

THE ISRAEL ALERT

PSALMS 121:4 "Behold, He neither slumbers nor sleeps, the Guardian of Israel."

Jan/Feb 2008

OREGON AMERICANS FOR A SAFE ISRAEL

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AL QAEDA READIES DUAL-TRACK OFFENSIVE IN IRAQ AND GAZA

DEBKAFfile Exclusive Report

Just in time for President George W. Bush's first – and last – Middle East tour, al Qaeda's new operational arm, Fatah al-Islam, completed its redeployment from Lebanon on two warfronts: Iraq and the Gaza Strip. Al Qaeda has managed to pull together two fronts for twin campaigns orchestrated by a single commander, Fatah al-Islam's Palestinian chief Shaker al-Abessi, from his new base in Iraq.

This feat, disclosed by **DEBKAFfile's** intelligence sources, eluded his predecessor, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who tried and failed to develop a joint Iraq-Palestinian command in 2005 and 2006 before he was killed.

Fatah al-Islam under Abessi's command pinned the Lebanese army down at the northern Nahar al-Badr camp for four months in the summer of 2007 before being driven out. Within three months, they had relocated on the two new fronts.

With his top command, Abessi was able to access Iraq from Syria in the last month by transiting a purportedly sealed border. According to our sources, the Palestinian-led terrorist force has reached North Iraq and is taking reinforcements from Lebanon and Syria preparatory to joining the main Al Qaeda body fighting US and Iraqi forces in other parts of the country.

In recent weeks, Al Qaeda and its allies have shown signs of recovering from their trouncing by US and Iraq forces in most parts of Iraq; suicide attacks are climbing again. Just Sunday, Jan. 6, two struck in separate parts of Baghdad, killing 13 people, six of them Iraqi police.

US military commanders have taken to tingeing their accounts of major military successes with a dash of caution.

On Jan. 3, Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, the commander of U.S. forces south of Baghdad, said: Security gains that have led to a significant fall in violence over the last six months are tenuous and could be lost if Iraqis become disillusioned or extremists mount a major attack. "I'm very optimistic, but at the same time I'm very realistic.

We have a tenuous security situation right now."

As the Fatah al-Islam elite headed for Iraq toward the end of 2007, at least 120 rank and file were smuggled into Gaza through Sinai and by sea. They are very visible as they roar through Gaza's streets in new mini-vans, brandishing the heavy machine guns and anti-tank weapons they brought with them. On display are their "Musab Zarqawi" missiles (a replica of the primitive Qassam short-range surface missile wielded by Hamas and Jihad Islami).

A high-placed Israeli military source said: "One would imagine the Taliban in Palestinian form had landed on our southwestern doorstep - the same sort of weapons, methods of operation and hot-eyed fervor."

Our counter-terror sources report that Friday, Jan. 5, a videotape was released in which Abessi urged his men in Gaza to fight the Israeli military to the finish and wipe out the "Zionist entity" - in the same way he claimed that the Lebanese army and the US military had been beaten at Nahr al-Badr. The Fatah al-Islam chief quoted Osama bin Laden's vow in a December 30th audio-tape to "liberate the whole of Palestinian" and threat of "blood for blood, destruction for destruction."

The Abessi tape was recorded in Iraq and distributed in the Gaza Strip. His peroration is backed by shots of Fatah al-Islam operatives firing missiles into Israel on Dec. 30 and 31.

Israeli officers liken the incursion of the Palestinian fundamentalists into Gaza to the early steps of Al Qaeda and the Taliban in expanding across Afghanistan and deep into Pakistan, to the point that today they threaten to destabilize the Kabul and Islamabad governments.

But Israeli policy-makers refuse to admit a new peril is closing in from the Palestinian territory at war with the Jewish state. An Israeli military officer conversant with the new development sees the Gaza Strip descending further into fundamentalist Islamization. He says: "If until now Hamas and Jihad Islami were the barriers to the return of Palestinian Authority rule evicted from the Gaza Strip last June, now they are bolstered and being further radicalized by Al Qaeda's ideology, propaganda, funds and arms, which are streaming unimpeded to the Palestinian territory.

These violent elements are further boosted by Al Qaeda jihadists, most Palestinian, who are escaping Suez Canal towns in

flight from Egyptian security forces. They are finding sanctuary in Gaza.

Al Qaeda established its first foothold in the Gaza Strip in 2005. Israel must have been the only country in the world which did nothing to nip in the bud the buildup of a dangerous terrorist base along its borders. Today, the Olmert government continues to bury its head in the sand as the terrorist bases go up armed with full-blown military capabilities.

In the past week, the hodge-podge of extremist Palestinian organizations in Gaza fired 32 missiles into Israel and their first 122mm Katyusha rocket against Ashkelon, a major Israeli city. They pose an unarguable strategic threat to Israel's southern half as great as the hazard Hizballah presents to the North.

TERRORISTS' NEW MISSION: PROTECT PRESIDENT BUSH'S MOST ACTIVE WEST BANK MILITANT GROUP IN SECURITY TEAM FOR MIDDLE EAST VISIT

By Aaron Klein

JERUSALEM – Members of the most active West Bank terror organization are set to participate in security forces being deployed to protect President Bush during his visit to the Palestinian territories next month, WND has learned.

Bush is due in the region January 9th as part of a follow-up to last month's U.S.-led Israeli-Palestinian Annapolis summit.

During his trip, the American president is scheduled to hold talks with Israeli leaders in Jerusalem, and meet quickly with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

According to Israeli security officials coordinating deployments of forces with the PA for Bush's Ramallah visit, members of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, Fatah's declared military wing, have been

called upon by the PA to participate in the protection of Bush's convoy and in securing the perimeter during the meeting with Abbas.

The Brigades is listed as a terror organization by the U.S. State Department. The group took credit along with the Islamic Jihad terror organization for every suicide bombing in Israel between 2005 and 2006, and is responsible for thousands of shootings and rocket firings. Statistically, the Al Aqsa Brigades perpetuated more terrorism from the West Bank than Hamas, according to the Israeli Defense Forces.

Many Brigades members, including the group's chiefs, serve openly in Fatah's Force 17 presidential guard units and the Palestinian Preventative Security Services; thousands of Force 17 and Preventative officers are slated to secure Ramallah during Bush's visit there.

A chief of the Al Aqsa Brigades in Ramallah who also serves as a senior officer in Force 17 confirmed to WND he has been tapped to participate in Bush's security. The chief, who spoke on condition his name be withheld, said he is slated to patrol the road outside Abbas' compound during the Palestinian leader's meeting with Bush.

The Israeli Defense Forces will protect the main West Bank highway Bush's convoy will use to approach Ramallah. **Security for Bush will be largely turned over to the Palestinians** once he enters Ramallah, although security plans are being heavily coordinated with the U.S.

According to Israeli security officials, over 6,000 Fatah forces will be deployed in three rings in central Ramallah to secure the area during Bush's brief stay, including Palestinian security officers who also serve in the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades.

About 40 Ramallah-based Brigades leaders, including the Brigades chief scheduled to participate in Bush's security, were granted amnesty by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in June as a gesture to Abbas, but many Brigades members, including the Ramallah-based leadership, are accused of violating the agreement by failing to disarm and by carrying out a spate of terror attacks.

Many high-profile Al Aqsa Brigades terrorists serve in Fatah's security forces, including those in Ramallah. The current chief of Fatah's Force 17, Abu Hayyet, is accused by Israel of planning or

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involvement in at least 10 deadly terror attacks, according to Israeli security officials.

Abbas last June appointed senior Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades leader Mahmoud Damra as commander of Force 17, a major, U.S.-financed Fatah security force. Damra, who was arrested by Israel last November, was on the Jewish state's most-wanted list of terrorists.

The chief of the Brigades in Ramallah also serves in the Preventative Security Services.

Bush's upcoming visit will not be the first time a U.S. official would be protected by Brigades terrorists.

WND reported that during an October visit to the northern West Bank city of Nablus, Lt. Gen. Keith Dayton, U.S. security coordinator for the Palestinian territories, was protected by a security team that included the chiefs of the Brigades in that city. Nablus is the stronghold of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades.

Among those in Nablus protecting the route of Dayton's convoy as official members of the Palestinian security forces were Ala Sekakreh, the Brigades' overall West Bank chief, and Nasser Abu Aziz, no. 2 of the Brigades in the West Bank.

Speaking about his role in protecting Dayton, Senakreh told WND during a recent interview he was "impressed" with the U.S. envoy's bodyguards.

"One of them could eat 10 of our people," said Senakreh, who also commented he liked the "fancy" vehicle in which Dayton arrived.

Senakreh's cell is accused of planning four suicide bombings in Israel, including an April 2006 bombing in Tel Aviv that killed eight Israelis and American teenager Daniel Wultz.

Bush's visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories is his first trip here as president. He'll spend two days with Israeli and Palestinian leaders before continuing on a larger nine-day Middle East tour that will bring him to Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

While the PA has been busy preparing for Bush's visit, Israel security preparations for the trip kick-started earlier this month. The trip will see the second-largest police deployment in Israeli history, topped only by Israel's 2005 Gaza evacuation, according to security officials.

At least 8,000 police officers will provide security for Bush's visit, in addition to thousands more from local fire departments, the Jerusalem municipality and Israel's Airports Authority.

Bush will arrive to an Israeli military parade that will close down Ben Gurion International, the country's main airport. Sure to create a driving nightmare, Israel's main highway from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv will be completely shut to all civilian traffic while the U.S. president's convoy heads from the airport to Jerusalem for private meetings with Olmert and Israeli President Shimon Peres.

AMERICANS FOR A SAFE ISRAEL

By Inez Weissman (Founder and Chairperson of Oregon AFSI)

Americans for a Safe Israel is a national organization with chapters throughout the United States and with a chapter in Israel. It has been active for several decades on behalf of a strong, safe Jewish homeland with Jerusalem as its capital. We in Oregon have been a chapter for approximately twelve years, emerging from Oregonians for Israel when the need for greater action was de-

manded as a result of impending danger to Israel in response to world events. From its beginning it has been the Zionist organization of Christians and Jews in Oregon totally committed to the sanctity of the Jewish homeland bestowed by God with Jerusalem as its eternal capital with our need to educate our community's citizens as to its history and to the recognition of the commitment to defend the Jewish-Christian heritage that our nation is built on.

We were befriended by Oregonian political leaders and gained their support for Israel, our only democratic friend in the Mid-East. In acting on Israel's behalf, we initiated a radio program several years ago, which is heard on 1330 am four times a week, where I interview local and visiting leaders to share their insight and information.

For the last several years we have bi-monthly produced a publication, "The Israel Alert," of which thousands of copies are distributed to libraries, churches, synagogues, restaurants and stores.

We hold monthly meetings at the synagogue Congregation Shaarie Torah, have internationally known speakers from Israel for various speaking engagements, hold many other yearly events such as the "Israel Dance Festival" and the "Pastors/Rabbis Luncheon," with major community leaders and rabbis and pastors as speakers.

We have hosted national Zionist conferences with attendance of representatives from AFSI and other organizations from throughout the country and Israel. All of our efforts, including the radio program and publication, are aimed at educating an audience that is exposed to a media that does not inform them of that which binds together Israel and the United States in the battle against Islamic-Fascism and the terrorism that confronts us as we must be prepared to do all we can to uphold all we hold dear. Together we will act and we will win.

THE MYTHS OF PEACE, AND THE REALITY OF OUR DEAD BOYS

By Naomi Gagen

Iwant to tell you the story of two boys, twenty year olds, both of them in the elite of elite army units, both of them from Rabbinical families, both of them living in Kiryat Arba, the Jewish neighborhood of Hebron. Achikam Amichai and David Rubin were out on leave from their IDF units, enjoying a well earned holiday. They decided this past Friday afternoon to take a little hike in their backyards. Their friend Naama Ohayon went with them.

It was a beautiful day, beautiful scenery, wild and open, as it is in that part of the land of Israel. They passed an Arab, who asked them for water. The boys gave it to him, then waved goodbye and went on their way.

A short while later, alerted by the Palestinian they had shared water with, **THREE ARMED TERRORISTS WHO HAD BEEN LYING IN WAIT FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO KILL ISRAELIS** and steal their weapons, drove by and opened fire on the three young people. Our boys, ambushed and badly wounded, nevertheless, began firing, killing the terrorist driver of the car. The other two terrorists then hopped out of the car, put their guns at point blank range to the fatally injured boys and fired. These "big heroes" then threw their dead comrade out of the car like so much garbage, and took off, back to Hebron where they live.

Hiding in the forest, Naama Ohayon, who had miraculously escaped, used her cell phone to contact Israeli security forces, who

praised her unbelievable cool in the face of the horror she had witnessed. Security forces rescued her but it was too late for the boys.

Meanwhile, Shimon Peres found time for a photo opportunity to shake hands with a member of Abu Maazen's government who expressed his "condolences." This, of course, before it became known that the killers were Abu Maazen's paid employees.

According to Efrat Weiss, writing in YNET, sometime on Friday evening, the Palestinian Authority started the rumor that it wasn't a terrorist attack at all, but a "drug deal" gone bad.

This went all over the Israeli news, and you can just imagine how the parents must have felt. Others said the boys had no right to go hiking. (Right, let's all stay in our homes and quake.)

Meanwhile, the two murderers, fearing the IDF was closing in on them, turned themselves over to Palestinian National Security Forces, who didn't say a word about this to the Israelis. However, when Israeli security asked them pointedly to turn over the weapons of the murderers and the victims, they did. But they didn't turn over the killers, who they are still "interrogating."

Surprise, surprise, these weren't Hamas operatives. **They were salary-earning members of the Palestinian Authority, PAID FOR BY U.S. AND EUROPEAN UNION DONATIONS to Abu Maazen, the "good Palestinian" as opposed to the Hamas, who are terrorists and "bad Palestinians," the ones we need to weaken by supporting Abu Mazen and his gang of thugs.**

The names of the murderers are: Omar Badar Ali-Halim Teha, a resident of Hebron. 26, a "soldier" in the Palestinian National Security Forces, and an active member of Fatah: Ali al Hamid Regev Dindis, 24, a Hebron resident who is a clerk in the Sharia court of the Palestinian Authority, and also connected to the Palestinian Secret Service. The dead driver is 23 year old Radil Abdul Naim Natshe.

THERE ARE MANY CONCLUSIONS TO BE DRAWN FROM THIS STORY. I WILL LEAVE YOU TO DRAW THEM CONCERNING THE MYTHS OF MAKING PEACE WITH THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.

DEBKAFfile Reports: On the West Bank, an Israeli army brigade continued to scour the West Bank town of Nablus for the third day after uncovering the first Palestinian missile fabrication facility in the Casbah. They found several weapons caches, which they blew up and detained 20 terrorists, including members of Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah and Hamas.

After the discovery, opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu warned that if Israel handed over the West Bank, Hamas stood ready to take over.

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