

Threat Tactics Report:

Hizballah



TRADOC G-2 ACE Threats Integration

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Executive Summary

- Hizballah is recognized as both a political group and a terrorist insurgent group, based in Lebanon, that has been active for over 30 years; it now operates globally, with its focus still on Israel and the Syrian opposition.
- Hizballah aligns itself with Iran and Syria, and against Israel. Its recent, direct involvement in Syria has tarnished Hizballah's reputation among its followers in Lebanon.
- Parts of Beirut and the southern areas of Lebanon serve as Hizballah's base, where it has remained active and armed with cooperation from the local population of Lebanon, and actively participates within the Lebanese government.
- Hizballah has evolved through successful practices in financing, recruiting, logistics, and training.
- The Hizballah brand is pervasive and effective, particularly for recruiting or simply garnering support from the population, especially to rally Lebanese against Israel.

This (U) **Threat Tactics Report (TTR)** was produced in accordance with (U) *Intelligence Community Directive Number 203: Analytical Standards* (Effective: Jan 2015). This TTR was coordinated with:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon S. Cleaves', is positioned above the name and title.

Jon S. Cleaves
Director, TRADOC G-2 ACE Threats Integration

Cover photo: [Hizballah fighters](#), 2013.



Introduction

In May 2016, Hizballah found reason to declare renewed energy in its self-proclaimed fight against one of its enemies: the insurgents who oppose its Syrian ally, President Bashar al-Assad. One of Hizballah's commanders, Mustafa Amine Badreddine, was killed in an artillery attack allegedly conducted by insurgents in Syria. Hizballah has been fighting these insurgents for four years now, with a significant presence in Syria. However, there was speculation that Israel may have conducted the artillery attack, and so far there is no proof or claim that an insurgent group did in fact launch the artillery shells. It is likely that, if a group such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) killed a senior Hizballah commander, it would claim responsibility. No group has done so, leaving many to speculate about what really happened.



Figure 1. Mustafa Badreddine

Notably, Badreddine was believed to be one of the masterminds behind the attacks that brought Hizballah onto the United States' radar over 30 years ago. During a comparatively tranquil period in October 1983, when US forces were stationed in Lebanon on a peacekeeping mission while that country endured a civil war that lasted from 1975 to 1990, a Shia Lebanese man drove a truck full of explosives into the US Marine Corps battalion headquarters building located in Beirut. At nearly the same time, the French Multinational Force building suffered a similar attack. Two hundred ninety-nine people perished, 241 of whom were Americans. These two attacks were tied to an earlier attack in April that same year on the US Embassy (killing 17 Americans and 63 people in total) and then a bombing on the US Embassy annex 11 months later, which killed 24 people. The militant group Hizballah was clearly behind the attacks—in two cases an operative claimed responsibility for the attacks—and the method of crashing an explosives-laden truck into a building quickly became a trademark of the group.

The "movement" of Hizballah published an open letter in 1985 calling for the destruction of Israel, claiming that the country's people occupied Muslim territory, and further pinpointed both the US and the Soviet Union as Islam's nemeses.¹ The threat of Hizballah is significant for many reasons—it has smartly grown in strength through substantial funding, effective tactics, and consistent recruiting. This report will present the ways in which Hizballah remains a threat to the US and its allies.

NOTE. *Hizballah* will be used as the default spelling in this report as it is used by the US Department of State, but other spellings will be present in quotes from other works. Several different spellings are recognized and are in use by the US government, other countries' governments, intelligence communities, scholarly/academic organizations, and various news sites, such as *Hezbollah*, *Hizbollah*, and *Hizbu'llah*.



Section 1: Hizballah's Purpose

Hizballah is both a military and a political organization that the US Department of State designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization on 8 October 1997.² The European Union applied the terrorist label on 22 July 2013, citing the group's involvement in the conflict in Syria and the bus bombing in Bulgaria that killed five Israelis and one Bulgarian in 2012.³ Israel, Gulf Arab countries, and the Arab League have given Hizballah the same designation just this year (2016).⁴ Based out of Lebanon's Shia-dominated regions—areas in Beirut, southern Lebanon, and the Bekaa Valley—Hizballah's terrorist activities have had global reach for over three decades. The word Hizballah, meaning "party of God," encapsulates the group's justification to establish an Islamic state in Lebanon and Israel and to conduct genocide against Jews. Hizballah embraces an extremist understanding of Shia Islam as propagated by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran. Hasan Nasrallah, Hizballah's Secretary General, stated, "If all the Jews were gathered in Israel, it would save us the trouble of going after them world-wide," and has declared "an open war until the elimination of Israel and until the death of the last Jew on earth."⁵ Iran and Syria contribute significantly to Hizballah's existence and ability to remain strongly-armed.

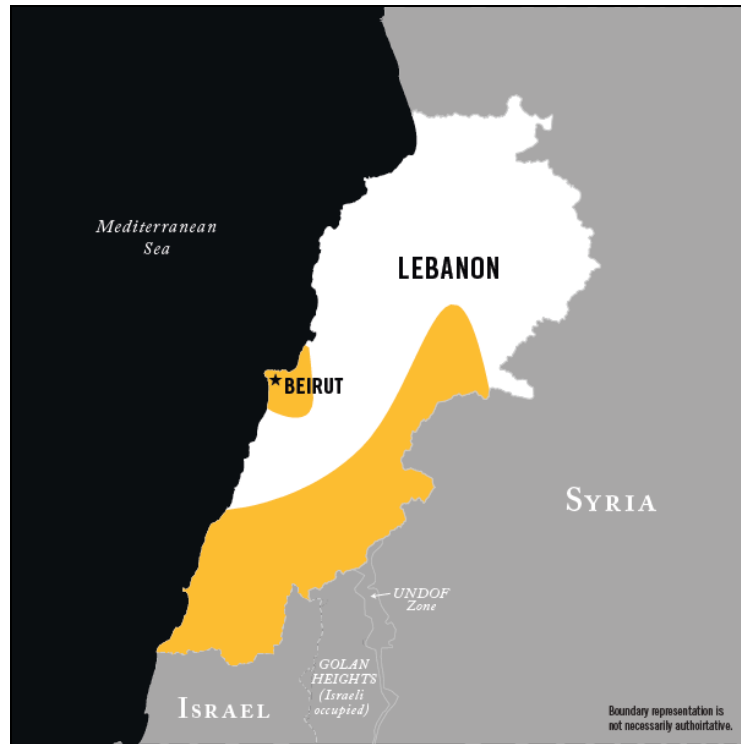


Figure 2. Hizballah locations (in yellow) according to NCTC

Through terrorist and guerrilla-type activities, Hizballah targets anyone it deems as interfering with its mission, primarily Israelis and Jews, but also any nation that allies itself with Israel, to include the United States. Notable historic attacks against the US include the suicide truck bombings of the US Embassy in Beirut in April 1983, the US Marine Corps barracks in Beirut in October 1983, and the US Embassy annex in Beirut in September 1984, as well as the hijacking of TWA flight 847 in 1985 and the 1996 attack on the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. Hizballah operatives exist throughout the world, so its ability to conduct attacks is ubiquitous, especially considering that one of its tactics is to employ suicide bombers—as it did in the deadly attack against the US Embassy in Beirut in 1983 and continues to do today. In 1983, one man acting on behalf of Hizballah killed 299 people, mostly Americans, in a matter of minutes. Since then, Hizballah has grown in size and influence, but successfully employs the same tactics—along with others that are more sophisticated—that it did three decades ago.



Strategy and Goals

According to Hizballah's 1985 platform, the conflict with Israel "is not only limited to the IDF [Israeli Defense Force] presence in Lebanon" but to "the complete destruction of the State of Israel and the establishment of Islamic rule over Jerusalem."⁶ It is widely accepted that Hizballah developed as a result of the Israeli invasion into Lebanon in the early 1980s, and has involved itself with the Lebanese government since the 1990s as a means for retaining its presence in the country and controlling policy that enables its safe haven. Furthermore, Hizballah has endeared itself to many of the people of Lebanon by providing schools, medical facilities, and the like to garner popular support, particularly in the southern regions of the country. According to the US National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), Hizballah has used its militants to take control of areas of Beirut, and ultimately gained veto power in 2008 during negotiations with the Lebanese government to end the violence it caused. This power allows Hizballah to retain its weapons and capabilities for secure communications.⁷

Of note, though, are some changes to Hizballah's strategy and goals after the significant 33-day war with Israel in the summer of 2006. At that time, Hizballah's operations were primarily defensive and it fought that war on its own turf, in familiar terrain long-occupied in southern Lebanon. Its more recent operations in Syria have caused the group to adapt to more offensive operations in unfamiliar terrain in the unfamiliar territory of Syria, as compared to its strongholds in Lebanon. Hizballah has adapted well to these changes, taking on a more-conventional look and more-conventional tactics. While this broadens Hizballah's skill-set, the retention of guerrilla-style tactics is important for future battles in Israel. Nasrallah has publicly stated that Hizballah intends to attack northern Israel, which is a change from the 2006 conflict when it fired rockets over the border and baited Israel into Lebanon.

Despite some changes over time, Hizballah's philosophy that guides its actions has largely remained the same. Early on, Hizballah desired to inflict mass casualties easily—via suicide bombers and rockets, for instance—but as it has attained greater capabilities and experience, its operations have become more complex. Regardless, Hizballah's "13 Principles of War" have held true over the decades.⁸

Hizballah's 13 Principles of War

- Avoid the strong, attack the weak—attack and withdrawal!
- Protecting our fighters is more important than causing enemy casualties!
- Strike only when success is assured!
- Surprise is essential to success. If you are spotted, you have failed!
- Don't get into a set-piece battle. Slip away like smoke, before the enemy can drive home his advantage!
- Attaining the goal demands patience, in order to discover the enemy's weak points!
- Keep moving; avoid formation of a front line!
- Keep the enemy on constant alert, at the front and in the rear!
- The road to the great victory passes through thousands of small victories!
- Keep up the morale of the fighters; avoid notions of the enemy's superiority!
- The media has innumerable guns whose hits are like bullets. Use them in the battle!
- The population is a treasure—nurture it!
- Hurt the enemy and then stop before he abandons restraint!

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Furthermore, Naim Qassem, Hizballah's Deputy Secretary General, describes two of Hizballah's primary goals as [translated from his words]:

1. Confusing the enemy and obliging its command to call for a constant state of alert, eventually leading to the exhaustion and decline in power.
2. Spreading panic among enemy troops, the fear of death persisted after every successful or possible resistance attack. This served to shake enemy morale and subsequently affected troop performance."⁹

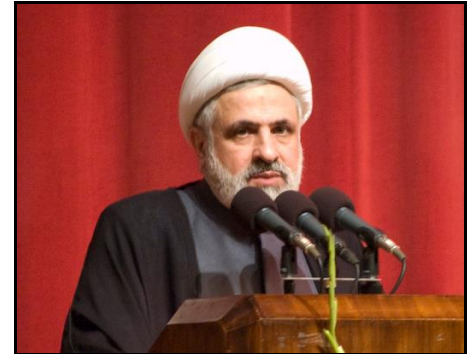


Figure 3. Naim Qassem

Key Alliances

Hizballah's alliances are strong and effective. The most obvious is the state sponsorship it receives from Iran and Syria, who enable the group by providing money and weapons. Lebanon indirectly supports Hizballah by allowing it to infiltrate its government and through its poor control of many regions of the country where Hizballah has been allowed to occupy and pseudo-govern. Most recently, Russia has entered the mix through its relationship with the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and Syria.

Iran

Iran is the most notorious and direct sponsor of Hizballah, and their relationship has endured for decades. The money and weapons Iran provides to Hizballah are a critical element of Hizballah's strength and power, and Hizballah acts on Iran's behalf. UN Security Council Resolution 1701 officially ended the 2006 war between Israel and Hizballah and banned the arming of any militia in Lebanon, yet Hizballah and Iran have blatantly ignored this and other similar resolutions banning weapons shipments.¹⁰ "Iran has provided hundreds of millions of dollars in support of Hizballah in Lebanon and has trained thousands of its fighters at camps in Iran. These trained fighters often use these skills in support of the Assad regime in Syria."¹¹ Iran and Hizballah have also worked together to train and advise militants in Iraq on advanced weapons and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), in order to create more effective fighters in support of Assad.¹² Hizballah would effectively not exist without Iran.

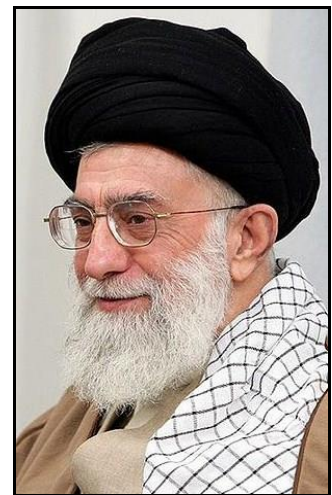


Figure 4. Supreme leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei

Lebanon

"In the next few years, as many as two-thirds of the nations around the world are at risk, to one degree or another, for instability, in what I see as a subtle erosion of the nation-state system. And we'll have little to no warning of where or when a regime change or government collapse might happen."¹³

The Honorable James R. Clapper, Director of National Intelligence

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Hizballah and Lebanon are not so much allies as Hizballah is a Shia political group within Lebanon with an active role in its government, at least since the early 1990s. Political control allows Hizballah military elements to remain stationed in Lebanon and to operate freely. Lebanon's government acquiesced to a power-sharing agreement with Hizballah in 2008 after a failed attempt to shut down the group's private telecommunications network and firing the security chief at the Beirut airport, who allegedly had ties to the group.¹⁴ Hizballah's response nearly resulted in another Sunni-Shia civil war, as it attacked Sunni groups and took hold of significant portions of the capital city. By 2009, Hizballah occupied 10 parliamentary seats and has exercised considerable control of the government ever since.¹⁵ Hizballah successfully garners popular support of Shias in Lebanon by providing social services, namely through schools, hospitals, and mosques.¹⁶



Figure 5. Map and flag of Lebanon

The weaknesses of the Lebanese government have enabled Hizballah to control parts of Lebanon's border with Israel and Syria and to conduct unmonitored security operations there. These border regions have become safe havens over the last few years for other threat groups, such as ISIL and al-Nusrah Front, because the Lebanese government does not have the resources to reach into some of the mountainous terrain. Lebanon is trying to remove these groups, though. The Lebanese Internal Security Forces and Lebanese Air Force are working with the US to receive training and equipment. The benefit of these porous borders to Iran, Syria, and threat groups is the ease with which these actors can move weapons and equipment. There is an effort underway with the US Department of State's Export Control and Related Border Security program to strengthen border security in support of Lebanon.¹⁷

At the time of the publication of this report, Hizballah remains successful in maintaining a political void in Lebanon by interfering with the country's election of a president since the last president's term expired in 2014. Since that time, Hizballah has publically claimed it wants a particular candidate, Michel Aoun, founder of the Free Patriotic Movement, to be president. However, other analysts claim that Hizballah really prefers the presidency to remain empty. Currently, Hizballah and the members of the Free Patriotic Movement refuse to attend parliamentary sessions to elect a president unless the Sunni party known as the Future Movement agrees to endorse Aoun.¹⁸ Regardless of Hizballah's actual intent, the circumstances are in its favor, as its freedom is not challenged within a governance vacuum.

Syria

The US designated the Assad regime as a State Sponsor of Terrorism in 1979, almost 40 years ago. The regime supports several terrorist groups, and specifically supports Hizballah politically and via provision of weapons. Syria has a mutually-supportive relationship with Iran who,



Figure 6. Syrian president Bashar al-Assad

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along with Hizballah, helps in its fight against the Syrian opposition.¹⁹ The intricate relationship that exists between Iran, Syria, and Hizballah has resulted in Hizballah providing an estimated 5,000 fighters that serve on the side of the Assad regime.²⁰ "Statements supporting terrorist groups, particularly Hizballah, were often in Syrian Government speeches and press statements."²¹ In addition, the Syrian airport in Damascus is a transportation hub for weapons from Iran to Hizballah.²²

Russia

Russia's involvement with the IRGC and Syria has naturally spread to Hizballah. It is known that Russian officials met with the commander of the IRGC in July 2015, but it is likely that this was not the first incident suggesting some type of coordination. Since then, Syria has purchased advanced anti-ship and surface-to-air missiles from Russia, which could end up in the hands of Hizballah if they have not already. Furthermore, reports indicate the formation of joint operations centers between Russia, Iran, and Hizballah.²³ Although not yet explicit, if a formal agreement arose between Russia and Hizballah, that would further bolster the group's protections and strengths against Israel.

Organizational Size and Structure

Terrorist organization, insurgency, resistance movement, militia, guerrilla force: these are all accurate terms to describe Hizballah and its actions. Nasrallah himself has described it as a "new model" army, stating, "It was not a regular army but was not a guerrilla army in the traditional sense either. It was something in between."²⁴ Hizballah has also shown the ability to employ conventional tactics, as clearly displayed in the 2006 war against Israel. It finds strength and success in this flexibility of tactics and variety of actors who either actively participate in or support the organization. "Insurgents are armed and/or unarmed individuals or groups who promote an agenda of subversion and violence that seeks to overthrow or force change of a governing authority. They can transition between subversion and violence dependent on specific conditions. Both types of action intend to disrupt a governing authority. They gradually undermine the confidence of a relevant population in a governing authority's ability to provide and justly administer civil law, order, and stability. Insurgents can achieve their aims without violence, but this is not the norm."²⁵ Joint Publication 3-24, *Counterinsurgency Operations*, states that irregular forces are armed individuals or groups who are not members of the regular armed forces, police, or other internal security forces.²⁶ Furthermore, irregular forces can be insurgents, guerrillas, criminal organizations, or any combination thereof.²⁷ By these definitions and behaviors, Hizballah is an evolved irregular threat.

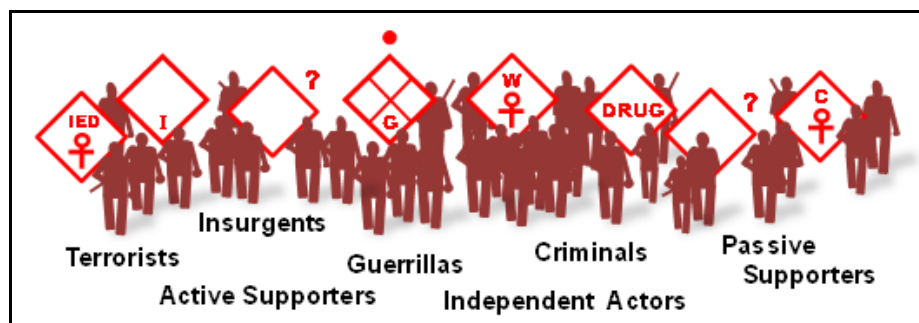


Figure 7. Irregular force actors as depicted in TC 7-100.3, *Irregular Opposing Forces*

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The US Department of State estimates that Hizballah has thousands of members and several hundred terrorist operatives, plus thousands more supporters.²⁸ Specifically, it is estimated that Hizballah has at least 7,000 fighters with extensive training, augmented by as many as 10,000 reserve forces.²⁹

Although strongly influenced by Iran, Hizballah has its own leadership structure and governing body. Hizballah is led by a Consultative Council (*Majlis al Shura*) of seven members. This council selects the group's secretary general—currently Hassan Nasrallah, who has held the post since 1992. Five subcouncils manage the following segments of Hizballah's activities:

- Political Assembly: relations with political figures in Lebanon and regional countries
- Jihad Assembly: recruiting, education and training, command and control, intelligence, materiel for resistance activities
- Parliamentary Assembly: support for elected officials and their constituents
- Executive Assembly: social and educational activity management, political party management
- Judicial Assembly: conflict resolution and religious rulings for members

Self-sufficient cells perform various missions, and the military wing is often referred to simply as the Islamic Resistance.³⁰

Hizballah Leadership ³¹	
Founder	Ali Akbar Motashemi
Secretary General	Hasan Nasrallah, current Abbas Musawi (killed 16 Feb 1992 in car bombing in Southern Lebanon)
Deputy Secretary General	Naim Qassem
Spiritual Leader	Mohammad Fadlallah (deceased 4 July 2010)
Advisor to Nasrallah	Hussein al-Khalil
Senior Military Commander	Mustafa Badreddine (killed 10 May 2016)

Over the years, Hizballah's leadership and prominent members have come under attack and have either been killed or been accused of crimes. Several have sought refuge in unknown locations. Despite deaths and legal actions, Hizballah manages to continue its operations and rebuild its organization as needed. And, often when action is taken against one of its members, Nasrallah uses the incident to declare renewed purpose in the fight against Israel. The US National Counterterrorism Center provides several examples:

In July 2011 the UN Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) indicted four Hizballah members—including a senior Hizballah official—for the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who was killed by a car-bomb in Beirut on 14 February 2005. Hizballah leader Hasan Nasrallah has publicly stated that Hizballah will not allow any members to be arrested, and continues to paint the STL as a proxy of Israel and the United States.

In February 2008, Hizballah's military chief 'Imad Mughniyah was killed by a vehicle bomb in Damascus. Nasrallah publicly blamed Israel and continues to promise retaliation. Additionally, Hasan al-Laqis, a senior Hizballah military leader, was shot and killed outside his home on 3 December 2013. Hizballah accused Israel of responsibility



for the killing, although Tel Aviv denied involvement. Two unknown extremist factions issued statements claiming responsibility for the killing.

Since Mughniyah's death, the group has engaged in its most aggressive terrorist campaign targeting Israeli interests outside the Middle East since the 1990s. In July 2012, Hizballah detonated a bomb on a bus in Burgas, Bulgaria, killing five Israeli tourists and a Bulgarian. Several other plots have been disrupted, including the 2014 arrests of operatives in Peru and Thailand and the 2015 discovery of an explosives cache and identification of an operative in Cyprus.

Nasrallah publicly indicated in May 2013 that Hizballah was supporting Bashar al-Assad's regime by sending fighters to Syria, including Iraqi Shia militias. The group also supports Palestinian rejectionist groups in their struggle against Israel and provides training for Iraqi Shia militants attacking Western interests in Iraq. The European Union designated Hizballah's military wing as a terrorist organization on 22 July 2013, following the March conviction that year of a Hizballah member in Cyprus, the July 2012 bus bombing in Bulgaria, and the group's intervention in Syria.³²

The clear pattern is that any action taken against Hizballah will be used by its leadership to the group's advantage. Nasrallah and other Hizballah spokesmen will use information warfare strategies to ensure that Israel is almost always blamed, regardless of who is truly responsible, in order to strengthen their justification to fight Israel.

Hizballah's Recruiting

Hizballah's popularity following the 2006 conflict with Israel resulted in thousands of people signing up to join the movement, which was viewed at that time as a national resistance movement, although since this it has grown significantly in strength and sophistication. Its popularity has waned recently because of mixed feelings from followers and former leaders on its involvement in Syria. An article in *Foreign Policy* declared that 70,000 students recently graduated from the Imam al-Mahdi Scouts, Hizballah's youth organization.³³ Additionally, there are allegedly seven Hizballah training camps throughout Lebanon currently in operation. Hizballah's ability to recruit is often tied to its social welfare efforts in Lebanon. It provides education and schools, but uses the students as a personnel pool from which to draw recruits.



Figure 8. Twitter post demonstrates condemnation of Hizballah's fighting in Syria



Hizballah's Fundraising

According to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and the TRADOC G-2 ACE Threats Integration [Irregular Forces Financing Handbook](#) (2012), Hizballah likely operates with about \$200 million annually, almost entirely provided by Iran. In addition to funds it receives from Iran and Syria, Hizballah's revenue streams are diverse. Criminal activities include money laundering, counterfeiting, cigarette smuggling, drug trafficking, kidnapping, and illegal arms trading. Hizballah also conducts fundraising for "charities" that retain their contributions, and extorts an income from legitimate businesses owned by or associated with it.³⁴ The TRADOC G-2 ACE-TI [handbook](#) from 2012 contains more detail on Hizballah's funding.

Of note, though, is Hizballah's association with drug cartels in Latin America. A former US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) operations chief stated that Hizballah has one of the "most sophisticated money laundering scheme or schemes that we have ever witnessed."³⁵ The group reportedly successfully transports tons of cocaine from South American locations like Colombia to Europe. The DEA captured and arrested several Hizballah operatives for drug trafficking in February 2016.³⁶

Current Locations

Hizballah, as previously discussed, is based in Lebanon and operates heavily in Lebanon, Israel, and Syria. However, it must be understood that the organization is expansive and has personnel and

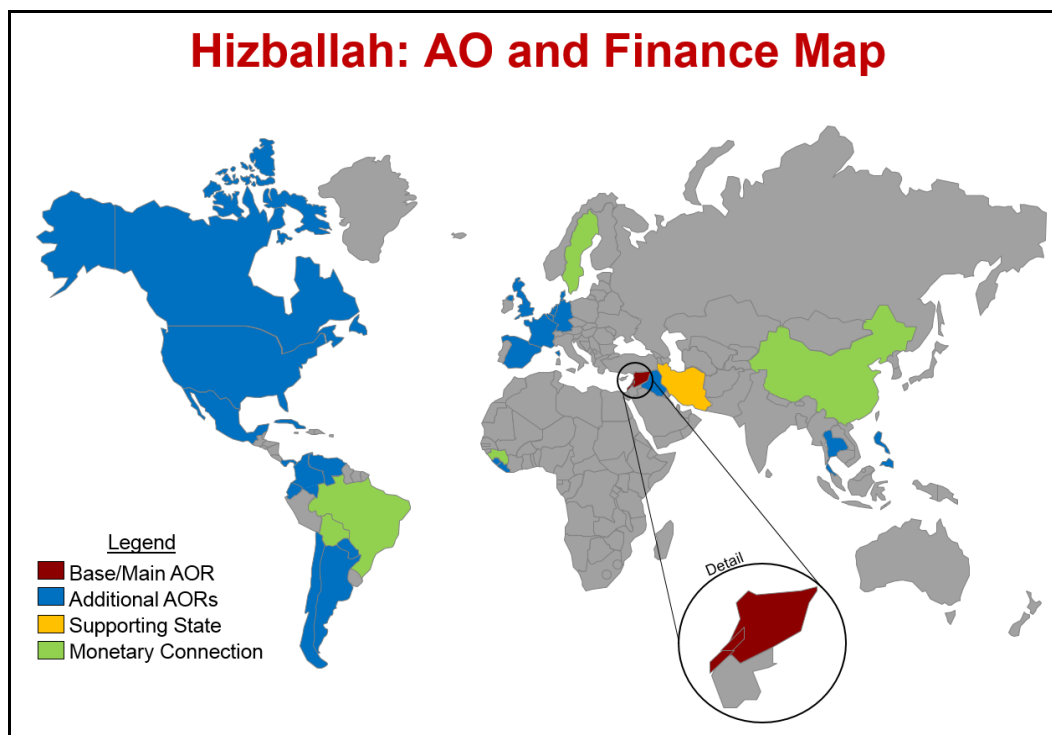


Figure 9. Hizballah's areas of operations



connections across multiple continents and regions. Figure 9 shows a simplified depiction of Hizballah's main base of operations in Lebanon (in red), its primary state sponsor, Iran (in yellow), and multiple areas of operation and areas of funding (blue and green). The blue and green areas are quite extensive, and show not only the location of Hizballah operatives, but also monetary and other sponsorship connections. An extensive report on the group's funding was produced by TRADOC G-2 ACE Threats Integration in 2012 and can be found on the Army Training Network here: [Irregular Forces Financing Handbook](#).

Section 2: Hizballah's Tactics and Techniques

Hizballah uses a variety of regular and irregular tactics and techniques to fight its enemies that include rocket attacks, suicide bombings, kidnappings, and information warfare (INFOWAR) to gain the goodwill and support of the citizens of Lebanon. A quick review of the timeline below demonstrates the breadth of types of attacks Hizballah has perpetrated since 1982. Targets include civilians, military forces, political leaders, airplanes, and embassies of several countries, to include the United States. Anyone Hizballah perceives as against its mission of establishing an Islamic caliphate is at risk.

Timeline of Violent/Terrorist Actions and Significant Events³⁷

- 1982:** Israel invades Lebanon to drive out the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) terrorist army, which had frequently attacked Israel from its informal "state-within-a-state" in southern Lebanon. Hizballah, a Shiite group inspired by the teachings and revolution of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, is created with the assistance of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. The group is called Hizballah—"Party of God"—after initially taking responsibility for attacks under the name "Islamic Jihad." (This title is not to be confused with the Palestinian terror organization Islamic Jihad.)
- 19 July 1982:** The president of the American University in Beirut, Davis S. Dodge, is kidnapped. Hizballah is reported to be behind this and most of the other 30 Westerners kidnapped over the next ten years.
- 18 April 1983:** Hizballah attacks the US Embassy in Beirut with a car bomb, killing 63 people, 17 of whom were American citizens.
- 23 October 1983:** The group attacks a US Marine Corps barracks with a truck bomb, killing 241 American military personnel stationed in Beirut as part of a peace-keeping force. A separate attack against the French military compound in Beirut kills 58.
- 20 September 1984:** The group attacks the US Embassy Annex in Beirut with a car bomb, killing two Americans and 22 others.
- 16 March 1984:** William F. Buckley, a CIA operative working at the US embassy in Beirut, is kidnapped and later murdered.
- 12 April 1984:** Hizballah attacks a restaurant near the US Air Force Base in Torrejon, Spain. The bombing kills 18 US servicemen and injures 83 people.
- 4 December 1984:** Hizballah terrorists hijack a Kuwait Airlines plane. Four passengers are murdered, including two Americans.
- 16 February 1985:** Hizballah publicizes its manifesto. It notes that the group's struggle will continue until Israel is destroyed and rejects any ceasefire or peace treaty with Israel. The document also attacks the US and France.

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- 14 June 1985:** Hizballah terrorists hijack TWA flight 847. The hijackers severely beat passenger Robert Stethem, a US Navy diver, before killing him and dumping his body onto the tarmac at the Beirut airport. Other passengers are held as hostages before being released on 30 June.
- 31 December 1986:** Under the alias "Organization of the Oppressed on Earth," Hizballah announces it has kidnapped and murdered three Lebanese Jews. The organization had previously taken responsibility for killing four other Jews since 1984.
- 17 February 1988:** The group kidnaps LTC William Higgins, a US Marine serving with a United Nations truce-monitoring group in Lebanon, and later murders him.
- 22 October 1989:** Members of the dissolved Lebanese parliament ratify the Taif Agreement. Although the agreement calls for the "disbanding of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias," Hizballah remains active.
- 16 February 1992:** Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah takes over Hizballah after Israel kills the group's leader, Abbas Musawi.
- 17 March 1992:** With the help of Iranian intelligence, Hizballah bombs the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 29 and injuring over 200.
- 18 July 1994:** Hizballah bombs the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires—again with Iranian help—killing 86 and injuring over 200.
- 28 November 1995:** Hizballah bombards towns in northern Israel with volleys of Katyusha rockets in one of the group's numerous attacks on Israeli civilians.
- 30 March 1996:** Hizballah fires 28 Katyusha rockets into northern Israeli towns. A week later, the group fires 16 rockets, injuring 36 Israelis. Israel responds with a major offensive, known as the "Grapes of Wrath" operation, to stop Hizballah rocket fire.
- 19 August 1997:** Hizballah opens fire on northern Israel with dozens of rockets in one of the group's numerous attacks on Israeli civilians.
- October 1997:** The United States lists Hizballah as a terrorist organization.
- 28 December 1998:** Hizballah opens fire on civilians in northern Israel with dozens of rockets.
- 17 May 1999:** Hizballah again opens fire on northern Israel with dozens of rockets in one of the group's numerous attacks on Israeli civilians.
- 24 June 1999:** Hizballah opens fire on northern Israel, killing two.
- 23 May 2000:** Israel withdraws all troops from Lebanon after 18 years patrolling the "security zone"—a strip of land in the south of the country—which was set up to prevent attacks on northern Israel.
- June 2000:** United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan certifies Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. Shortly thereafter, the UN Security Council endorses Annan's report. Hizballah nonetheless alleges Israel occupies Lebanon, claiming the small Shebba Farms area Israel captured from Syria during the 1967 war as Lebanese territory.
- 7 October 2000:** Hizballah attacks an Israeli military post and raids Israel, kidnapping three Israeli soldiers. The soldiers are later assumed dead. In mid-October, Hizballah leader Nasrallah announces the group has also kidnapped an Israeli businessman. In 2004, Israel frees over 400 Arab prisoners in exchange for the businessman and the bodies of the three soldiers.
- 1 March 2001:** The British government adds Hizballah's "military wing" to its list of outlawed terrorist organizations.
- 9 April 2002:** Hizballah launches Katyushas into a northern Israeli town. This assault comes amidst almost-daily Hizballah attacks against Israeli troops in Shebba Farms.
- 11 December 2002:** Canada lists Hizballah as a terrorist organization.

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- 10 August 2003:** Hizballah shells kill a 16-year-old Israeli boy and wound others.
- 5 June 2003:** Australia lists Hizballah's "military wing" as a terrorist organization.
- 2 September 2004:** United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 calls for "the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias," a reference to Hizballah.
- December 2004:** Both the United States and France ban Hizballah's satellite television network, al-Manar. A US State Department spokesman notes the channel "preaches violence and hatred."
- 10 March 2005:** The European Parliament overwhelmingly passes a resolution stating: "Parliament considers that clear evidence exists of terrorist activities by Hizballah. The (EU) Council should take all necessary steps to curtail them." The European Union nonetheless refrains from placing the group on its list of terror organizations.
- 12 July 2006:** Hizballah attacks Israel with Katyushas, crosses the border, and kidnaps two Israeli soldiers. Three Israeli soldiers are killed in the initial attack. Five more soldiers are killed as Israel launches operation to rescue the soldiers and push Hizballah from its border. During the ensuing war, Hizballah launches rockets at civilian targets across northern Israel.
- 11 August 2006:** The United Nations Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1701, which calls for a cessation of hostilities, the deployment of Lebanese and UN forces into southern Lebanon, and the disarmament of armed groups in Lebanon.
- 12 February 2008:** Hizballah member Imad Mughniyah, believed responsible for the 18 April 1983 bombing of the US Embassy in Beirut, is killed by a car bomb in Damascus.
- 4 July 2010:** Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual leader of Hizballah, dies in Beirut, Lebanon.
- 3 March 2011:** A bomb near Jerusalem's central bus station kills one and wounds 40; no immediate claim of responsibility.
- 12 March 2011:** The family of five settlers in Israel's West Bank are stabbed to death while in bed; no claim of responsibility.
- 18 July 2012:** A suicide bomber attacks a bus in Burgas, Bulgaria, killing six Israelis, one Bulgarian, and himself, and wounding more than 30 others; no claim of responsibility, but the Israeli prime minister blames Iran and Hizballah.
- 19 October 2012:** Lebanese Brigadier General Wissam al-Hassan is killed in downtown Beirut along with his driver and six others; 90 are wounded by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED).
- June 2013:** A number of people are killed in clashes between Hizballah gunmen and Syrian rebels within Lebanon.
- July 2013:** The European Union lists the military wing of Hizballah as a terrorist organization. This makes it illegal for Hizballah sympathizers in Europe to send the group money, and enables the freezing of the group's assets there.
- 15 August 2013:** A car bomb explodes in the Hizballah stronghold in Beirut, killing 18 people and wounding nearly 300 others, with Hizballah as the target.
- 4 December 2013:** In Hadath, Beirut, a senior Hizballah commander, Hassan Lakkis, is killed by several armed men at close range as he arrives home near midnight.
- 1 February 2014:** In Hermel, Bekaa Valley, northern Lebanon, a car bomb explodes; no casualties were reported.
- 18 January 2015:** In Quneitra, Syria, "Israel Strike" kills six Hizballah fighters in the Golan Heights.
- 28 January 2015:** Israel clashes with Hizballah fighters in Shebaa Farms and three are killed: two Israeli soldiers and a Spanish UN peacekeeper.
- 12 May 2016:** Mustafa Badreddine, a top Hizballah commander, is killed.



Over time, Hizballah has evolved into a more sophisticated threat. In the early 1980s, its goal seemed to be to inflict as many casualties as possible, so it often used the inexpensive and relatively easy technique of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs), often referred to as truck bombs. While this was effective, the acquisition of more sophisticated weapons and increased training enabled Hizballah to expand into a more comprehensive threat, with a greater breadth of capabilities. By the time of the 2006 War, Hizballah was defeating main battle tanks of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) with swarming attacks of antitank guided missiles (ATGMs) and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs). The results were that 20 tanks were penetrated, 40 were damaged, and 48 were hit out of 400 total tanks; 30 Israeli tank crewmen perished.³⁸ While this type of attack requires more weapons and equipment than a simpler VBIED, incidents like the one that occurred in 1983 demonstrate the truck bombs' persistence as a lethal weapon of choice. As recently as this year, a report in as-Safir newspaper claimed that tunnels recently dug by Hizballah have electricity and food stores sufficient to support fighters for weeks. Additionally, Hizballah has openly stated that it is actively preparing for its next confrontation with Israel, is placing rockets along the Israeli border, and has been tracking movement of IDF soldiers.³⁹

Offensive Tactics

This section highlights three distinct offensive tactics employed by Hizballah—the infamous Beirut suicide truck bomb against the US contingent of a Multinational Force (MNF) at Beirut International Airport on 23 October 1983, an attack that instigated the 2006 war, and an attack that occurred in 2014 in Damascus, Syria. These attacks demonstrate the versatility and evolution of this threat actor over time, and also provide material for trainers and scenario writers who need to represent realistic threats for training.

#1. Suicide Truck Bomb—23 October 1983: Hizballah assaults USMC HQ in Beirut, Lebanon⁴⁰

Hizballah conducted a suicide assault against the US contingent of an MNF at Beirut International Airport on 23 October 1983, with a truck loaded with the equivalent of over 12,000 pounds of TNT. US military forces, as part of an MNF composed of US, French, Italian, and—somewhat later—British Forces, were inserted into Lebanon as of 29 September 1982. This MNF operated in an increasingly-hostile environment with a difficult task of maintaining a peaceful presence as conditions deteriorated among warring factions of the region. A US Marine Corps (USMC) Battalion Landing Team (BLT) headquarters was located in a multi-story building at the Beirut International Airport. The suicide bombing of this headquarters building by Hizballah resulted in the deaths of 241 US military personnel and the wounding of over 100 other individuals.

The US DOD Commission report on the Beirut bombing, also called the Long Report, is the primary source for this account of the Hizballah assault and immediate aftermath. At approximately 0622 on Sunday, 23 October 1983, the USMC BLT headquarters building was destroyed by a terrorist suicide bomber in a stakebed truck loaded with explosives. Eyewitness accounts describe the truck driver as a young adult Caucasian male with black hair and mustache, and wearing a blue or green shirt that was open at the front. No other individuals were seen in the truck by the eyewitnesses. Other reports after the incident cite a similar truck observed at about 0500 entering the parking lot south of the BLT Headquarters building. This truck circled once, did not stop, and exited to the south.

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About an hour after the USMC BLT headquarters building was destroyed, a lone terrorist drove the stakebed truck through the public parking lot south of the headquarters building, accelerated quickly, and crashed over and through a barbed wire and concertina fence barrier. The truck raced past two guard posts, through an open gate, avoided one sewer pipe barrier, and sped between two other pipe barriers. The terrorist's truck flattened a sergeant of the guard's sandbagged booth at the building's entrance, penetrated the lobby of the building and suicide-detonated the explosives; the majority of the USMC occupants inside the building were unaware of the assault.

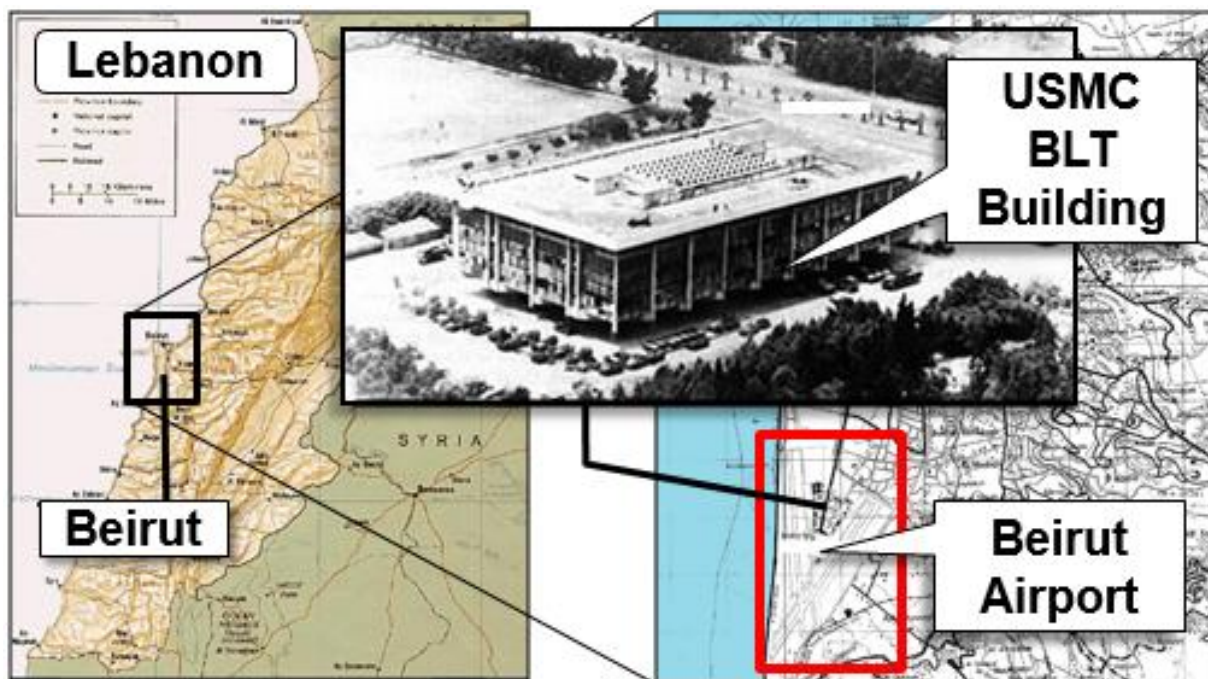


Figure 10. Beirut airport and USMC facility targeted by Hizballah

As a guard recognized the assault in progress, he inserted a magazine into his rifle, chambered a round, shouldered the weapon, and took aim, but did not fire because by that time the truck had already penetrated the building. The guard rules of engagement at the time did not allow loaded weapons. Several other individuals at ground level recognized the danger too late to counter the speeding truck and sought cover. The sergeant of the guard repeatedly yelled "Hit the deck! Hit the deck!" and glanced back over his shoulder as the driver continued into the building entrance with the truck bomb, stopped near the center of the open-area central lobby, and detonated.

The explosion caused the building foundation and pillars to fail, and the building collapsed upon itself. Almost all of the building occupants were crushed or trapped inside the wreckage. The dust and debris at the BLT headquarters created the effect of a dense fog and hampered immediate mass casualty actions and security measures. Almost simultaneously with the attack on the USMC BLT headquarters, a similar truck bomb exploded at the French MNF headquarters in Beirut.

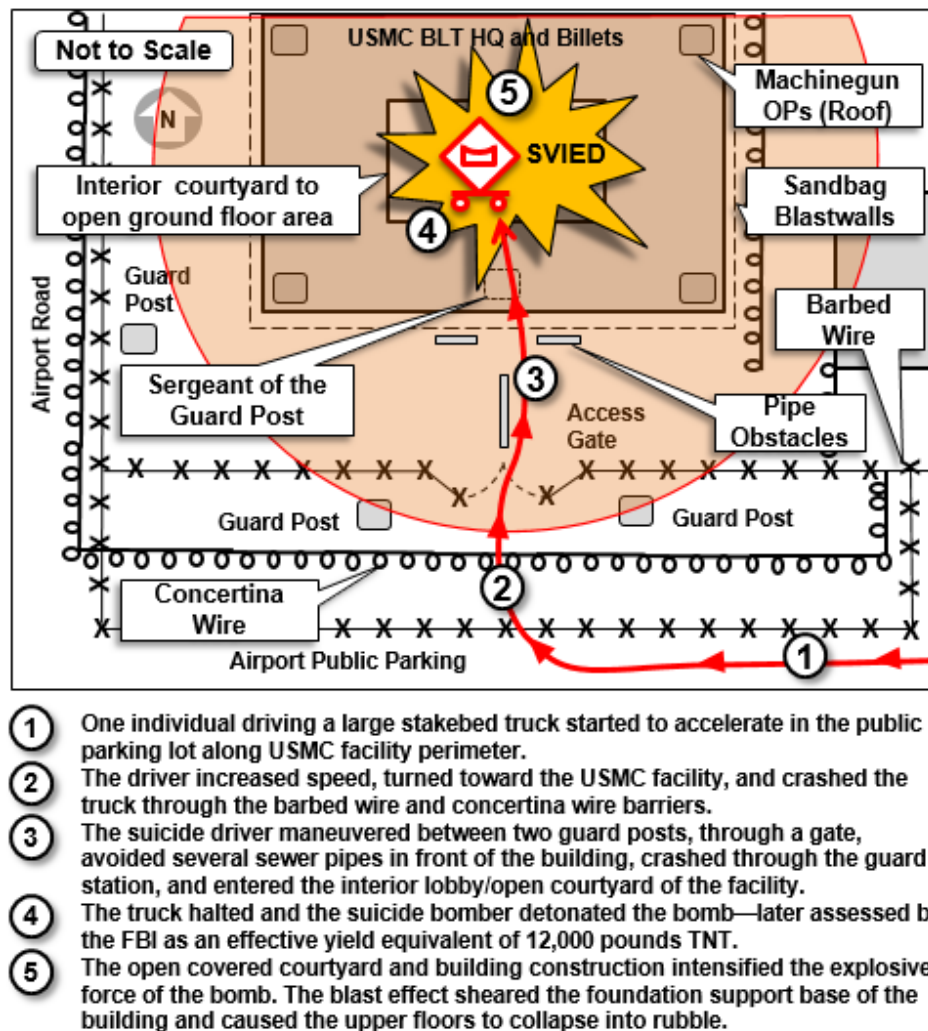


Figure 11. Hizballah suicide vehicle borne IED v. USMC facility (tactical diagram)

#2. Ambush—12 July 2006: Hizballah kidnaps two Israeli soldiers, instigating a 33-day war with Israel^{i 41}

On 12 July 2006, after several previous unsuccessful attempts, Hizballah fighters kidnapped two Israeli Defense Force (IDF) soldiers who were on patrol along the Lebanese border and killed three more. This event sparked a new war between these enemies after Hizballah drove Israelis out of Lebanon in 2000 after an 18-year-long

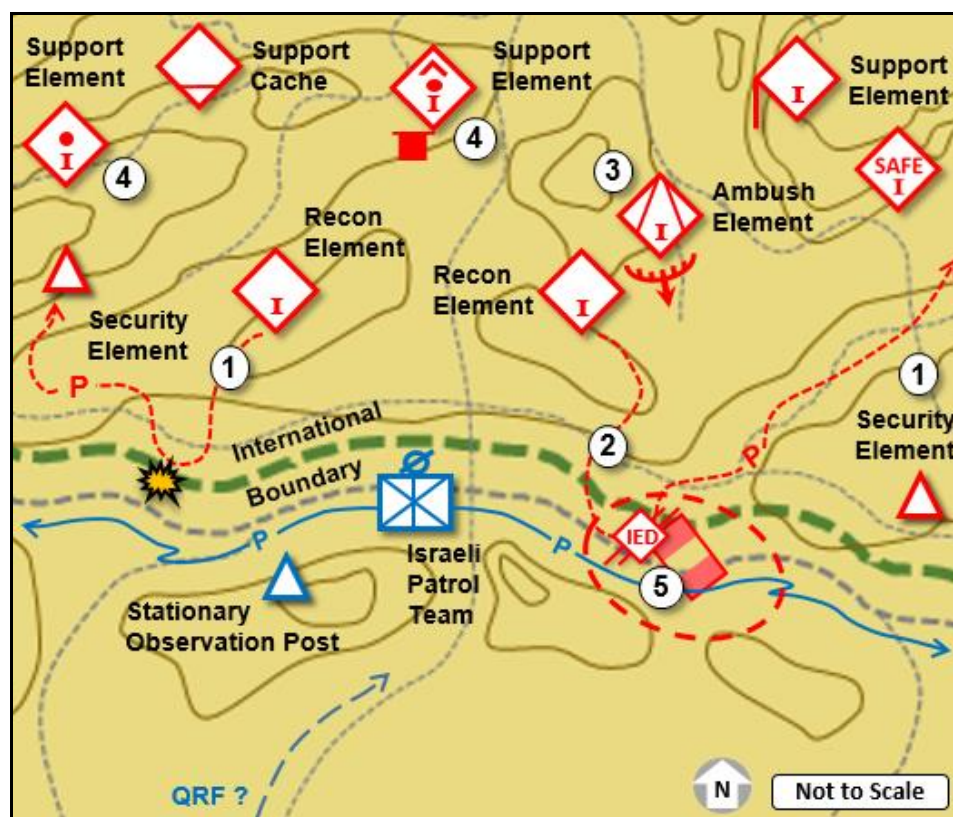
ⁱAn article using this event for a raid/kidnapping tactical example appeared in the September 2016 issue of the TRADOC G-2 Operational Environment Enterprise [Red Diamond](#) newsletter. This narrative, though, is specific to the actual attack by Hizballah, whereas the *Red Diamond* article focused on the tactic as an example of a terrorist act that could be replicated in training by an opposing force.

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conflict. The six years that passed between 2000 and 2006 provided time for Hizballah to refine its tactics and techniques and to carefully plan this raid on the IDF team that resulted in the successful kidnapping.

Specifically, Hizballah created multiple rocket artillery units and provided training on a technique it developed to ensure the rockets would not be defeated by the Israelis. Hizballah positioned its missile launchers (to be used with its vast arsenal of 122-mm Katyusha rockets) in villages inside Lebanon, knowing that there would be civilian casualties if the IDF targeted them.



- ① Hizballah's reconnaissance and surveillance confirm patterns and rotation cycles of enemy patrols and observations posts.
- ② Periodic feints or demonstrations along border indicate vulnerabilities in Israeli security measures and probable objective areas for a raid.
- ③ Hizballah elements practice occupation of covered and concealed fighting positions for direct fire support tasks to a raid.
- ④ Hizballah elements practice occupation of covered and concealed fighting positions and underground tunnel openings for indirect fire support tasks to a raid.
- ⑤ Direct action cell conducts reconnaissance to confirm objective area status and emplaces improvised explosive device at kill zone.

Figure 12. Graphic recreation of tactical action by Hizballah against the IDF on 12 July 2006

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The Hizballah cell leader developed a reconnaissance and surveillance plan appropriate for his assigned area of the disruption zone along the international boundary. He also operated an effective counterintelligence apparatus of infiltrators operating in enemy territory, and an active reporting network of civilians on both sides of the border. Small insurgent cells conducted feints along the border fence line to assess Israeli reactions and vulnerabilities to any overt actions taken by Hizballah. Some of these probes verified that a series of Israeli Defense Force (IDF) observation posts did not have visual coverage of a defiladed area that paralleled a portion of the border trace. The cell leader selected this topographical depression as an objective area for a raid to kidnap IDF soldiers. Direct action cells then rehearsed an ambush to be followed immediately by a raid. Other enabling elements of the cells coordinated direct and indirect fires that would deter any response from the Israeli observations posts or a quick reaction force. A direct action cell emplaced an improvised explosive device (IED) in this area near the IDF patrol route.

Months of observation, regular reports, and periodic ambushes on enemy patrols along the border had identified patterns of IDF operations, the time required for IDF quick reaction elements to respond to an ambush or indirect fires, and relief schedules of IDF performing border duties. Probes along the border were sometimes conducted to deceive the IDF on infiltration points or to test their ability to recognize Hizballah's patrols and observation posts. Local civilians confirmed that several small IDF units that formerly occupied ambush positions had vacated the area, and the only Israeli presence in the selected objective area were stationary observation posts, some individual stationary fighting positions, and the regularly-timed vehicular patrols along the boundary trace.

Reports to the Hizballah cell leader s confirmed that a rotation of enemy units at the border was about to occur, and that tactical procedures and patrol preparations had lapsed. The cell leader conveyed the date and timing of the raid to his operatives already located in nearby tunnel complexes, concealed observation posts, and staging or support areas. Hizballah's tactical actions involved sequential actions conducted by an ambush element and a raiding element, both augmented by several additional supporting elements. Security elements were already in positions to maintain constant visual surveillance of the area, and electronic monitoring of enemy radio and cell phone nets.

A raid is typically organized into three elements: a raiding element, security element(s), and support element(s).⁴² In this particular engagement, the ambush mission was assigned within the support elements. The Hizballah cell leader timed the ambush to begin with detonation of the IED, and other support elements would then simultaneously engage the IDF patrol with direct fires.

The Raid and Kidnapping

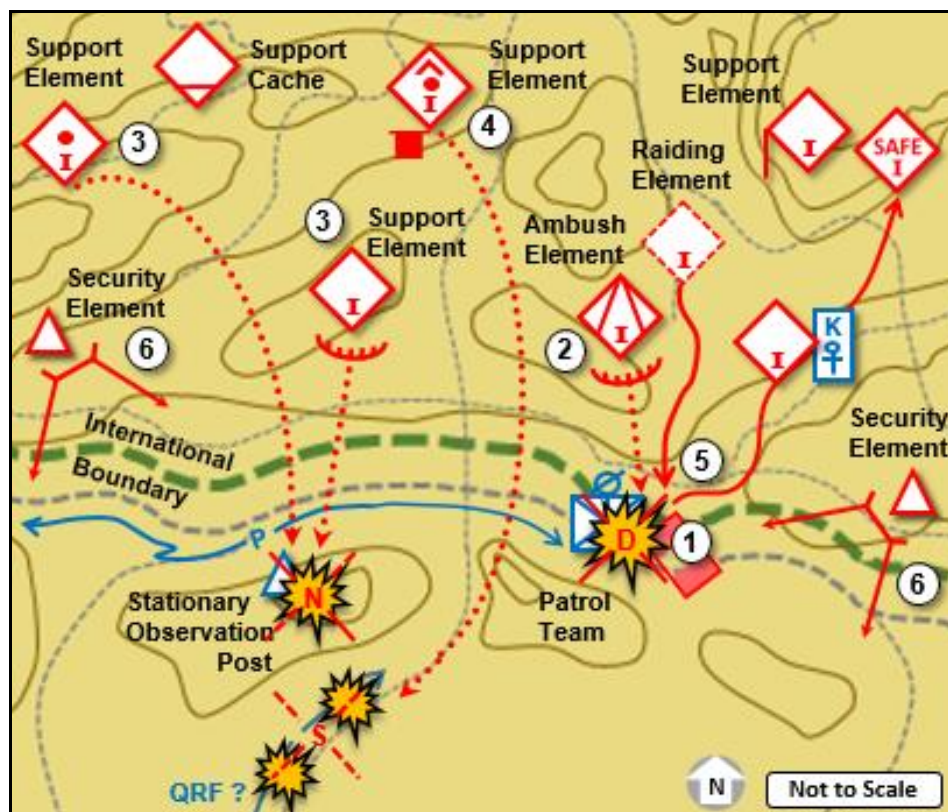
A Hizballah insurgent cell leader knew the two-vehicle Israeli patrol was approaching the kill zone from his security element reports, and kept his binoculars focused on the crest

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he knew enemy dismounts would cross before they signaled the two vehicles to come forward. He was surprised when both IDF vehicles crossed the crest very close together and moved into the depression without dismounting any point element. As the two vehicles entered the kill zone, the IED explosion stopped the patrol. Simultaneously, support elements attacked the two vehicles with ATGMs. The IED and fires killed three IDF soldiers and wounded four others in the vehicles.

By then the raiding element was already out of its concealed positions and rushing the enemy vehicles. The insurgents pulled two wounded IDF soldiers from the vehicles.



- ① Insurgent cell leader tracks reports of approaching patrol. IED detonates in kill zone and damages two patrol vehicles.
- ② Antitank guided missile (ATGM) element ambushes the two vehicles when the IED detonates.
- ③ Other support elements engage observation posts and nearby enemy elements to suppress or neutralize them with direct and indirect fires.
- ④ Rocket launcher emerges from underground fighting position and targets probable routes of enemy response elements.
- ⑤ Raiding element seizes two wounded soldiers and rapidly moves the kidnapped soldiers to an initial safehaven.
- ⑥ Security elements and stay-behind elements are prepared to assist in disrupting any pursuit across the border by enemy elements.

Figure 13. Execution of raid-kidnapping by Hizballah



As this action was occurring, direct and indirect fires engaged local IDF observation posts to prevent any effective response from those positions. Mortars and rockets targeted probable routes for IDF quick reaction forces, and indirect fires also landed in villages in the Israeli-occupied area to cause additional confusion during the raid. Insurgent antitank missile and sniper fire across the border added to the intended confusion.

The raiding element extracted two wounded IDF soldiers from the vehicle wreckage, placed them on the backs of two insurgents as an expedient-carry method, and quickly withdrew across the border without any loss of Hizballah insurgents. The tactical raid and kidnapping was a complete success for Hizballah in a combat action that lasted about 15–20 minutes. The raiding element used its prearranged withdrawal route and occupied its initial safe haven with the kidnapped soldiers. With no immediate pursuit by enemy elements, insurgent stay-behind elements had no need to detonate IEDs along the withdrawal route or provide support by fire to disrupt a pursuit.

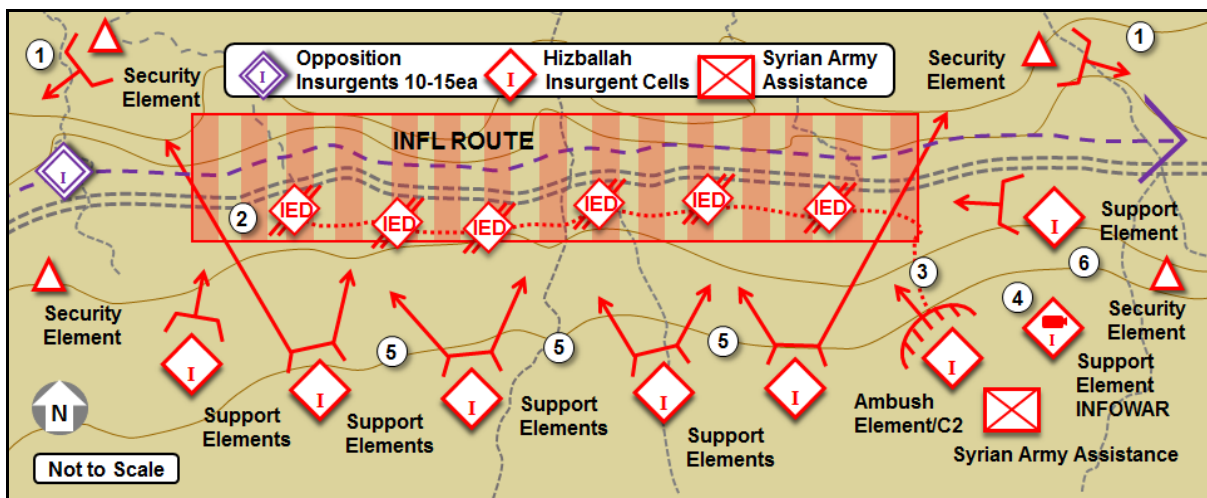
Support elements disengaged their fires once they were aware of the success of the raid. The insurgent cell leader had his support elements displace back to protected positions; security elements maintained their concealed positions to report on enemy reactions to the raid. When an IDF armored element crossed the border about two hours after the raid and maneuvered toward the suspected withdrawal route, an IED detonated under an IDF main battle tank, destroying the tank and killing the tank crew. This prompted a subsequent small-unit firefight between Hizballah and the IDF, but had no impact on the successful kidnapping of enemy soldiers.

#3. Ambush—2014: IED ambush attack in Damascus

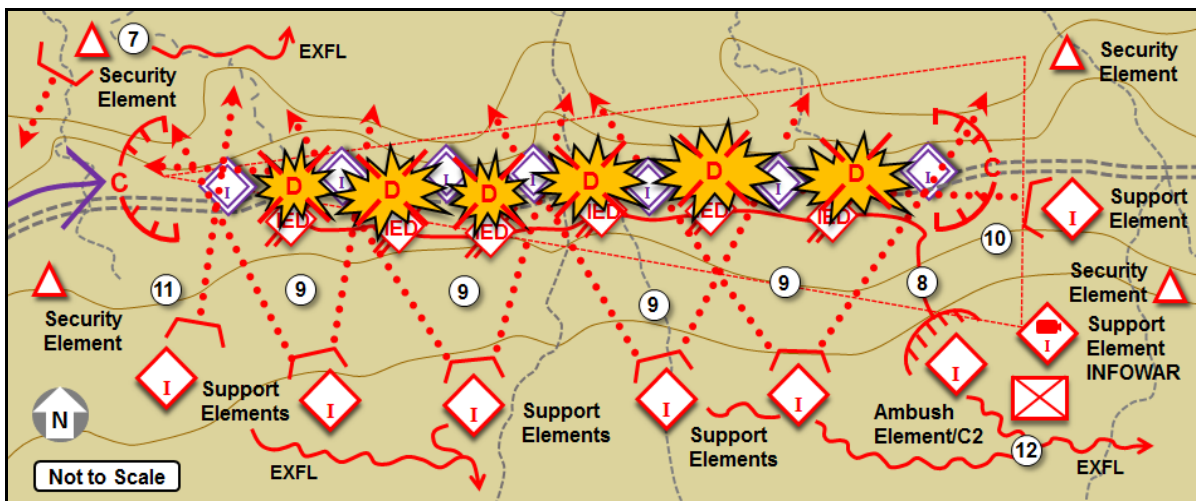
On 26 February 2014, Hizballah killed over 100 alleged opposition fighters—presumed to be al-Nusrah Front fighters who are linked with al-Qaeda in the fight against Bashir al-Assad in Syria—in a rural area east of Syria’s capital of Damascus. A video first released by the Hizballah-associated *Al-Manar* television channel showed a long, single-file column of alleged al-Nusrah Front fighters traversing a road in low-light hours through the Damascus countryside. The column is then obliterated by multiple, simultaneous ground-based explosions (likely IEDs) followed by a smaller secondary explosion and automatic small arms fire directed at those not killed in the initial blast.

A BBC article reported that Jaish al-Islam, who is linked with al-Nusrah, may have been part of the group of travelers; however, Jaish al-Islam publicly claimed that the dismounted individuals comprised civilians escaping a siege, and that none of its fighters were present or harmed.⁴³ A video shows that some of the casualties were in military dress and others in civilian clothes, so this claim may be true. Nonetheless, the successful ambush and effective INFOWAR release of videotape coverage was significant due to good planning and execution. Hizballah planners, possibly in concert with Syrian forces, determined the routes and the approximate time of the enemy’s movement, and provided that information to their support elements in sufficient time to ensure the IEDs could be planted and concealed in advance of the travelers’ arrival.

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1. Reconnaissance and surveillance confirm recurring infiltration route of enemy insurgents.
2. IEDs/military-grade munitions emplaced in kill zone for simultaneous command detonation.
3. Insurgent leader to initiate ambush with command detonation and automatic weapons fires.
4. Support element prepares to videotape ambush for INFOWAR social media exploitation.
5. Support elements occupy hidden positions with overlapping sectors of fire into kill zone.
6. Support element with heavy machinegun prepared to engage along entire length of kill zone.



7. Security element alerts leader of 80–100 dismounted enemy insurgents approaching on trail.
8. Insurgent leader command detonates munitions once majority of enemy are in the kill zone. INFOWAR cell videotapes ambush detonation and automatic weapons fires.
9. Support elements isolate enemy with automatic fires in designated sectors of fire of kill zone.
10. Ambush and support elements contain and destroy enemy in kill zone.
11. Support elements clear and exploit the kill zone after the ambush and report to cell leader.
12. INFOWAR cell videotapes ambush success. Insurgent cells disperse and exfiltrate from area.

Figure 14. Graphical depiction of IED ambush attack



This tactical action follows the tactics and techniques described in TC 7-100.2, *Opposing Force Tactics*, regarding ambushes, specifically in this case an annihilation ambush. The ambush element conducted the primary action of killing personnel. It is likely there was a security element to identify any enemy approach. The support element includes those insurgents who contained any ambush survivors inside the kill zone, killing them with gunfire or by other means following the initial attack.⁴⁴

Defensive Tactics

Hizballah emerged during the Israeli invasion and subsequent occupation of southern Lebanon in the early 1980s. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s—under the tutelage of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps—Hizballah grew increasingly adept at conducting complex guerrilla attacks of IDF outposts in the occupied border zone. Ultimately, Hizballah compelled the IDF to withdraw from Lebanon in May 2000.

The IDF departure provided Hizballah with greater freedom of movement and the ability to stockpile tens of thousands of short-range rockets throughout southern Lebanon, and to equip and train personnel on more sophisticated weapons, including Russian-made ATGMs. By 2006, when the IDF attacked into Lebanon, Hizballah had developed a defense in depth with small units designed to delay and attrit IDF armor and mechanized infantry while not exposing large numbers of Hizballah fighters to IDF ground or aerial firepower. The planned defense allowed Hizballah rocket units the time and space necessary to maintain a recurring rate of rocket fire into northern Israeli villages, hastening a ceasefire and allowing Hizballah to claim victory.⁴⁵

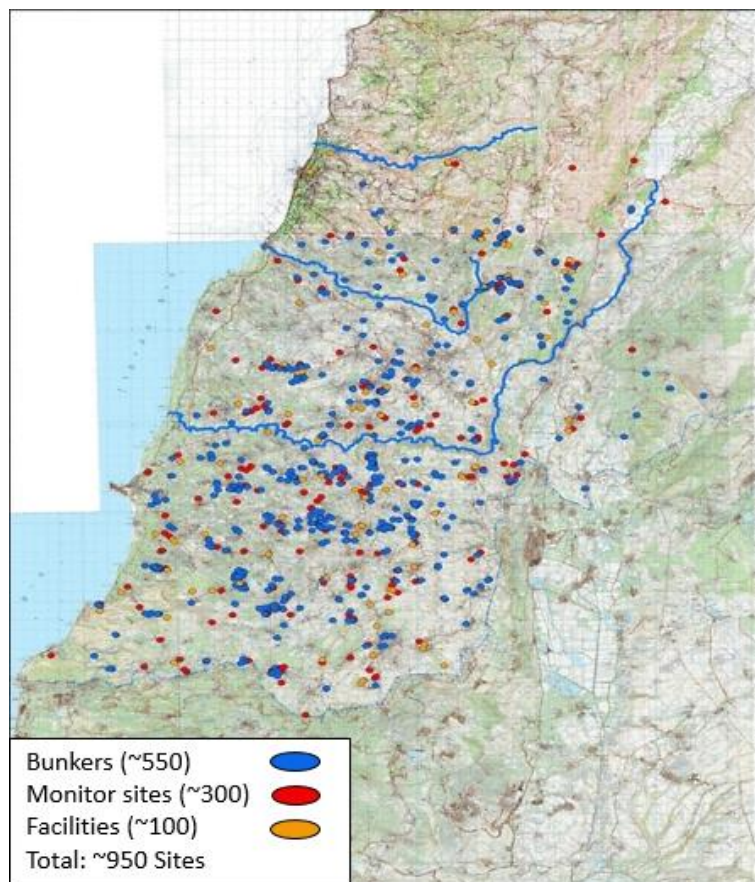


Figure 15. Hizballah's infrastructure locations

Israeli soldiers were not fully prepared for the sophistication and size of Hizballah's underground facilities (UGFs). Some UGFs were equipped with cameras, which gave an advantage to Hizballah operatives if and when Israeli soldiers attempted to enter the bunker.⁴⁶ The following excerpt derives from a TRADOC G-2 ACE Threats Integration [report](#) on the influence of underground facilities on Hizballah's success.

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The 2006 Lebanon War was years in the making. In 2000, when the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) withdrew from south Lebanon, Hizballah began preparation for its planned defense anticipating a day when it would be required to defend southern Lebanon from the IDF.⁴⁷ This preparation included building an intricate and secret military infrastructure throughout southern Lebanon that consisted of tunnels, bunkers, and observation posts all supplied with stockpiles of large quantities of artillery rockets, ATGMs, mortars, food, water, and medical supplies.

In July 2006, Hizballah initiated an indirect fire attack into northern Israel in order to create a diversion that concealed the operation of an ambush element targeting an IDF convoy. Hizballah successfully attacked the patrol and kidnapped two Israeli soldiers. This action resulted in a military response from Israel that embroiled the region in war.

Israel's first offensive operations of the war consisted of a combination of air and artillery strikes designed to accomplish two objectives; the first was to destroy Hizballah's long-range rocket launchers and the second was to deny Hizballah freedom of movement with the kidnapped IDF soldiers.

To achieve these goals, Israeli military forces targeted bridges and roads, Hizballah command posts, long range missile locations, and other military targets. However, despite Israel's air and artillery campaigns, Hizballah was able to continually fire rockets into Israel at a rate of more than 100 a day.

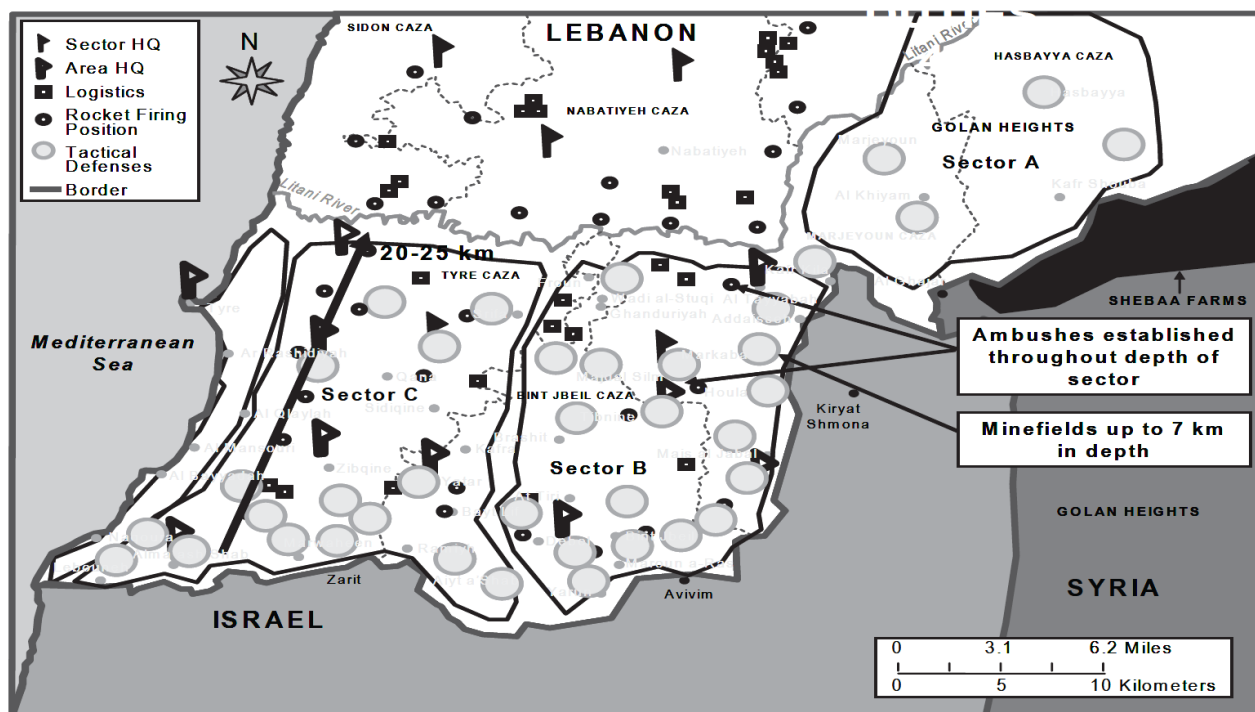


Figure 16. Hizballah's defensive systems in southern Lebanon



In an effort to stem this onslaught, and manage perceptions to present Israel as the victor, Israel initiated a ground campaign and engaged with Hizballah fighters.⁴⁸ It was at this point that the IDF, and the world, were confronted with the magnitude of Hizballah's defensive positions, tactical skill, and armaments. As an IDF soldier put it, "We expected a tent and three Kalashnikovs—that was the intelligence we were given. Instead, we found a hydraulic steel door leading to a well-equipped network of tunnels" full of highly trained Hizballah fighters equipped with flak jackets, night-vision goggles, communications equipment, and in some cases even Israeli uniforms and equipment.⁴⁹ Hizballah's defenses throughout southern Lebanon were impressive, not only in its use of the subterranean environment but also with its pre-planned ambush locations, pre-planned logistic routes, seeded minefields, and other tactical defense positions.

Hizballah not only held its own against the Israeli military, it was able to dominate the INFOWAR campaign. While Israeli news stations were condemning the IDF for what it called "idiotic military maneuvers," a Hizballah television station continued broadcasting reports of Hizballah's success against the IDF.⁵⁰ However, after over a month of conflict, a UN-brokered ceasefire ended hostilities on 14 August 2006 leaving organizations and governments around the world with differing opinions on which side could claim victory. In the end, Israel successfully got a ceasefire signed but Hizballah remained intact as a successful political and military force to be reckoned with in Lebanon.

Plenty has been written on Israel's ground campaign assessing it as a failure for the IDF in terms of planning, training, and doctrine.⁵¹ However, this war also presents an excellent opportunity to study how an element of hybrid threat, an irregular force, can use the subterranean environment to its advantage and overmatch a technologically superior foe.

Hizballah's Use of the Subterranean Environment

Hizballah's success in this conflict can be directly attributed to the considerable efforts it devoted to constructing its extensive defensive infrastructure and establishing distributed caches of supplies throughout southern Lebanon.⁵² Neither of these could have evolved without Hizballah's use of the subterranean environment.

The subterranean environment is commonly used to create infrastructure, or UGFs, designed to fulfill a variety of mission areas such as: weapons of mass destruction (WMD) storage, missile production and/or storage, cache site, and basing for command and control (C2) nodes.⁵³ Hizballah, in expectation of potential conflict with Israel, spent years preparing southern Lebanon in a planned defense. Integral to this defense were UGFs designed to provide just these types of functions.

By the time of the 2006 Lebanon War, Hizballah had a robust bunker and tunnel network spread out through most of southern Lebanon.⁵⁴ In general, Hizballah's bunkers were "40 meters underground, covering an area of two square kilometers, that included firing positions, operations centers, connecting tunnels, medical facilities, weapons and ammunition stockpiles, ventilation and air conditioning, bathrooms with hot and cold running water, and dormitories, all with a roof built of slabs of reinforced concrete



almost three feet thick.”⁵⁵ These advanced facilities provided the following functions: cache site, C2 facility, and defensive positions. These functions ultimately were what gave Hizballah freedom of movement on the battlefield, a condition that enabled their tactical and operational successes for the duration of the war.

It is important to note that not only did Hizballah have access to a significant number of supplies, it had stockpiles of supplies and materiel that were far more advanced than anyone had suspected, all hidden deep in its bunkers. In fact, “no terrorist organization had ever before enjoyed access to anything like the sophisticated assets now known to be in Hizballah’s possession.”⁵⁶ Among Hizballah’s small arms, food, and water were long- and medium-range surface-to-surface rockets, advanced communications equipment, improvised explosive devices (believed to be from Iran and Syria), and highly effective ATGMs including the AT-14 Kornet.⁵⁷ Without its bunker and tunnel network, it is highly unlikely that Hizballah would have been able to amass the collection of arms it had and store it as close to the Israeli border as it did.

Mission Area: C2 Facility

Sound military procedure is to base C2 elements of the force in the most protected areas available. This is precisely what Hizballah did with its C2 elements. From operational-level leaders to its strategic leadership, Hizballah’s bunkers and tunnels provided a safe location from which ground operations were planned and led.

In an effort to disrupt Hizballah’s leadership’s communication channels, the Israeli government targeted all known military infrastructure and even targeted some civilian infrastructure. Certain attacks, specifically ones targeting neighborhoods in Beirut, were Israel’s attempts to take out the Secretary General of Hizballah, Hassan Nasrallah. However, Israel reaped few military benefits in targeting these facilities, as not only did they not kill Nasrallah, their operations targeting Hizballah’s leadership did very little to impact Hizballah’s operations. This is due to the fact that Nasrallah and other top leaders operated in protected buried bunkers that could not be breached by IDF munitions.⁵⁸ Hizballah’s bunkers and tunnel networks provided a safe environment for its leaders to keep firm operational control over their offensive rocket units, and provided a communications channel for conveying orders to the front.⁵⁹

Mission Area: Defensive Positions

Perhaps the most important benefit of using the subterranean environment is its ability to provide protection for the insurgents operating in the OE and for stored materiel. During the 2006 war, Hizballah took full advantage of this benefit by using its bunkers and tunnel networks specially designed to withstand Israeli air and artillery bombardment.⁶⁰ In general, Hizballah’s bunkers were 40 meters underground, with roofs that were over three feet thick. Some bunkers had double blast doors designed to protect living and working spaces from destructive overpressure generated by high-explosive munitions.⁶¹

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Not only did Hizballah's bunkers provide a safe environment from air and artillery strikes, their construction enabled its fighters to be able to fight from dug-in defensive positions that gave them a significant advantage over Israeli ground forces. The complicated ground array of underground tunnels and bunkers, mined areas, and antitank units equaled a thorough planned defense.⁶² In addition, Hizballah's bunkers included access to pre-planned firing positions where fighters could attack the IDF from secure locations. There are many anecdotal stories of Hizballah fighters emerging from the ground to quickly fire a shoulder-fired anti-tank missile, only to disappear again back into the tunnel network thereby preventing the IDF from being able to retaliate.⁶³ The defensive positions afforded to Hizballah due to their UGFs allowed Hizballah to fulfill three key purposes of their defense: protecting personnel and equipment, restricting freedom of movement of the IDF, and controlling key pieces of terrain.

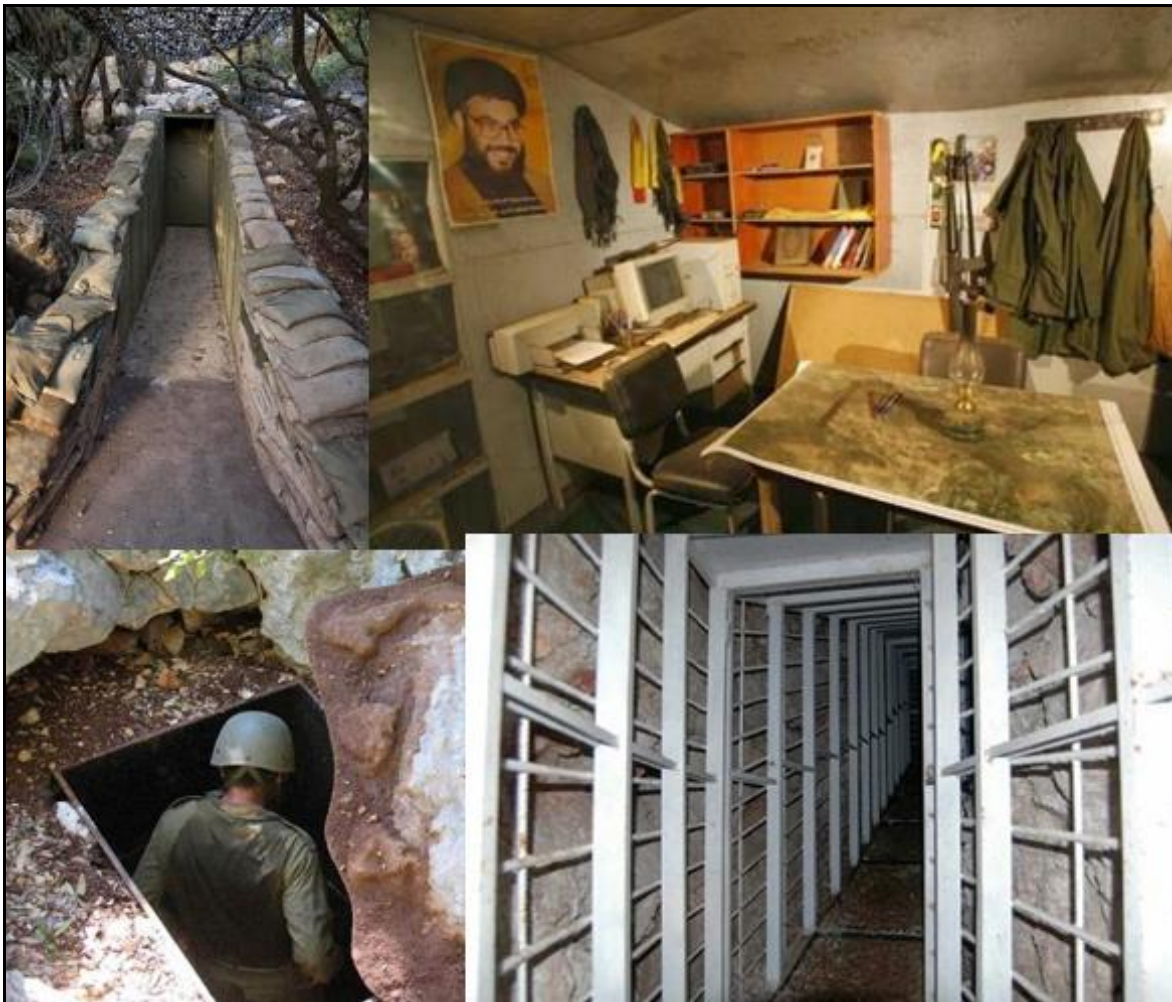


Figure 17. Hizballah underground facilities



According to [TC 7-100.2, *Opposing Force Tactics*](#), “defensive actions can lead to strategic victory if they force a stronger invading enemy to abandon his mission.”⁶⁴ Actions that occurred in Lebanon in the summer of 2006 indicate how a successful tactical operation can lead to such a result. Once the ceasefire was signed, Hizballah claimed victory in the war and was joined in its proclamations by Syria and Iran. Of course, Israel and the US claimed victory for Israel. However, given the strategic objectives of the participants, Hizballah’s goal to survive the Israeli onslaught and exact a substantial price from the Israelis for their offensive into Lebanon, and Israel’s goal to disarm Hizballah and demilitarize the Israeli-Lebanon border, it appears that only Hizballah emerged victorious.⁶⁵ Hizballah, despite having lost some territory, personnel, and artillery systems during the war, has not only survived, but appears to have actually flourished. It has accrued additional power and political legitimacy by securing positions in Lebanon’s government and it has maintained its military arm by procuring weapon systems. It is likely storing these systems in the newly constructed underground bunker and tunnel network that it has created in southern Lebanon, just north of its positions from the 2006 war.⁶⁶ In addition, Hizballah’s rhetoric condemning Israel for its attacks on civilians throughout Lebanon has generated international condemnation of Israel’s actions.⁶⁷ These successful actions on Hizballah’s part all point to a strategic failure for Israel; however, the key aspect that clinches this war as an IDF strategic failure is Israel’s inability to disarm Hizballah.

Israel’s failure to achieve this objective and Hizballah’s ability to accomplish its goals are directly tied to Hizballah’s successful exploitation of the subterranean environment. Hizballah’s creation of complex tunnel and bunker networks that supported three key mission areas—cache sites, C2 facilities, and defensive positions—provided conditions that Hizballah exploited for a strategic victory for the 2006 Lebanon War.

Now that Hizballah has been heavily involved in Syria since 2014, it has been establishing bases, particularly in the Golan Heights area. There is also a major base visible on satellite imagery in Qusayr, Syria. Allegedly, the IRGC inspects this base, and Hizballah is stockpiling artillery, tanks, rockets, and mortars.⁶⁸

Tunnel Raid and Kidnapping, Gaza Strip 2014

Hizballah’s extensive experience in construction and fortification of tunnel complexes along the Lebanon border has evolved partly from valuable lessons from the tactical tunnel operations of other insurgent organizations along the Gaza-Israeli border. As tunnel complexes continue to be improved upon in southern Lebanon by Hizballah, actions in Gaza reveal the Israeli forces’ response when an Israeli soldier is kidnapped. Immediate and massed military force is often employed in the area of the incident in an attempt to contain insurgents and rescue a kidnap victim. When insurgents use civilians as a shield while attempting to break contact or exfiltrate from a raid, Israeli military force reactions to a raid-kidnapping often results in civilian casualties and significant damage to local infrastructure.

For Hizballah, such outcomes can be accentuated with near real-time social media releases that promote its organizational agenda, criticize its enemies, encourage passive and active civilian support in the region, and attain a valuable political negotiation resource in the person of a kidnapped enemy

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military member. One example from Gaza militants is the 2011 Israeli release of over 1,000 terrorists, criminals, and other prisoners for the exchange of one Israeli soldier. In 2006, insurgents emerged from a tunnel in a cross-border raid, killed two Israeli soldiers, seized one soldier, and returned to Gaza, where they detained the kidnapped soldier for over five years. A more recent raid and kidnap incident in 2014 occurred in the southern Gaza Strip and is the basis for the generalized tactical diagram at Figure 18.

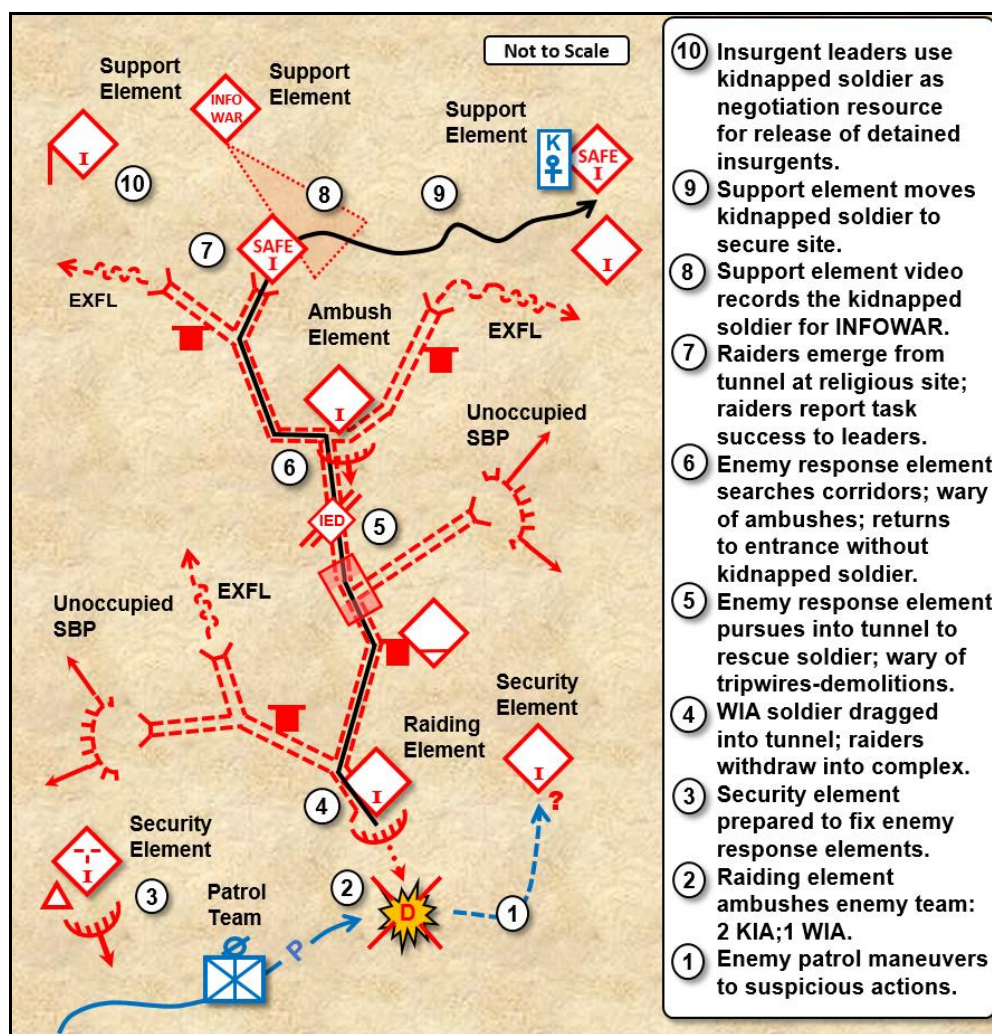


Figure 18. Kidnap-raid using tunnels to break contact

Hizballah's extensive experience in construction and fortification of tunnel complexes along the Lebanon border has evolved partly from valuable lessons from the tactical tunnel operations of other insurgent organizations along the Gaza-Israeli border. As tunnel complexes continue to be improved upon in southern Lebanon by Hizballah, actions in Gaza have revealed the Israeli forces' response when an Israeli soldier was kidnapped. Immediate and massed military force is often employed in the area of the



incident in an attempt to contain insurgents and rescue a kidnap victim. When insurgents use civilians as a shield while attempting to break contact or exfiltrate from a raid, Israeli military force reactions to a raid-kidnapping would result in civilian casualties and significant damage to local infrastructure.

For Hizballah, civilian casualties and damaged infrastructure can be exploited with near real-time social media releases that promote its organizational agenda, criticize its enemies, encourage passive and active civilian support in the region, and attain a valuable political negotiation resource in the person of a kidnapped enemy military member. One example from Gaza militants is the 2011 Israeli release of over 1,000 terrorists, criminals, and other prisoners for the exchange of one Israeli soldier. In 2006, insurgents emerged from a tunnel in a cross-border raid, killed two Israeli soldiers, seized one soldier, and returned to Gaza, where they detained the kidnapped soldier for over five years. A more recent raid and kidnap incident in 2014 occurred in the southern Gaza Strip and is the basis for the generalized tactical diagram shown in Figure 18 to demonstrate how Hizballah may and likely has acted based on lessons learned from Israeli military actions.

While patrolling a housing area suspected to contain insurgents, an Israeli soldier was kidnapped and dragged into a tunnel. Additional Israeli soldiers entered the tunnel in an attempt at a rescue, but were unsuccessful and turned around. The IDF employed artillery fires in the area, which caused some damage and civilian casualties. The captured soldier was taken to a safe area, and media was used by the insurgent organization to exploit the incident.⁶⁹ Hizballah knows the value of its tunnel networks in Lebanon at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels of conflict, and has likely planned for similar opportunities to manage perceptions in its favor and against its enemies with a long-term information warfare campaign.

Section 3: Hizballah's Weapons and Equipment

Hizballah receives munitions in abundant quantities from Iran and Syria; although exact numbers are not known, Table 2 below provides an estimate of what the group has.

Katyusha rocket launchers were used extensively during the 2006 war with Israel. These are not known for accuracy, but are quite effective at creating extensive damage and mass casualties when fired in volleys. The Katyusha is a Russian-made rocket launcher known for instilling fear in the Germans during WWII because of the screeching noise it makes.

Table 1 shows some of Hizballah's weapons and their effects. It is difficult to acquire an accurate inventory of weapons and equipment for a hybrid threat like Hizballah, but the graphical information in this section provides a good estimate.

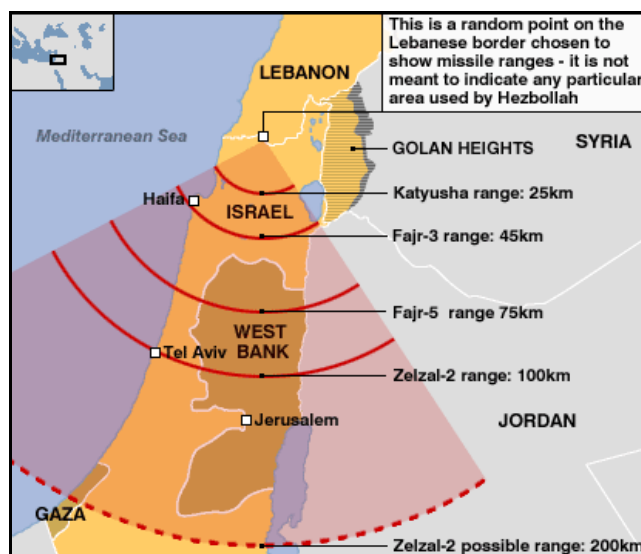


Figure 19. Katyusha missile range

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Table 1. Hizballah's rockets and effects

Rocket Size & Payload	Range & Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 122 mm 9M22 6.33 kg 75% of rockets landing in Israel 	Range: 20 km Targets: Nahariya, Kiryat Shmona, Ma'a lot-Tarshiha, Safed, Akko, Karmiel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 122 mm enhanced-range rocket 6.33 kg 	Range: 30 km Targets: Haifa, other cities and villages in Galilee region
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 220 mm Raad-2 and Raad-3 18 kg Mainly rocket strikes in Haifa—nearly half of all confirmed strikes 	Range: 65–70 km Targets: Haifa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 240 mm Fajr-3 45 kg 	Range: 43 km Targets: HaKrayot, Karmiel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 302 mm Khyber-1 50 kg 	Range: 90 km Targets: Afula, West Bank, Haifa

Table 2. Hizballah's weapons and equipment

Small Arms				
AK Variants	M-16/4 (W/M203 grenade launcher)	PKM light machineguns	G-3	Israeli Negev light machinegun
Dragunov Sniper Rifle	Steyr SSG 69 Sniper Rifle	Steyr HS .50 Anti-materiel rifle		
AT Weapons				
RPG-7	RPG-29	SPG-9 73 mm Recoilless Gun	B-10 82 mm Recoilless Gun	M40 106 mm Recoilless Rifle
Kornet-E ATGM	Metis-M	RPG-18	Milan ATGM	Spandrel ATGM
Sagger ATGM	Toophan (Iranian version of TOW) ATGM	Konkurs ATGM	Fagot ATGM	
Artillery				
12.7 mm Dshk Heavy Machinegun	14.5 mm ZPU-1/2/4 Heavy Machinegun	23 mm ZU-23 Antiaircraft Cannon	37 mm M1939 Antiaircraft Cannon	60, 81/82, 120 mm Mortars
57 mm S60 Air Defense Artillery	130 mm M-46	122 mm D-30 Howitzer		

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Rockets/Missiles				
107 mm MRL variants	122 mm BM-21	122 mm 9M22	122 mm enhanced range rocket	22 mm Raad-2 and Raad-3
Fateh-110	SCUD Variant	Type 63 MRL	220 mm	302 mm
M600	240 mm Fajr-3	302 mm Khyber-1		
Miscellaneous				
T-72 Main Battle Tank	T-55 Main Battle Tank	C-802 Coastal Defense Cruise Missile	SA-2 SAM System	SA-7 MANPADS
SA-8 SAM System	SA-24 MANPADS	SA-22 SAM and AAA Weapon System	SS-N-26 (Yakhont) CDCM	Explosively Formed Penetrators (Various)
Grenades (Various)	Anti-Personnel Mines (Various)	M113		

Section 4: Hizballah's Significant Military Capabilities

Command and Control

Although Hizballah's activities are mainly managed by established and well-known leaders, military decisions can be made as low as the squad level, which allows tremendous flexibility and quick responses. Strategic- and operational-level guidance is very clear, but there is considerable freedom of action allowed at the lowest levels. Regional headquarters serve as an additional level of command and control, and all of this is made possible by Iranian command, control, communications, and computer systems.⁷⁰

INFOWAR

Hizballah has its own television station, Al-Manar, and several radio stations, and adeptly uses social media applications like YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter to disseminate messages and announce activities to serve its purpose, both politically and militarily. Top Hizballah leaders provide interviews and use them to send messages to the public to garner support.

During the 2006 war, an Israeli soldier who had been fighting Hizballah described the group as "experts at deception" and went on to claim, "Everyone will think they won no matter what. That's how you win when there's a few thousand of you and 50,000 of us. The more of them we kill, the more of them who are generated. Unfortunately, this is a lost war."⁷¹ This quote shows the disparity between INFOWAR messages delivered by a state actor or entity, in this case Israel, and the viewpoint of a soldier at the tactical level.

Reportedly, Hizballah pressured a journalist and television station to not show footage that negatively portrayed the group. A report contained 30 minutes of footage from December 2015 in Syria that included interviews with two Hizballah fighters being held captive by al Nusra. The reporter claimed that

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Hizballah told the television station that the footage did not “serve the purpose of Hezbollah.”⁷² Some analysts have recently determined that Hizballah was showing signs of weakness and strain as a result of the huge number of operatives involved in Syria and the wavering support for this cause from Lebanese Shia.



Figure 20. Nasrallah shaping Hizballah’s message on YouTube

RISTA

The tactical examples of offensive actions discussed earlier in this report demonstrate Hizballah’s reconnaissance, intelligence, surveillance, and target acquisition (RISTA) capabilities. Planning and preparation were particularly significant during the raid-kidnapping of 2006, even though it took more than one attempt to achieve the goal.⁷³ Reportedly, Hizballah benefits from a significant and well-developed intelligence network within Lebanon, and has even been known to eavesdrop on the IDF, a tactic that helped Hizballah in the 2006 war.⁷⁴



Fire Support

It is estimated that Hizballah possesses upwards of 100,000 rockets and missiles now, as compared to the 13,000 it had during the 2006 conflict with Israel.⁷⁵ In 2015, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy reported that Israeli intelligence estimates claim that Hizballah has the capability to fire nearly 1,000 rockets and missiles daily (in 2006, it fired about 118 per day).⁷⁶ The significantly greater quantity is complemented by the improved accuracy of these newer rocket and missile systems.

Logistics

The discussion earlier in this report describing the extensive system of underground facilities Hizballah built up and continues to build demonstrates sophisticated logistics capabilities. The bunkers are used as command and control nodes, secure places to store weapons and ammunition, shelter, and food storage.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

Hizballah has successfully targeted Syrian opposition positions with UAVs and dropped bombs on targeted sites. YouTube videos show Hizballah fighters using remote-controlled UAVs to see their targets and drop explosives. While the destruction is relatively small, the benefit is that the cost is low and there is no risk to Hizballah fighters while still achieving potential casualties. The Chinese commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) micro UAV DJI-PHANTOM shown in the picture below has global proliferation, weighs only 365 grams, has a range of up to five kilometers, and can be operated by one person with a variety of applications such as Apple, Samsung, Google, Sony, Ascend, Huawei, Nubia, and others.⁷⁷



Figure 21. DJI-Phantom 3 UAV used to drop bombs in Syria



Conclusion

This report addressed the multiple terms that define Hizballah, but an accurate summary is that the group was initially a proxy organization that employed guerrilla-style military tactics, but has evolved and grown over time to incorporate more conventional tactics and, while a strategic partner of both Iran and Syria, Hizballah's behavior now resembles that of a non-state ally. Hizballah should not be underestimated as "just" a guerrilla insurgency; it has, in fact, been likened to special-purpose forces units because of its demonstrated level of command and control, tactical prowess, defensive infrastructure, and training competence.⁷⁸ A 2016 Brookings Institute publication offered this description: "The Hizballah model represents a fusion of Islamic ideology, skillful military operations, a strong commitment to providing social services, and a hospitable geopolitical environment."⁷⁹

Hizballah's use of small, dispersed infantry elements and decentralized rocket infrastructure, combined with its ability to adeptly field advanced antitank and coastal defense systems against the IDF in the 2006 war, has garnered it the reputation as the world's premier non-state "hybrid" force—that is, a force capable of combining irregular and conventional tactics, organization, and weapons to achieve mutually benefitting effects.

In Syria, however, Hizballah appears to be fighting closer to the conventional end of the military spectrum than was the case during any of its earlier conflicts with the IDF in Lebanon. Hizballah's conventional operations in Syria are not surprising given the Syrian opposition's disunity, comparative weakness, and reliance on irregular-force tactics and weapons. In contrast to its past conflicts with the IDF, Hizballah ground units in Syria often find themselves able to apply overwhelming force against opposition elements. With no demonstrable fear of opposition air power or armor, Hizballah regularly masses fighters on objectives; conducts joint, combined-arms operations; fights in open terrain; maintains long logistics lines of communication; and is showing increased interest in conducting armored operations of its own.⁸⁰

A RAND Corporation analyst "finds that, in facing hybrid opponents, joint combined-arms fire and maneuver are necessary; precision, stand-off fires are critical (but not sufficient); and responsive and adequate air, artillery, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance support are vital. Finally, heavy forces—based on tanks and infantry fighting vehicles—are key to fighting sophisticated hybrid opponents because they reduce operational risk and minimize friendly casualties."⁸¹

REAL-WORLD CONDITIONS APPLIED TO TRAINING

While Hizballah's actions are not particularly complex, replicating them is important in training US soldiers to meet readiness standards, because its tactics and techniques are pervasive and likely to be encountered in some future operational environment (OE). This section will provide information on how trainers, scenario writers, and exercise developers can use existing opposing force (OPFOR) doctrine and training materials to create situations that replicate Hizballah in training environments.

The [TC 7-100 Hybrid Threat series](#), the [Decisive Action Training Environment \(DATE\)](#), and the [Worldwide Equipment Guide](#) provide training resources for applying real-world conditions to training. The tactics used by Hizballah can be found as part of the composite threat model that exists in the hybrid threat doctrine series. Hizballah uses principles of offense and defense very similar to those presented in TC 7-

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100.2, *Opposing Force Tactics*. Additionally, the operational environment outlined in the DATE also includes characteristics of Hizballah that can be tailored for use by threat actors that operate within the DATE OE.

Replication in Training

Of the threat groups in the DATE, characteristics of Hizballah are present in the South Atropian People's Army (SAPA). SAPA receives significant support from Ariana much like Hizballah receives support from Iran. Similarities are also found in the Bilasuvar Freedom Brigade (BFB), which seeks to overthrow the Atropian government and has support from Donovan; Hizballah wants to eradicate Israel with support from Iran. The Zabzimek Separatists maintain a military wing as does Hizballah, and have also participated in confrontations over territory and ceasefire agreements that are similar to Hizballah maintaining control in southern parts of Lebanon. Hizballah attained brokered agreements with both the Lebanese and Israeli governments at various points throughout the past three decades.

Specific tactics worthy of replicating to emulate Hizballah are: garnering support of the populace, using technology and propaganda for strategic advantage, RISTA, and small-unit surprise attack tactics. Also, the use of intricate and sophisticated tunnels must be considered. All of Hizballah's tactics depicted in this report can be found in [TC 7-100.2, *Opposing Force Tactics*](#); reference this document for more information on how to replicate these actions. For information on how to build a force structure to conduct these actions, reference [TC 7-100.4, *Hybrid Threat Force Structure Organization Guide*](#), Chapter 3, Section VIII, "Building an OPFOR Order of Battle." The table below contains excerpts from TC 7-100.2 that define the tactical actions discussed in this report.

Table 3. Excerpts from TC 7-100.2, *Opposing Force Tactics*

TC 7-100.2 Tactics	
Ambush	<p>3-133. An ambush is a surprise attack from a concealed position, used against moving or temporarily halted targets. Such targets could include truck convoys, railway trains, boats, individual vehicles, or dismounted troops. In an ambush, enemy action determines the time, and the OPFOR sets the place.</p> <p>Ambushes may be conducted to—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Destroy or capture personnel and supplies.• Harass and demoralize the enemy.• Delay or block movement of personnel and supplies.• Canalize enemy movement by making certain routes useless for traffic.
Assault	<p>3-106. An assault is an attack that destroys an enemy force through firepower and the physical occupation and/or destruction of his position. An assault is the basic form of OPFOR tactical offensive combat.</p>
Area Defense	<p>4-85. In situations where the OPFOR must deny key areas (or the access to them) or where it is overmatched, it may conduct a tactical area defense. Area defense is designed to achieve a decision in one of two ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By forcing the enemy's offensive operations to culminate before he can achieve his objectives.• By denying the enemy his objectives while preserving combat power until decision can be achieved through strategic operations or operational mission accomplishment.

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TC 7-100.2 Tactics	
<p>Defense (Complex Battle Position)</p>	<p>4-108. A complex battle position (CBP) is a defensive location designed to employ a combination of complex terrain, C3D, and engineer effort to protect the unit(s) within them from detection and attack while denying their seizure and occupation by the enemy. CBPs typically have the following characteristics that distinguish them from SBPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited avenues of approach. (CBPs are not necessarily tied to an avenue of approach.) • Any existing avenues of approach are easily observable by the defender. • 360-degree fire coverage and protection from attack. (This may be due to the nature of surrounding terrain or engineer activity such as tunneling.) • Engineer effort prioritizing C3D measures; limited countermobility effort that might reveal the CBP location. • Large logistics caches. • Sanctuary from which to launch local attacks.

Additional considerations for replicating Hizballah in training environments should include several key capabilities. These areas are INFOWAR, RISTA, fire support, air defense, and special-purpose forces. Hizballah's capabilities in these areas are significant and contribute to its ability to achieve its desired endstates. The chart below details how training centers could replicate capabilities comparable to Hizballah's.

Table 4. How to use doctrine to replicate Hizballah

Capability (What)	Actor/Order of Battle (Who)	Tactic (How)
INFOWAR	The DATE insurgent groups can be used to train elements of INFOWAR such as deception, perception management, and physical destruction.	<p>TC 7-100.3 <i>Irregular Opposing Forces</i> Chapter 2, Appendix A</p> <p>TC 7-100.2 <i>Opposing Force Tactics</i> Chapter 7</p> <p>FM 7-100.1 <i>Opposing Force Operations</i> Chapter 5</p> <p>To replicate Hizballah: Highlight low-tech INFOWAR techniques that manipulate perceptions and affect local populations.</p>
RISTA	RISTA concepts can be integrated into training by constituting DATE insurgent groups with population-centric capabilities.	<p>TC 7-100.3 <i>Irregular Opposing Forces</i>, Chapter 2</p> <p>TC 7-100.2 <i>Opposing Force Tactics</i> Chapter 8</p> <p>FM 7-100.1 <i>Opposing Force Operations</i> Chapter 6</p> <p>To replicate Hizballah: Focus on the insurgent's advantage in using and exploiting the local population.</p>
Fire Support	Insurgents groups often use whatever they can get cheaply or what is given to them by their sponsors. (Hizballah has a significant rocket arsenal.)	<p>TC 7-100.2 <i>Opposing Force Tactics</i> Chapter 9</p> <p>FM 7-100.1 <i>Opposing Force Operations</i> Chapter 7</p> <p>To replicate Hizballah: Make prolific use of rocket and small arms fire.</p>

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Logistics	Insurgent groups in DATE can be constructed to be self-sustaining with populace and regional safe-haven support combined with support from state sponsors.	TC 7-100.3 <i>Irregular Opposing Forces</i> , Chapter 2 TC 7-100.2 <i>Opposing Force Tactics</i> Chapter 8 FM 7-100.1 <i>Opposing Force Operations</i> Chapter 6 To replicate Hizballah: Focus on the insurgent's advantage in using and exploiting the local population, on its use of complex tunnels, and on its regular funding from state sponsors like Ariana.
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Related Products

Follow these links to view related products:

- [Subterranean Environment: Tunnel to Victory, The 2016 Lebanon War, April 2014](#)
- ["Terrorism: Opposing Force Countertask," Red Diamond newsletter, September 2016](#)
- [US Army TRADOC G2 Handbook 1.01, *Terror Operations*, 25 July 2007](#)
- [Decisive Action Training Environment \(DATE\) Version 2.2, April 2015](#)
- [TC 7-100.2, *Opposing Force Tactics*](#)
- [Irregular Forces Financing Handbook, March 2012](#)
- [Threat Tactics Report: Syria, February 2016, v 1.0](#)
- [Threat Tactics Report: Iran, June 2016, v 1.0](#)

See also the [Red Diamond Newsletter](#), which contains current articles on a variety of topics useful to both soldiers and civilians, ranging from enemy tactics and techniques to the nature and analysis of various threat actors.

For detailed information on weapons and equipment, see the [Worldwide Equipment Guide](#).

To see more products from TRADOC G2 ACE Threats Integration, visit the Army Training Network (ATN) with CAC access: https://atn.army.mil/dsp_template.aspx?dpiID=377.

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Note: Not all references listed in this publication are readily available to the public; some require a government common access card (CAC) to view.

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Figure & Table Credits

Figure 1. Mustafa Baddreddine. Source: [Long War Journal](#).

Figure 2. Hizballah locations (in yellow) according to NCTC. Source: [National Counterterrorism Center](#).

Figure 3. Naim Qassem. Source: [Wikipedia](#).

Figure 4. Supreme leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei. Source: [Wikipedia](#).

Figure 5. Map and flag of Lebanon. Source: [US Department of State](#).

Figure 6. Syrian president Bashar al-Assad. Source: [Wikipedia](#).

Figure 7. Irregular force actors as depicted in [TC 7-100.3, Irregular Opposing Forces](#).

Figure 8. Twitter post demonstrates condemnation of Hizballah's fighting in Syria. Source: [Twitter](#) @Levitt_Matt, 4 October 2016.

Figure 9. Hizballah's areas of operations. Source: [Irregular Force Financing Handbook](#), March 2012

Figure 10. Beirut airport and USMC facility targeted by Hizballah. Sources: "[Report of the DoD Commission on Beirut International Airport Terrorist Act, October 23, 1983](#)" and [University of Texas Libraries](#).

Figure 11. Hizballah suicide vehicle borne IED v. USMC facility (tactical diagram). Source: ACE Threats Integration.

Figure 12. Graphic recreation of tactical action by Hizballah against the IDF on 12 July 2006. Source: ACE Threats Integration, September 2016.

Figure 13. Execution of raid-kidnapping by Hizballah. Source: ACE Threats Integration. September 2016.

Figure 14. Graphical depiction of IED ambush attack. Source: ACE Threats Integration. September 2012.

Figure 15. Hizballah's infrastructure locations. Source: [Long War Journal](#).

Figure 16. Hizballah's defensive systems in southern Lebanon. Source: Matt M. Matthews, "[We Were Caught Unprepared: The 2006 Hezbollah-Israeli War](#)," US Army Combined Arms Center Combat Studies Institute, 2008.

Figure 17. Hizballah underground facilities. [Quirky Wars and Campaigns](#). 2013.

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Figure 19. Katyusha missile range. Source: [BBC](#), 2006.

Figure 20. Nasrallah shaping Hizballah's message on YouTube. Source: [YouTube](#), 28 August 2016.

Figure 21. DJI-Phantom 3 UAV used to drop bombs in Syria. Source: [YouTube](#). 10 September 2016.

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Table 3. Excerpts from TC 7-100.2 Opposing Force Tactics. Source: [Training Circular 7-100.2, Opposing Force Tactics](#).

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