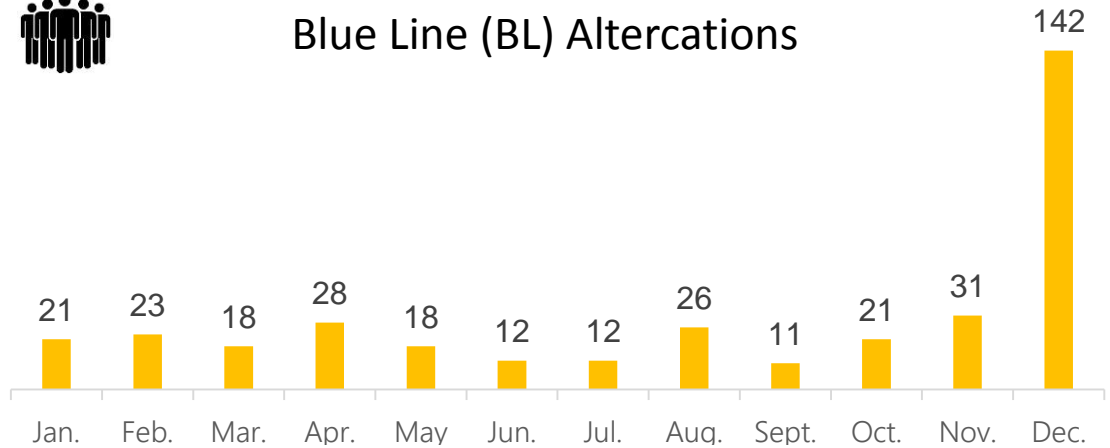


### Infiltrations





### Blue Line (BL) Altercations



During 2018, there were 363 Altercations (crowding, photographing Israeli territory, stone throwing, drone sightings, other abnormal sightings)

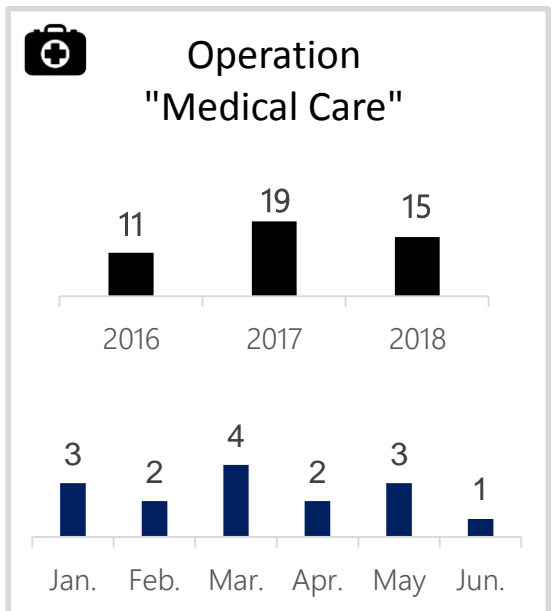
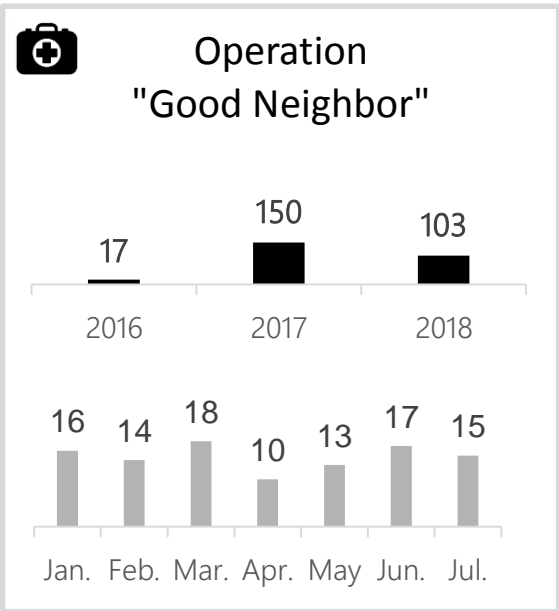
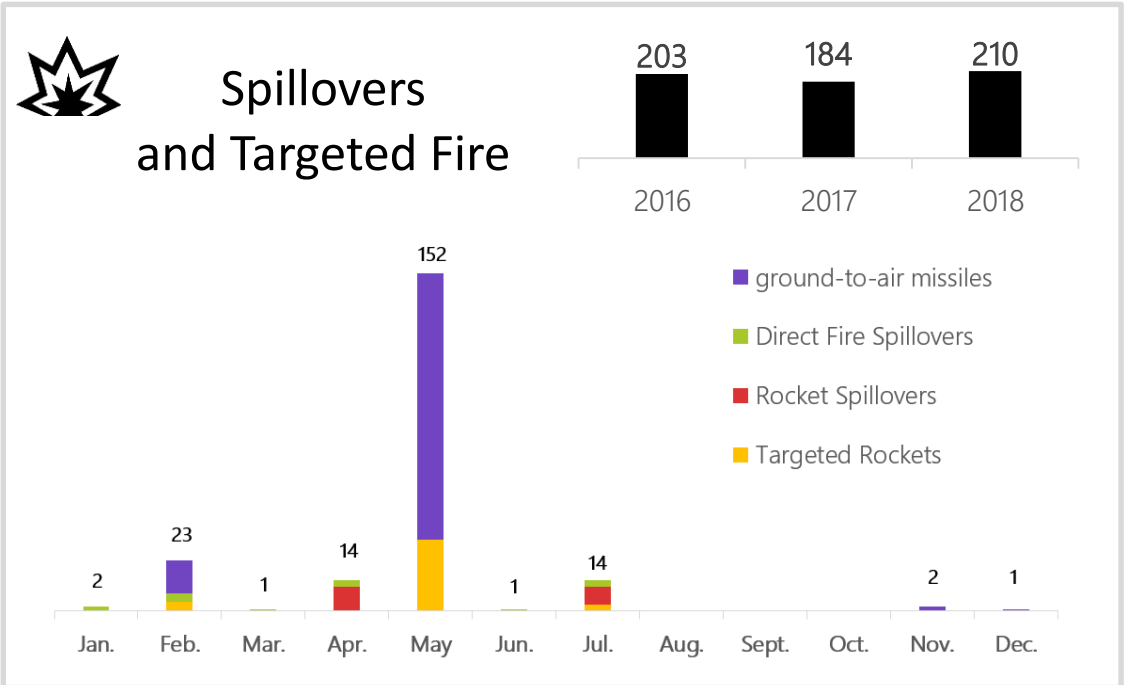


**Blue Line (BL):** Israeli-Lebanese border demarcation, determined by the UN in 2000.





## Syrian Front



Operations Suspended on September 2018



## "Good Neighbor" (2016-2018)

Comprehensive humanitarian effort

4,500 injured treated	"Medical Care" for 1,500 children	"Mazor Ladach" Field Hospital	25,726 boxes of medicine and medical equipment
1,066,720 liters of gas	1,741 tons of food	111 donations worth 400 shekels	350 tons of clothing

Assistance with the establishment of a Maternity Hospital at Jubata

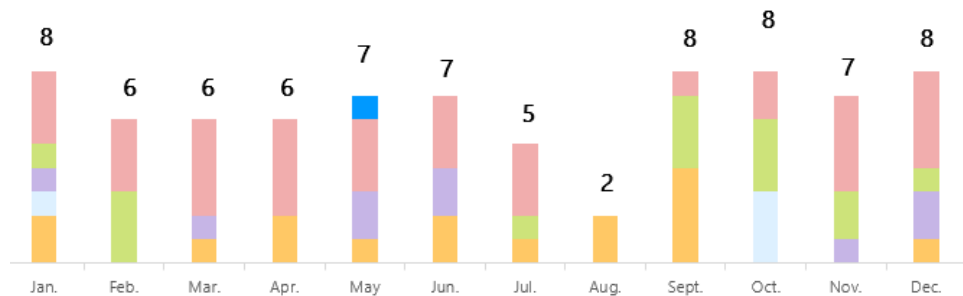
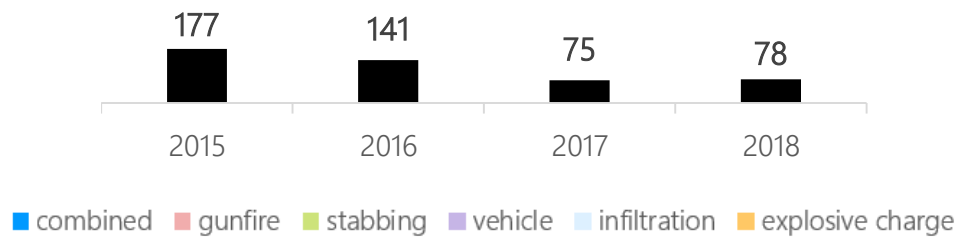




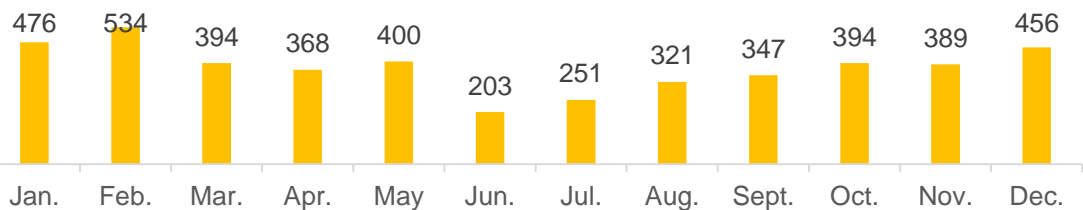
## Judea and Samaria Front



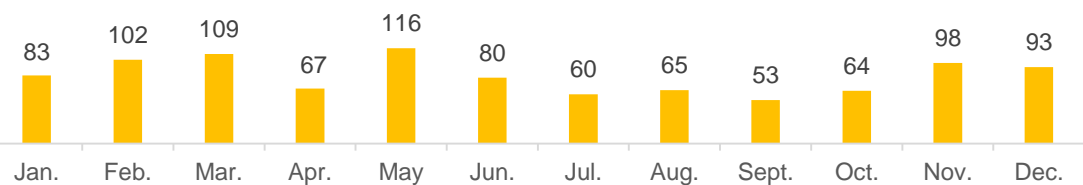
### Hostile Destructive Activities



### Hostile Destructive Activities



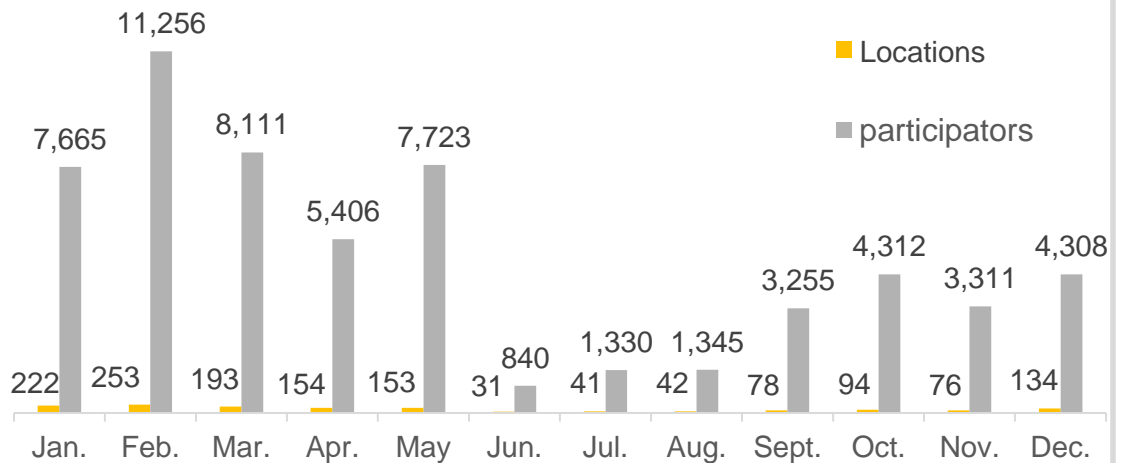
During 2018, there were 4,533 stone throwing incidents



During 2018, there were 990 petrol bomb incidents



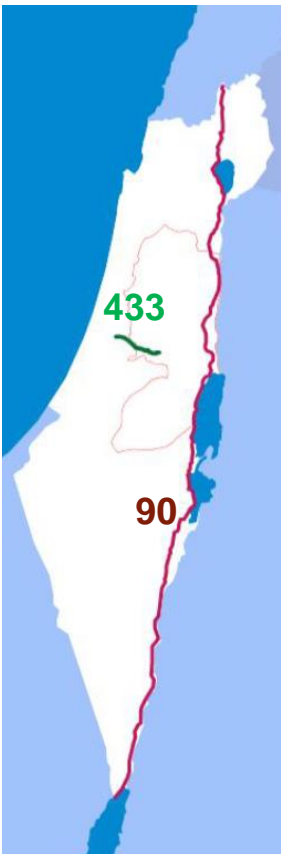
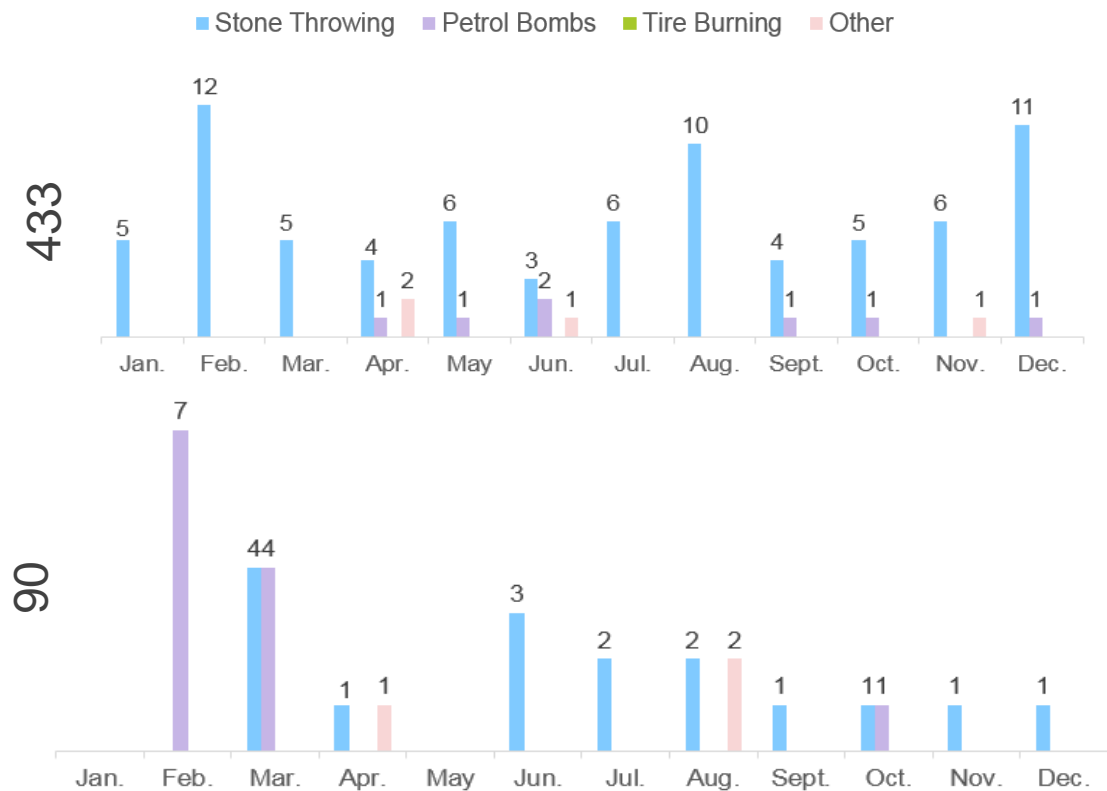
### Palestinian Violent Order Disruptions



During 2018, there were 1,471 locations of order disruptions with the participation of 58,862 Palestinians

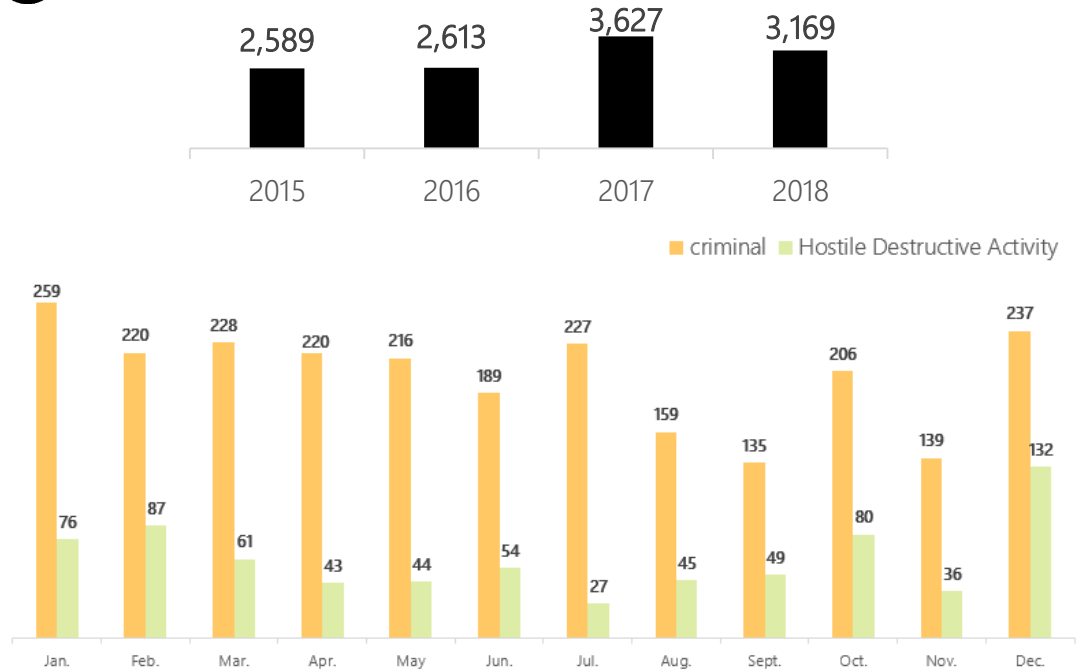


### 443 and 90 Route Incidents





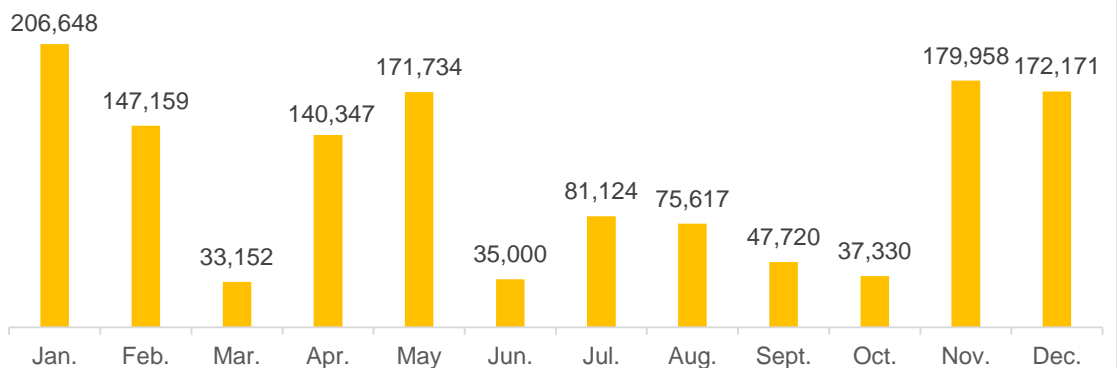
### Arrests (including in the Jordan Valley)



During 2018, 3,169 Palestinians were arrested, 734 of them due to Hostile Destructive Activities

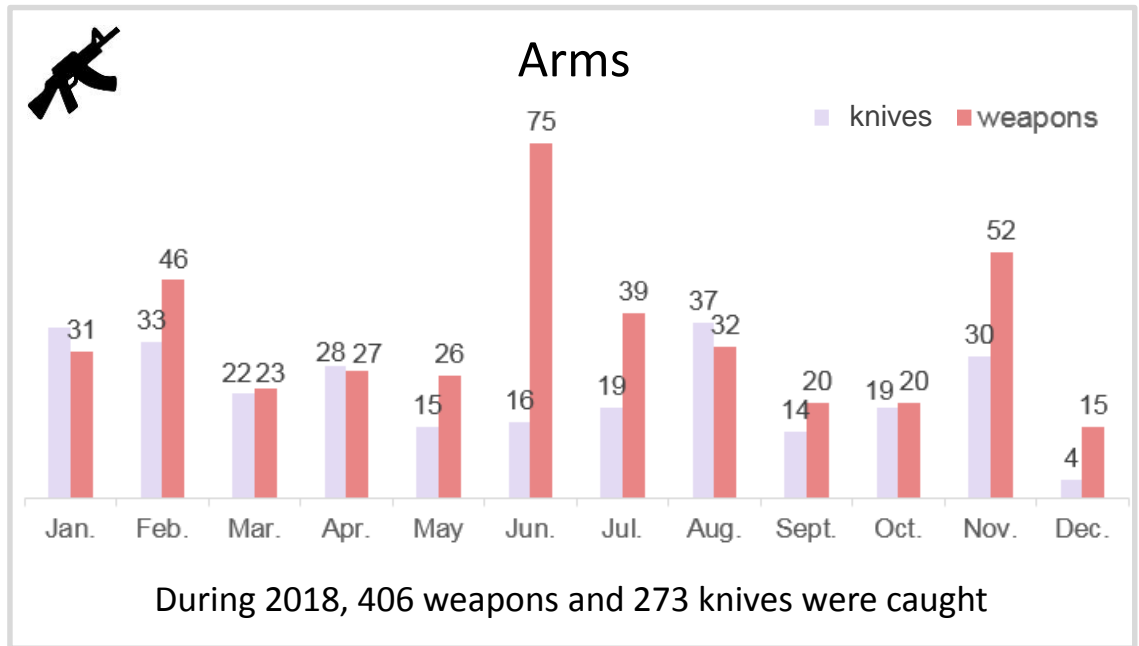


### Terror Funding



During 2018, the IDF seized terror funds worth 1,327,960 shekels (366,962 \$)



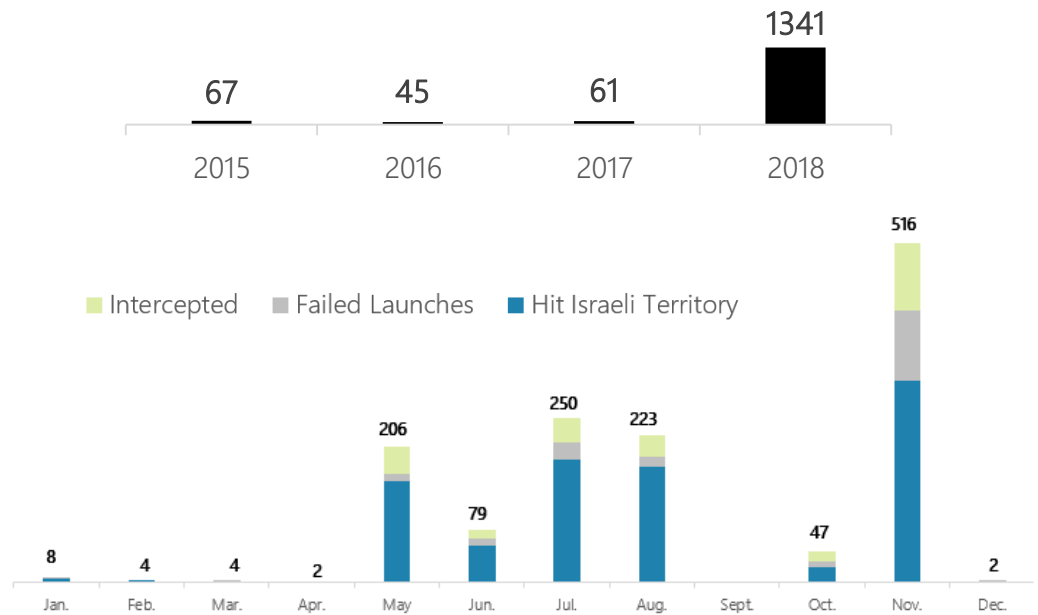




## The Gaza Strip Front



### Rockets Fired

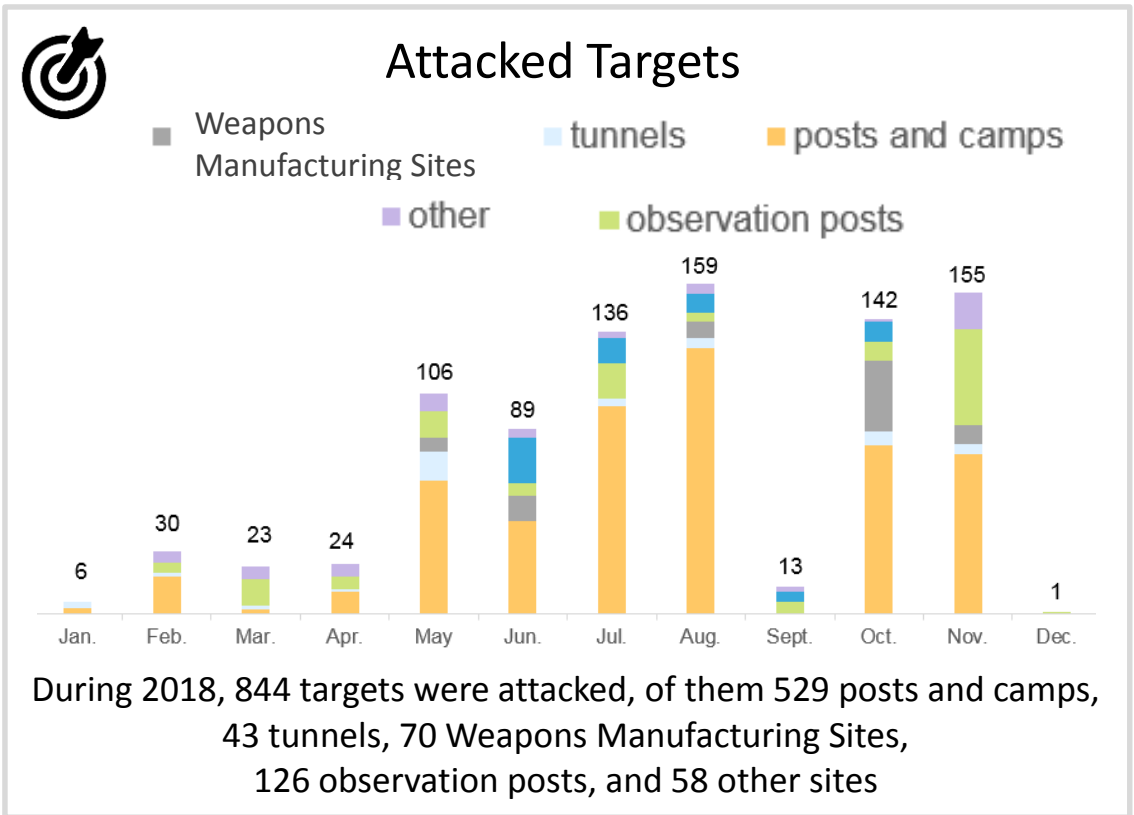
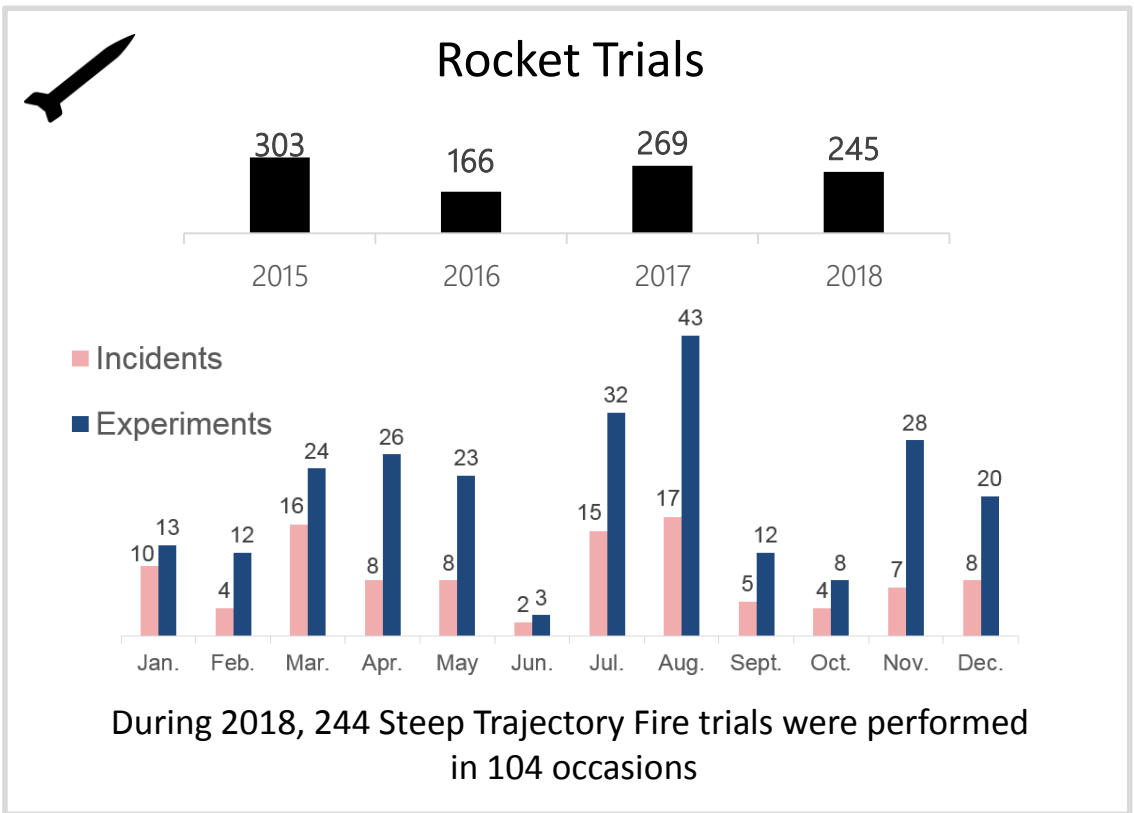


During 2018, 1,341 rockets were launched from the Gaza Strip towards Israel. 245 were intercepted by Iron Dome, 184 failed and 912 Hit Israeli territory.



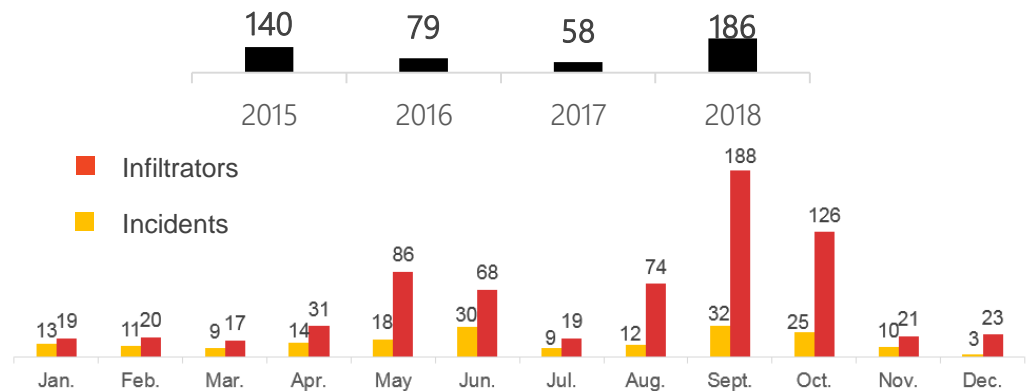
Israeli "Iron Dome"



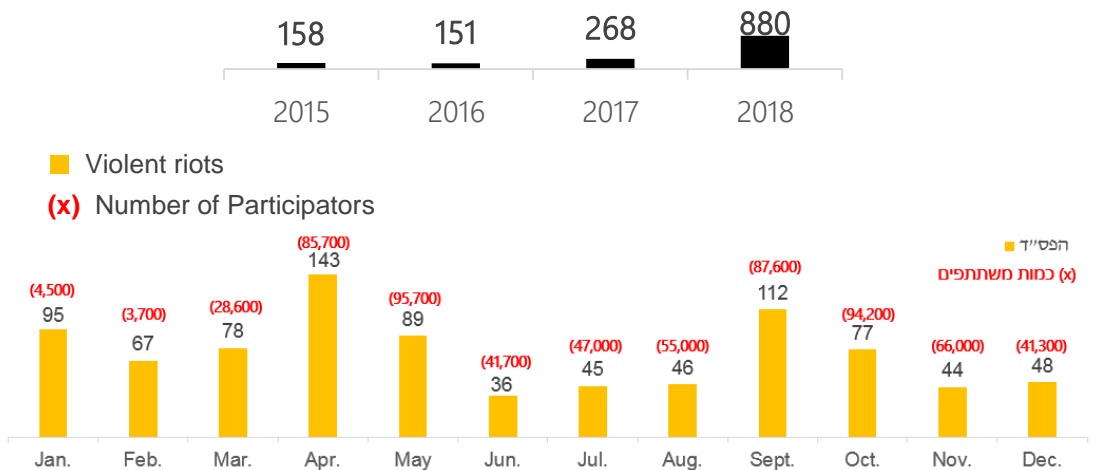




### Incidents and Infiltrators within the Perimeter



During 2018, 692 Palestinians infiltrated into Israeli territory, in 186 separate incidents

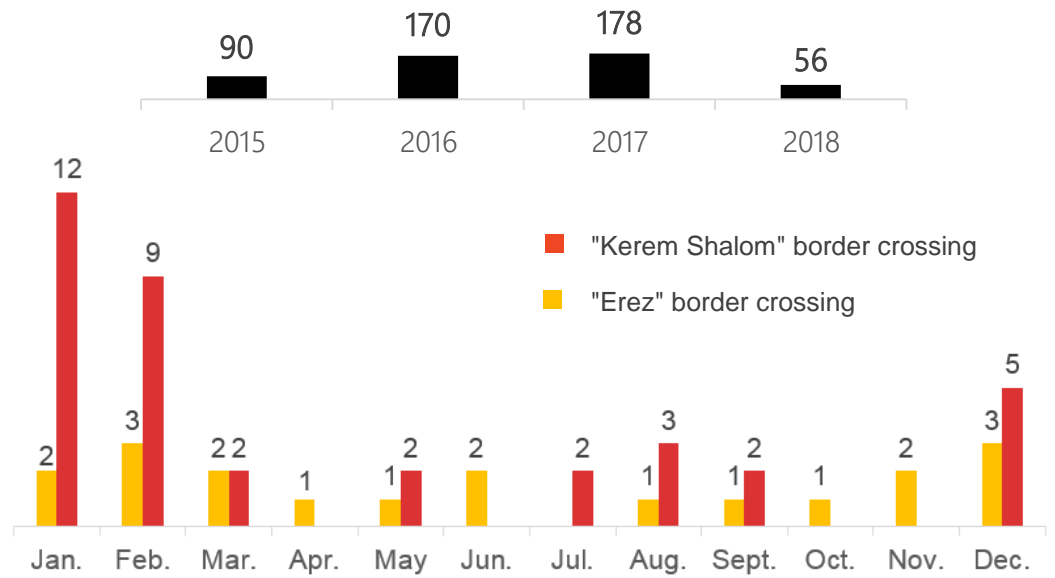


During 2018, there were 880 violent riots within the perimeter

Gaza Perimeter: Closed, restricted area at the inner side of the separation fence.



## Thwarted Smuggling Attempts



56 smuggling attempts were thwarted, among them 37 at "Erez" border crossing and 19 at "Kerem Shalom" border crossing

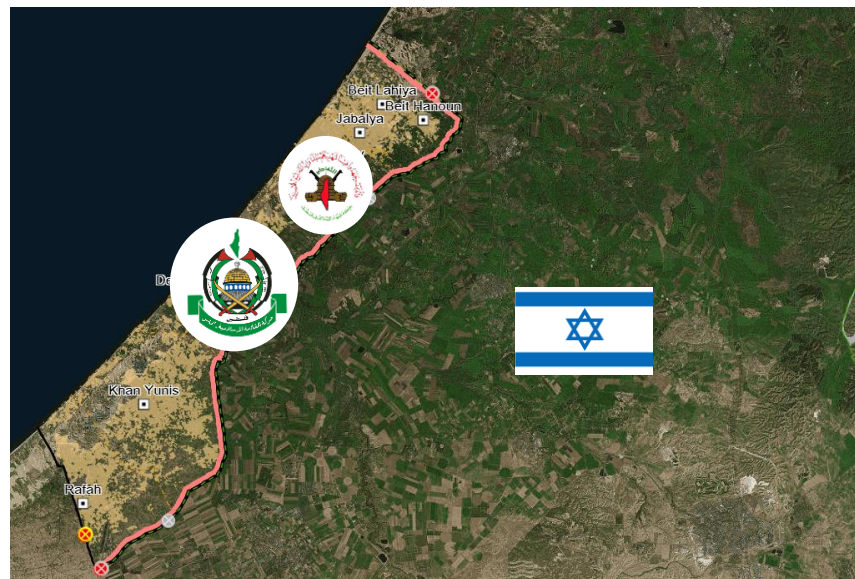






### Gaza Major Events

<b>IDF/Civillian Casualties</b>	4 injured	1 killed	1 injured	7 injured	-	1 killed 1 injured 22 Palestinians injured
<b>Enemy Casualties</b>	2 killed	3 killed 1 injured	3 killed 5 injured	3 killed 30 injured	5 killed 66 injured	7 killed 25 injured
<b>Attacks</b> 	47	65	5	128	17	154
<b>Rockets</b> 	221	5	13	222	43	493
	<b>14.07</b>	<b>20.07</b>	<b>25.07</b>	<b>8.08</b>	<b>26.10</b>	<b>12.11</b>





## Training and Exercises

### The IDF Exercise and Training Plan

2018 was a challenging year for exercises and training. Due to expanding threats, the battlefield challenges are greater - the fiscal and budget constraints limit the ability to exercise to the full potential.

The IDF's training method is quite unusual; we do not just validate our operational orders and plans, we challenge them, while pushing our troops to the limit and our decision makers into the corner.

In essence, 2018 maintained relatively the same as 2017 in the volume of exercises, the training objectives and methods, in the following levels:

- Senior Leadership War-Gaming and Decision Making models.
- General Headquarters exercises.
- Territorial Command exercises.
- Force Design exercises.
- Operational models and simulations.

All of the exercises are based on the multi-year calendar and serve the operational plan or means for force design, along with strategic force projection.

On the strategic level, the senior commanders conducted two main exercises that simulated a multi-front and domain conflict that focused on the decision making process, as well as the fire and targeting process at the general staff level. The lessons learned from these exercises were implemented into the contingency planning efforts.

The General Staff annual exercise focuses on the Joint Operation Centers as well as the command and central processes of the territorial commands. This year's exercise's scenario was based on a multi-front and multi-domain contingency plan. This exercise took place concurrently with the Home Front Command's national drill and US cooperation exercise Juniper Cobra.



We do not just validate our operational orders and plans, we challenge them, while pushing our troops to the limit and our decision makers into the corner





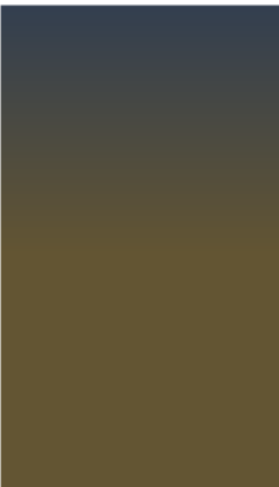
The Territorial Combatant Commands, Joint Expedition and Special Operation Command (JESOC), and the Home-Front Command conducted their annual exercise, focusing on current operational plans. The experiences tested the command and control processes, the ability to execute operational plans and to rapidly deploy and employ forces into the battlefield.

Numerous tactical units conducted exercises to assess the readiness of the ground, air, maritime and special operations forces – in various terrains and weather conditions. Moreover, all the General Headquarters conducted independent exercises to assess their contingency readiness.

**In total, the IDF maneuvering forces conducted 115 battalion fighting group exercises, 24 brigade exercises, 46 brigade command post exercises, 4 division exercises and 9 division command-post exercises. The Air-Force and the Navy each conducted 2 large scale exercises.**

For the first time, the ground forces examined the employment of an ad-hoc brigade size maneuvering force that demonstrated the ability to employ massive fire, conduct a fast maneuver and rapidly maintain position of key areas in open and in urban terrain.

In addition, the IDF's forces conducted and participated in various international exercises, such as Juniper Cobra 2018 with the US Armed Forces, along with many other tactical exercises, information exchange seminars, and key leadership engagements such as FBAT with the US TRADOC.

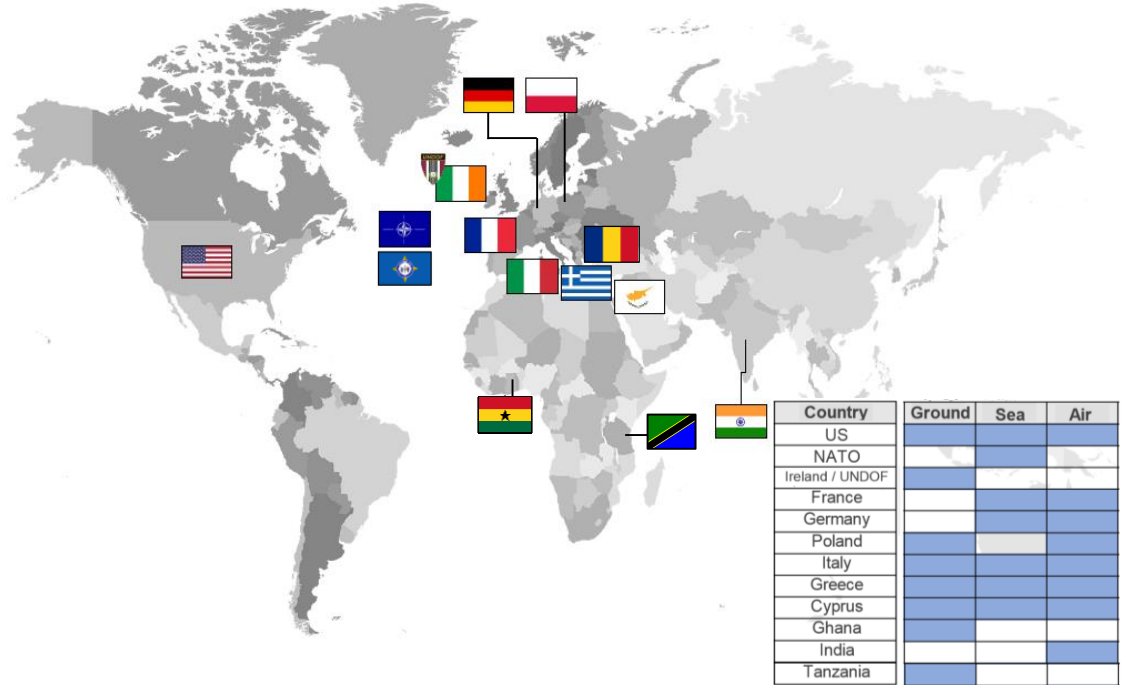


The IDF's forces conducted and participated in various international exercises...





### International Military Training



During 2018, there were more than 30 International training and exercises.

- The IDF builds and promotes coalitional abilities with foreign armies in the local and wider region.
- The IDF exercises operational capabilities abroad (in different territories that simulate the regional challenges and threats).
- The IDF views the regional partners as very important strategically, and acts to promote the cooperation with them.
- The IDF learns from foreign militaries through mutual training and exercises, and widens their connections with different militaries, in coordination with the governmental ministries (the defense, foreign affairs and internal affairs ministries in the different countries), and additional partners.



The Israeli Navy has gone through major changes in order to fulfill its responsibly of protecting the national strategic assets at sea



## Navy

### Operational background

#### General

Over the past year, the maritime arena has changed in many aspects. Both in terms of the main actors in the region, as well as development of the Israeli Navy and the expansion of its missions and areas of operation. The operational activity changes included covert activity, intelligence, information operations and kinetic strikes has led to significant operational achievements. In addition, changes were made in conceptual and organizational aspects in the force employment in the Israeli Navy.

### Main trends of Israel's adversaries in the maritime arena

**Iran** - is striving to establish its influence in the maritime arena; subsequently it continues its own ongoing support in Hezbollah, Hamas and PIJ (Palestinian Islamic Jihad).

**Syria** - is undergoing stabilization efforts following the prolonged civil war. There are evident signs of permanent naval Russian presence and rehabilitation of the Russian fleet in the Mediterranean.

**Lebanese Hezbollah (LH)** - is developing its naval attack capabilities and units including underwater arrays.

**Gaza Strip** - the Maritime Arena has been volatile due to the general instability in the area. Hamas and PIJ are developing their naval units. In addition, there is constant use of the maritime arena to exasperate our forces, including leading maritime riots, demonstrations and propaganda flotillas to challenge the naval blockade.

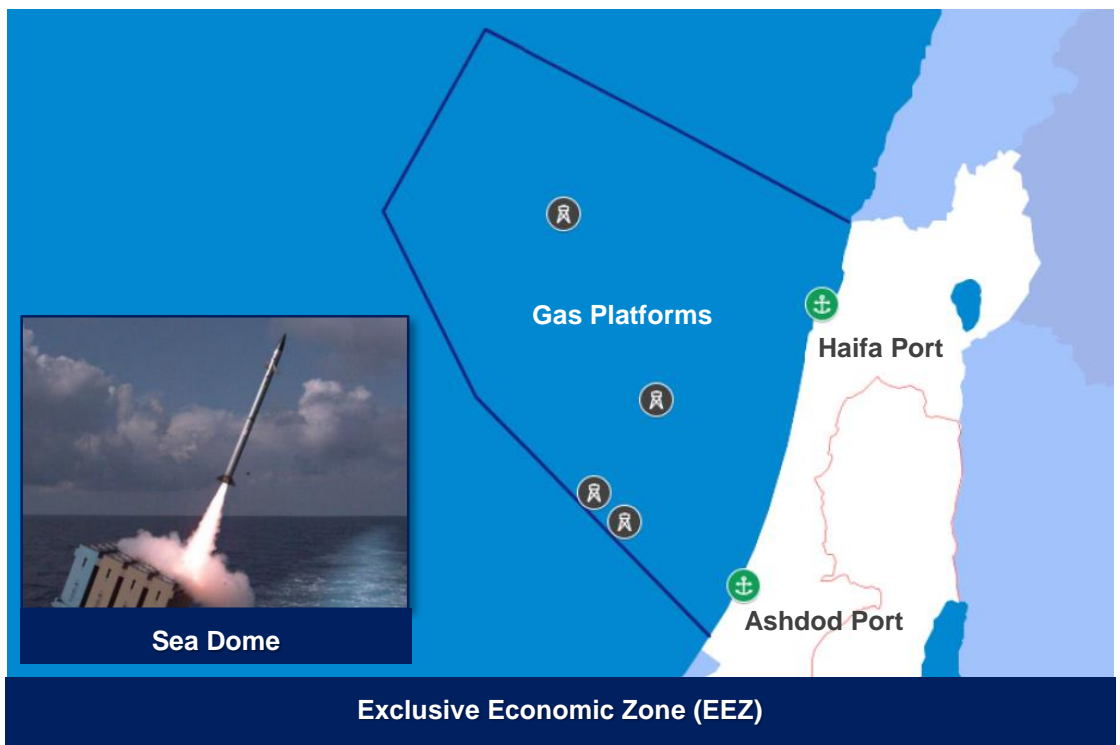




**Operational Efforts**

**EEZ defense**

In the past year the Israeli Navy has gone through major changes in order to fulfill its responsibility of protecting the national strategic assets at sea. This includes the establishment of a new C2 element in the Israeli Navy HQ to improve the control of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) arena in routine and emergency times. Furthermore, the Sea Dome system was installed and implemented on Missile Boats.



“  
 The Israeli Navy  
 has undergone  
 unprecedented  
 force build up  
 during 2018  
 ”

**Border defense**

During 2018, the Israeli Navy conducted intensive routine security and patrol activities, offensive operations and additional actions in order to ensure the protection of the Israeli Maritime Borders.

**Naval Superiority and Fire Exertion**

In recent years, the Israeli Navy has undergone a significant conventional change, taking on land attack capabilities and operations. Following this, an organizational restructure was introduced





to guarantee Navy participation in the fire efforts of the General Staff. During 2018, the Israeli Navy led the attacks on the Hamas naval array in coordination with the Southern Command. Hamas naval arrays targets constituted about 40% of all targets hit in 2018.

### **Maritime Lines of Communication (freedom of navigation and naval operations)**

The Israeli Navy has carried out various activities in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and other areas to demonstrate Israeli naval presence, defense, intelligence, and reconnaissance.

2018 can be summarized by the continued change of both adversaries and other challenges in the naval arena. In light of this, the Israeli Navy has acted in order to accomplish significant achievements in the maritime arena in cooperation with other IDF units and organizations.

### **Force Build up Vectors**

The Israeli Navy has undergone unprecedented force build up during 2018. The complex maritime environment requires robust force build up and flexible force operation in order to deal with the ever-changing challenges. The force build up is conducted in four vectors.

### **Naval Superiority**

The Israeli Navy continues to strive to maintain capabilities in the eastern Mediterranean Sea and preserve the traditional naval capabilities, whilst still being able to adapt to the challenges in the region. During the last few years, the importance of naval superiority has intensified, due to the understanding that it is a critical supporting pillar in Israel's defense. This superiority can only be achieved in one way; a powerful fleet – ships, submarines and maritime SOF forces. In other words, a strong, sophisticated and offensive naval force, with advanced protection capabilities.

This force buildup includes land attack capabilities, aerial defense from high trajectory missiles, and aerial reconnaissance and surveillance. Additionally, the Israeli Navy is developing systems, such as joint assault weapons, with other IDF units against land targets.

### **EEZ**

The newly discovered energy sources within Israel's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are a potential game-changer supporting the geopolitical stability in our region. Our opponents do not turn a blind eye to these developments and are constantly searching and developing different ways in which to harm the State of Israel. The Israeli government tasked the Israeli Navy with

“  
The year 2018  
can be marked  
by the  
intensification of  
international  
cooperation  
between the  
Israeli Navy and  
foreign navies  
”



the responsibility of defending the new maritime arena and protecting the vital national energy interests of the State of Israel.

In light of this, a new doctrine to defend this area was developed by the Israeli Navy. The rapid development of the gas platforms creates a defensive challenge with strategic assets at sea, perceived as quality targets by terrorist organizations. Therefore, the Navy is in the process of acquiring platforms and systems for the protection of the EEZ, primarily the construction of the new Sa'ar 6 corvettes in Germany. Alongside this, there is the development and acquisition of central weapon systems, such as the Sea Dome, electronic warfare systems, as well as intelligence gathering and a means of maritime picture building.

**Border Defense** – The Israeli Navy faces challenges on a daily basis in defending the maritime borders of Israel, the Mediterranean, and the Red Sea. The threats are divided into surface and underwater threats, which require sufficient protection. This leads to the development and acquisition of advanced defense platforms and systems for surface and underwater defense.

**Submarines** – A construction of a new base and harbor for the Israeli Submarine Force in the Haifa Naval Base continues. The Israeli Navy is currently building an additional dolphin AIP class in Germany. Furthermore, the Israeli Navy is planning the next generation of submarines named "Dakar" class, which will also be built in Germany.

**Infrastructure** – Along with the force buildup of the Israeli Navy, there is extensive construction and planning of infrastructure. The operational bases are preparing for the building of new docks and renovation of existing ones to meet the needs of the new platforms the Israeli Navy is acquiring.

**International Cooperation** - The year 2018 can be marked by significant international cooperation between the Israeli Navy and foreign navies. In recent years there has been an increasing understanding of the importance of naval partnerships stemming from Israel's positioning as a "safe haven" in the region.

During the past year, Navy ships from the US, Canada, France, Greece, India and Italy conducted port calls in Eilat, Ashdod and Haifa. In addition, as part of the NATO forces visits, vessels from Bulgaria, Greece, Spain and UK anchored in Israel.

Furthermore, the Israeli Navy had visits and interactions with the US, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Ghana, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, NATO, Panama, Republic of Korea, The Netherlands, The Philippines, Tanzania, the UK and more.



There were also numerous operations that amplified this international cooperation.

"Carmel"	France	
"CAYA Green"	US	
"Noble Dina"	Greece and the US	Anti-submarine
"PASSEX"	NATO, UK and Spain	
EOD/IED "INVITEX"	Germany	
"Faron"	France	surface warfare
"Noble Melinda"	US	underwater sabotage
"Reliant Mermaid"	France and the US	search and rescue
"Rising Star"	Italy	
"Nemesis"	Cyprus	
"Crystal Sea"	NATO	Medical

### Statistics



- Furthest destination the Israeli Navy sailed to: Toulon, France.
- 37 foreign navies docked in Israeli ports.
- Hours of sailing in Flotilla 3: 12,541.
- Hours of sailing in Flotilla 7: 6,238.
- Hours of sailing in the routine security array: 75,254.



## Israeli Air Force



### General Overview

This year marked 70 years since the establishment of the Israeli Air Force. The IAF has come a long way since its establishment, with each coming year presenting new accomplishments, unprecedented challenges and rapid technological advancements. This year, the complex situation in Syria became increasingly unstable. The presence of foreign influence from countries such as the US, Russia and Iran, all of which were each trying to push forward their individual agenda, created a challenging environment for the IAF. At the same time, hundreds of SAM (surface-to-air missiles) were launched at our aerial platforms in the northern arena.

### 2018 in Numbers

Over the course of the year, more than 200 Air Defense Missiles were shot at IAF platforms, and the IAF completed over 500 operational missions, with artillery being used more than 1500 times. All of this activity is a part of the "MABAM" - Operations Short of War (SOW), a term used to describe an idea that the IDF will conduct small scale operations to prevent full-scale wars. Most of these "SOW" actions took place along Israel's northern and southern borders in 2018.



The IAF has come a long way since its establishment, with each coming year presenting new accomplishments, unprecedented challenges and rapid technological advancements







### Looking Forward - The Challenges for the Upcoming Year

As the Middle East continues to be plagued by unrest and challenged by new players, the main goal for the IAF remains at this time to maintain air superiority in the region and to build alliances to ensure continued national defense and security over these areas.



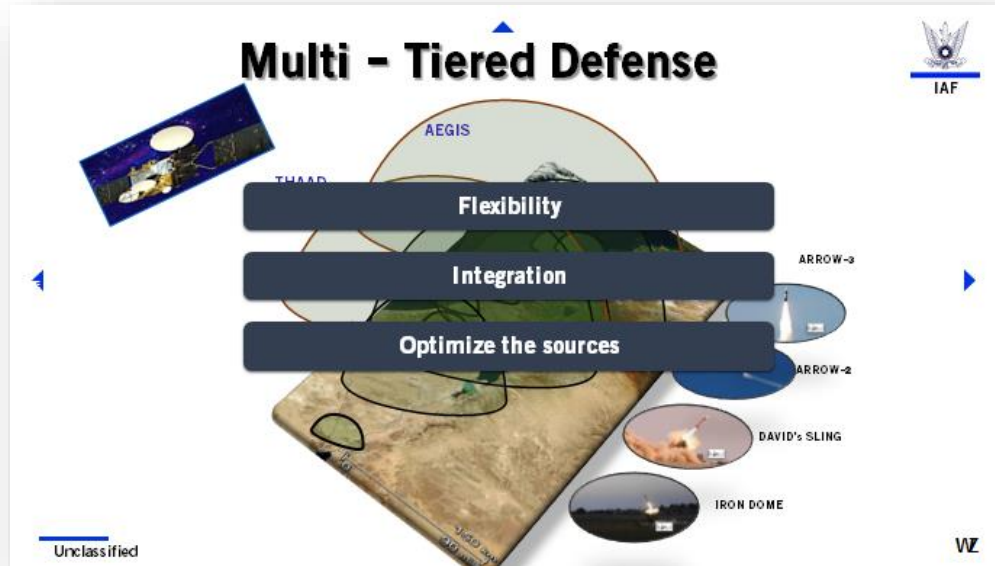
### The Integration of the 5<sup>th</sup> Generation + Force Build Up

2018 saw the F35 put to operational use for the first time. We plan to update all of our assets along with the F35 integration process, meaning that the corresponding equipment and spaces (such as the instruction measures, technical procedures and more) are new and ready to answer to all of the needs the aircraft may require. In addition to this, the IAF was honored to host the



F35 UGWG (User Group Working Group), which was comprised of the F35 partners from around the world, coming together to discuss our feats, accomplishments and shared challenges. The IAF is investing in enhancing our BMD (Ballistic Missile Defense) Architecture focusing on Iron Dome (Sea Capability of INF ships) David Sling and more. The IAF will be deciding in the upcoming year on Future Platforms (Heavy Lift Helo, Air Refuel Platform, and Additional Fighter Platforms).

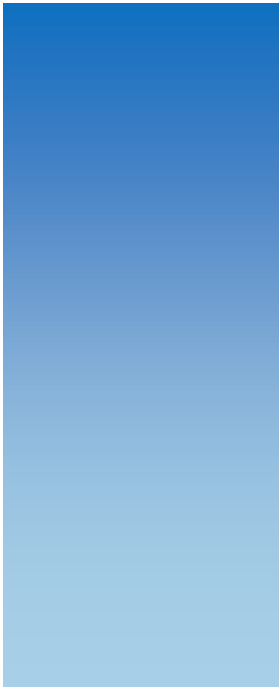




### Israel Air Force and the International Community

2018 was a substantial year for international cooperation. The IAF continued to strengthen its partnerships, and is continuously grateful for the unfaltering friendship and support from its international partners.

In May, we were privileged to host the IAF Senior Air Conference, to which we invited over 20 Air Chiefs for a three day seminar in Israel; celebrating 70 years of the IAF, and to focus on relationship building and its effects – "Airpower as a bridge to regional stability". We were privileged to hear from some of the top leading military officials from around the world, and to exchange knowledge on critical topics. The conference placed the strong friendships the IAF holds in the international community on display. We are highly appreciative that the event was so positive and informative for all who attended. In addition to this, we were privileged to host many Senior Officials from different Air Forces around the globe.





### IAF Training

The IAF trains its soldiers to the highest caliber. Our capacity continues to grow as we look ahead to the 5<sup>th</sup> Generation. We prepare our airmen against every threat, and all training activities are precise and professionally executed. We make sure to combine forces with the Navy and Ground Forces to stay synchronized and ready for every situation. We also take great pride in our joint training opportunities with foreign air forces, as these joint activities provide us with the capability to train in new areas, and to learn new tactics and techniques from one another. We have performed training in Greece, Cyprus, and in the Red Flag Alaska exercise, amongst others.

A highlight of our international training this year was the Sky Angels CSAR Exercise that took place in November. Comprised of 7 countries, this two week exercise was a wonderful opportunity to exchange knowledge on a CSAR level, of which all parties greatly benefitted.

For 2019, one of the most awaited events is the 4<sup>th</sup> installation of the Blue Flag Exercise, taking place in November at the "Uvda" Air Force Base. Once again, we look forward to exchanging imperative knowledge with our allies, and to continue to strengthen our forces.





“  
We strongly believe that advancement lies within the **shared knowledge** and cooperation we share with our allies and friends  
”



### IAF Force Build Up

This year, milestone achievements for our organization are those reflected in the strong deals we have made with our closest allies. These include the substantial deal made with the Luftwaffe extending the Lease for the IAI-made G-Heron TP UAV's, which strengthens our core value of knowledge exchange leading to joint operational success. We also hope that moving forward we will be able to begin purchasing and developing new platforms, equipment and technology, in order to continue the strengthening and readiness of the IAF. We strongly believe that advancement lies within the shared knowledge and cooperation we share with our allies and friends.



### Statistics



- 150 rescue and evacuation flights conducted during which 143 people were evacuated.
- Number of flights in the fighter jet array: over 2000
- Number of flights in the helicopter array: over 600
- Number of flights in the transportation array: over 2300
- Hours of operational flight in the RPAV array: 32,166
- The IAF cooperated with aprox. 15 countries.
- Furthest destination the IAF flew to: Alaska.





# Northern Command

## General

For the past year, the Northern Command dealt with significant changes in the arena, such as the outcomes of the Syrian Civil war, as well as continued substantial defensive projects and operations along the Blue Line (BL) border with Lebanon. The latter, being a response to the Lebanese Hezbollah's (LH) threats to attack Israel's border communities.

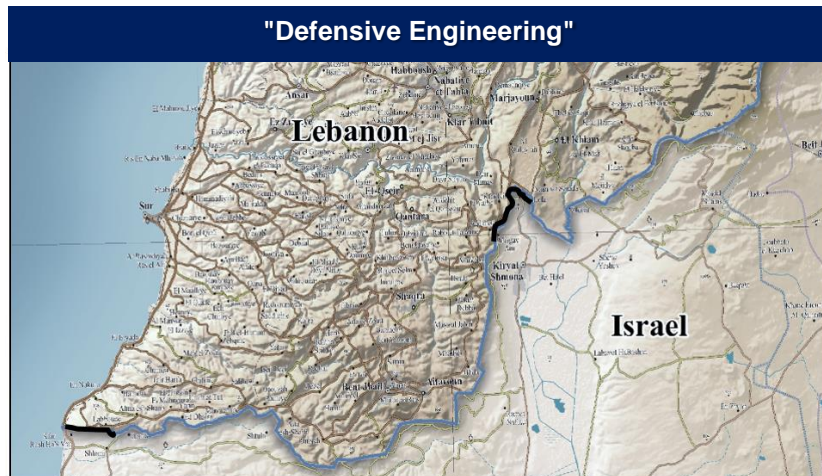
The Northern Command maintained close ties with the United Nations Peacekeeping operations, as well as other foreign forces that operate in the arena.

## The Lebanese Front

Israel maintained the liaison mechanism with UNIFIL and LAF. There were six tripartite meetings, which helped mitigate tensions between all relevant parties as well as preserve the relative stability along the BL.

The Northern Command's focus this year along the BL was to build a defense obstacle (Defensive Engineering). Israel communicated its intention to start the project several times through the liaison mechanism with updates throughout.

For the past year, the Northern Command dealt with significant changes in the arena, such as the outcomes of the Syrian Civil war, as well as continued substantial defensive projects and operations along the Blue Line (BL)

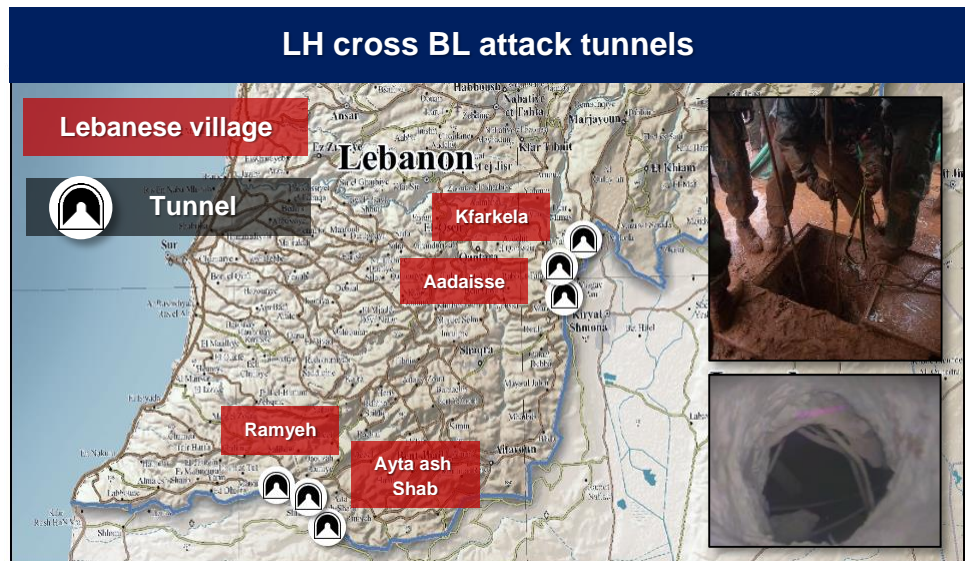
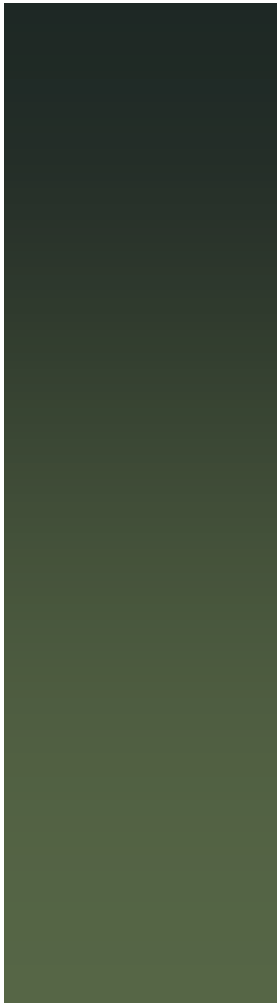




As part of the ongoing efforts to enforce the UNSCR 1701, the Northern Command continued to voice Israel's concern about some of LH's destabilizing and threatening activities along the BL and in the Southern Lebanese such as 'Green without Borders' posts, that were discovered to be LH's observation points along the BL. Israel and the international community view the LH's force build-up as the main threat to the stability in the area south of the Litani river and along the BL.



As part of the Northern Command's effort to ensure a secure BL, in December initiated operation "Northern Shield" on December 2018. The plan, years in the making, was implemented after extensive intelligence gathering that focused on the discovery of LH's cross BL terror tunnels (funded by Iran). The Northern Command traced tunnels that LH militants dug in various locations that were to be used during a potential infiltration action in Israeli communities along the border. These tunnels are a blatant violation of UNSCR 1701. The Northern Command is currently in the process of neutralizing the threat posed by these tunnels.







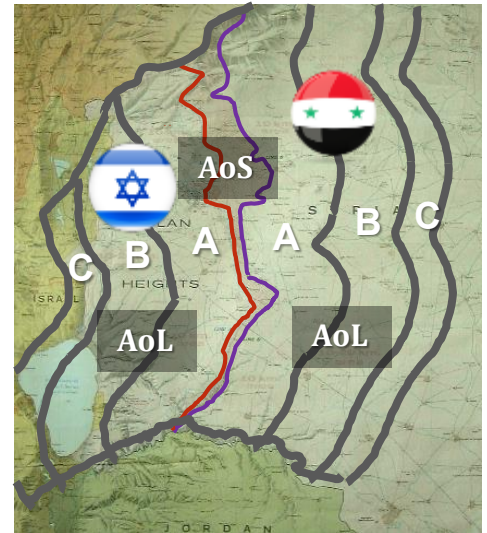
## The Syrian Front

The Northern Command closely followed the recent events in Syria and Assad's renewed control of the SWS area. As a result, the relative stability in the Area of Separation (AoS) enables UNDOF to reposition themselves and assume their responsibilities in the AOS as their mandate specifies. Hence, the Northern Command and the 'Bashan' division put in tremendous efforts into the UNDOF mission throughout the past year e.g. allowing routine Alpha-side inspections to occur. Meanwhile, inspections on the Bravo-side are yet to resume.

As in previous years, the Northern Command continued until July 2018 to offer a wide range of humanitarian aid to those who suffered the war's consequences. These missions offered medical aid, food, nursing kits, as well as the services of a field hospital. On July 2018, the IDF initiated a rescue mission to evacuate 422 people from Syria to Jordan – volunteers of the "Syria Civil Defense" organization (known as the "White Helmets") and their families.

The Northern Command made extraordinary efforts to open the Quneitra crossing between Israel and Syria (October 2018). This significant move symbolizes the return to the relative stability in the AOS and along the Alpha line. As of now, the crossing facilitates only the UN and humanitarian forces in the area as needed.

As part of an initiative to improve its soldiers' living conditions, the Northern Command conducted an extensive operation in order to refurbish its bases in the Israeli Golan Heights. Modern barracks that comply with the highest building standards replaced the older ones.



## Statistics

- Approx. 13 km of a nine-meter tall concrete wall constructed as part of project "Even Mishtalevet" ("Defensive Engineering" along the Blue Line).
- 2.5 km of fence constructed on the tri-border on the Golan Heights.
- Quneitra Crossing re-opened for the first time since 2014.
- 1,000 rocket launches into Israeli territory; 250 intercepted by Iron Dome and 45 landed in populated areas.





## Southern Command

In 2018, the Southern Command faced many challenges in a complex environment. The IDF, comprised of the IAF, Intelligence Directorate, Navy, Artillery and Ground Forces has fulfilled its mission in protecting the citizens in southern Israel.

### Gaza Division

In the past year the Gaza Strip has evolved the threat it imposes on Israeli civilians and the IDF. Following hundreds of security incidents in 2018, the IDF carried out 865 attacks against terror targets in the Gaza Strip.

Of the total missiles fired from Gaza, 821 missiles fell in open fields, while 61 missiles hit urban areas. The **'Iron Dome'** system has continued to protect millions of civilians, and intercepted 233 missiles that had the potential to hit populated areas and cause great levels of damage.

### **Civil and Terror Riots Along the Gaza Border**

Since March 2018, the Hamas terror organization has orchestrated vast violent riots along the border fence with Israel. Over 850 coordinated riots occurred routinely on Fridays, and in many cases also during the weekdays. The IDF has continued with its enduring policy of protecting the border and the citizens of Israel, while preventing enemy attacks.





## Tunnels

The IDF has continued its efforts to demolish the terror tunnels that are dug by Hamas and other terrorist organizations in Gaza to infiltrate and attack Israel. The IDF has destroyed 15 existing tunnels, one of them naval. Physical underground obstacles are being built to prevent tunnel crossings into Israel, and to notify the IDF if the border is breached. During 2018, 27km of the underground obstacle was completed.



## Edom Division

The Edom Division, which is the only IDF division with two peaceful borders (Egypt and Jordan), achieved its goals of protecting the civilians of southern Israel and maintaining the peace in the region.

### Edom Division



## Smuggling and Infiltrators

In 2018, the Edom Division dealt with several encounters of smuggling and infiltration along the borders with Jordan and Egypt. A majority of the attempts were stopped with the aid and support of the EAF and JAF.

## Cooperation on the Borders

One of the division's special characteristics is securing the International Border Line (IBL), while cooperating with the neighboring countries Jordan and Egypt, as well as with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) – the peacekeeping force overseeing the terms of the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. This cooperation is not only a major stepping stone to improving Israel's national and regional stability, but it also strengthens the ability to protect the IBL. Since 2016, no illegal infiltrators have crossed the border fence from Egypt, proving the benefit of the built fence and cooperation between the nations.

## Statistics

- 865 airstrikes in the Gaza Strip conducted.
- 27 km. of the underground barrier constructed.
- 15 terror tunnels, including one naval infiltration tunnel, destroyed.





## Home Front Command

This year the Home Front Command (HFC) worked on strengthening and improving its operational capabilities to prepare it for a multi-arena conflict.

In order to improve search and rescue (S&R) capabilities, the Home Front Command assisted local authorities with building and training local search and rescue units and provided training for emergency management organizations.

In the last year, the HFC understood that the framework in place for emergency training in regional municipalities was not strong enough, and introduced the HFC Training Facility Project. This project used a simulator to help prepare the municipalities for a variety of emergency situations.

After the discovery of the LH cross-border assault tunnels, the HFC decided to increase protection on the northern frontier by updating the facilities in place there, thus further ensuring the safety of the citizens in the north of Israel.

### The National Resilience Academy

In 2018 the Home Front Command founded the National Resilience Academy as a designated school for the professions of the command. This academy will become a designated information center for the HFC, provide training programs for military commands and local authorities, and develop projects to instruct the population and train them for emergency first response. One such example, is the new "URI" Project. This project is designed for high school students, to train them in basic search and rescue skills. So far 83,609 students have been trained.

### Technology and Cyber

In 2018 the effort to improve the Home Front Command's Early Warning systems continued further. The precision of targeted areas for alerts was strengthened, and the specification of alerts for different threats was widely developed. In addition, an increased focus was placed on the matter of cyber security and the threats it entails.





**"Lakes"**

A new system developed by the Home Front Command designed to reflect a full situation report of emergencies and their effects to allow for better decision-making processes.

**NRU – National Rescue Unit**

After five years of intense training and preparation, in November 2018 the National Rescue Unit underwent the classification for the INSARAG (International Search and Rescue Advisory Group) certification, and passed successfully. This certification classifies the NRU as part of an elite international community of heavy search and rescue units. This is the first time the NRU has received this certification, and it is a great source of pride to Israel and the Home Front Command.



## J1

In the Human Resources realm, 2018 was a successful year in which new and innovative tools were introduced as part of the overall effort to improve accessibility to resources and information for both pre-enlistment and serving soldiers.

The main values leading the Personnel Directorates staff:

The individual first; accurate placing; accessibility; attractiveness; compensation.

### Mandatory Service Men and Women – Data

- 19% of enlisted soldiers are combat soldiers.
- 4% of combat soldiers are officers.
- 15% of enlisted combat soldiers are women.
- 39% of all women in the IDF serve in non-combat units

### Selection and Classification – Multi-year Work Plan

A central mission of the Personnel Directorate is to ensure that soldiers are assigned correctly to positions that match their personal abilities and characteristics.

This year, the **Selection and Classification Multi-year Work Plan** that was built based on lessons learned over the course of several years was finally instituted. This plan was designed with the aim to make the assignment process of enlisted personnel more efficient by reducing the number of selection days and consolidating them into one with the day of the "First Order" (the very first occasion a candidate personally encounters the military).

The professional accreditation for mandatory service men and women was further expanded, allowing more and more candidates complete their Bachelor's degree prior to enlisting. These soldiers were later assigned to positions based on their academic field of study as part of what is known as the long standing "Atuda Program" (Academic Reserve program).





### **Unique Populations**

This year has seen an increase in the recruitment of soldiers from what are classified as Unique Populations such as new immigrants, minority groups and disadvantaged backgrounds. This successful integration manifests itself, among other ways, in the upsurge of soldiers of these circumstances completing Officers' Training Course. The IDF offers deeper support and encouragement during and after their service in order to strengthen their motivation to serve and continue to succeed after their release.

### **Career Service**

A great emphasis was put specifically on the wages of career service men and women. One of the main changes implemented was raising salaries of new career soldiers while adding a salary factor for those who've completed Officers' Training Course as opposed to the past when an increase in pay was reflected once the mandatory portion of their service was over.

Incentives and grants were awarded to career officers under the rank of Major. Furthermore, new academic courses targeting officers wearing the rank of LTC and above were made available as well. This program has helped encourage long-term service, as demonstrated by the all-time record of 46 women ranking Colonel (in active duty).

### **Reserved Service**

Much attention was given to honoring Reserves whose service is recognized by the IDF as critical. Reserve soldiers were thus rewarded with additional remunerations.

Reservists were acknowledged in a variety of events in the Knesset as well as their respective units.

In the training field, reserve soldiers were given the opportunity to take part in an officers' course while others carried out their service in routine operational deployment according to the annual training and readiness plan.

### **Individual Welfare Services**

The Individual Welfare Services Program ("Maatefet Prat") has undergone several important improvements this year. "Mofet", the IDF's financial branch, sent its representatives to 35 units



(thus far since June) in order to offer assistance to both enlisted and career soldiers faced with financial challenges.

### Digital

Keeping with the times and the demand they impose, the IDF has and will continue its efforts to innovate and constantly improve the accessibility to information and online services for both **Candidates for Mandatory Service** and **Current Service Men and Women**, career and enlisted.

**Candidates for Mandatory Service** can enjoy the use of "Recruitment Online", a website specifically geared towards this audience, providing them with both general information and personal tools such as scanned documents upload tools, reviews, calendar updates, personal data and more.

**Current Service Men and Women**, career and enlisted can find all of their financial data, online forms and more, as well as make use of the educational content bank designed to assist commanders and Education Corps staff relay educational content and schedule related activities on base.

**In conclusion**, 2018 was a year that laid the foundations for profound changes designed to improve the personal services offered to the individual soldier both on and offline with the overall goal to make their military contribution one of great significance both to the IDF itself and to the single soldier as well.



## J6 & Cyber Defense Directorate

Over the last year, the main focus of the J6 and Cyber Defense Directorate was the establishment of the Joint Cyber Defense Division (JCCD). The J6 worked on designing and writing the doctrine of how to operate the organization with its new mission, and after being tested in one of the IDF's joint staff exercises, was approved to be the 10<sup>th</sup> operational command of the IDF responsible for leading operational campaigns and the digital domain.

During the year, we faced extreme challenges on the Spectrum and Radio Frequency Domain. Due to the massive use of high frequency capabilities all over the region, in some cases, there were events where the IDF was attacked by small electronic warfare capabilities. In other cases, there were events caused by smart high frequency capabilities used outside of Israel's borders that influenced the civil sector, leading the IDF to undertake joint coordination efforts to reduce the confliction in that domain.

In terms of technology, the directorate implemented the Network Centric IDF Programming (NCIP) that will provide a cloud for all operational users and services. Also, it implemented its own secure military cellular, a new military android that will provide secure operational procedures and applications for tactical use on a secure network.

Human resources is the solid ground of a technological organization; without them, no invention will be implemented and no new technology will be provided to the forces. During 2018, we continued training and recruiting men and women to the technological fields of Cyber Defense, to be electronic engineers, and to work as Signal and Communication Operators that work at the tactical level in a company or battalion.

During 2018, the IDF started the process of joint cyber defense trainings in its cyber range and simulator. The cyber range which operates under the J6 and cyber defense directorate gives the IDF the ability to train allies and friends shoulder to shoulder, keyboard to keyboard, on cyber defense challenges. Furthermore, the IDF joint cyber defense division is taking part in a variety of international joint exercises and trainings that deal with the cyber threats and challenges.

“  
During 2018, the main focus of the J6 and Cyber Defense Directorate was the establishment of the Joint Cyber Defense Division (JCCD)  
”



# IDF's Annual Report

**FY 2018**

