



Operation “Pillar of Defense”

151800

The Strategic Division/Military-Strategic Information Section



Overview



Overview

Living under fire has become the routine reality for one million Israeli citizens over the last twelve years. When rockets are fired, citizens have fifteen seconds to reach shelters.

Weapons smuggled from Iran, Libya, and Sudan via land and sea routes have accelerated the process of Gaza turning into a terror base.

Over the past few months, the situation in Israel's south has become intolerable. Hamas and other terrorist groups have been firing missiles indiscriminately towards civilian populations on a daily basis.

No state would acquiesce to live in a reality in which its civilians are continuously attacked. The State of Israel has the legal right and the moral obligation to protect its citizens.

Israel has demonstrated great restraint for a long period but cannot accept the recurring attacks on its citizens.



Overview

In order to restore security to its citizens the IDF initiated on 14 November **Operation "Pillar of Defense,"** which began with airstrikes against Hamas leaders and weapons.

The IDF's actions are solely directed against military targets and terrorist activities, and are conducted according to the international law governing armed conflicts. The IDF is making the utmost effort to minimize harm to civilians.

Hamas and other terrorist organizations, however, are flagrantly committing war crimes. They are firing missiles from civilian areas into civilian areas, thus involving civilians as both their shields and their targets.

The IDF is prepared to broaden the scope of the operation, including a wide ground offensive if necessary in order to achieve its goals.

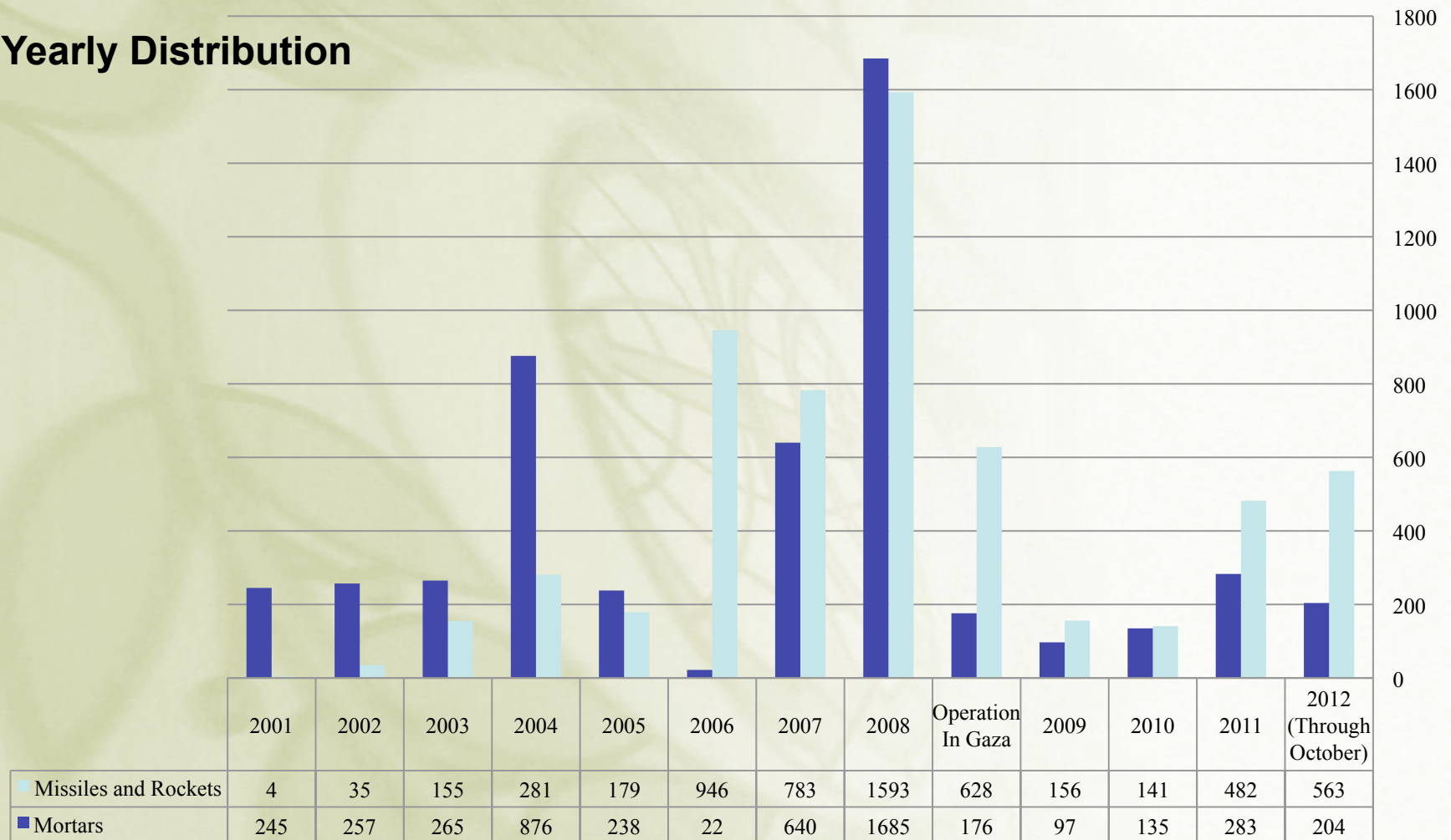


Background



Background - Hamas rocket and mortar attacks

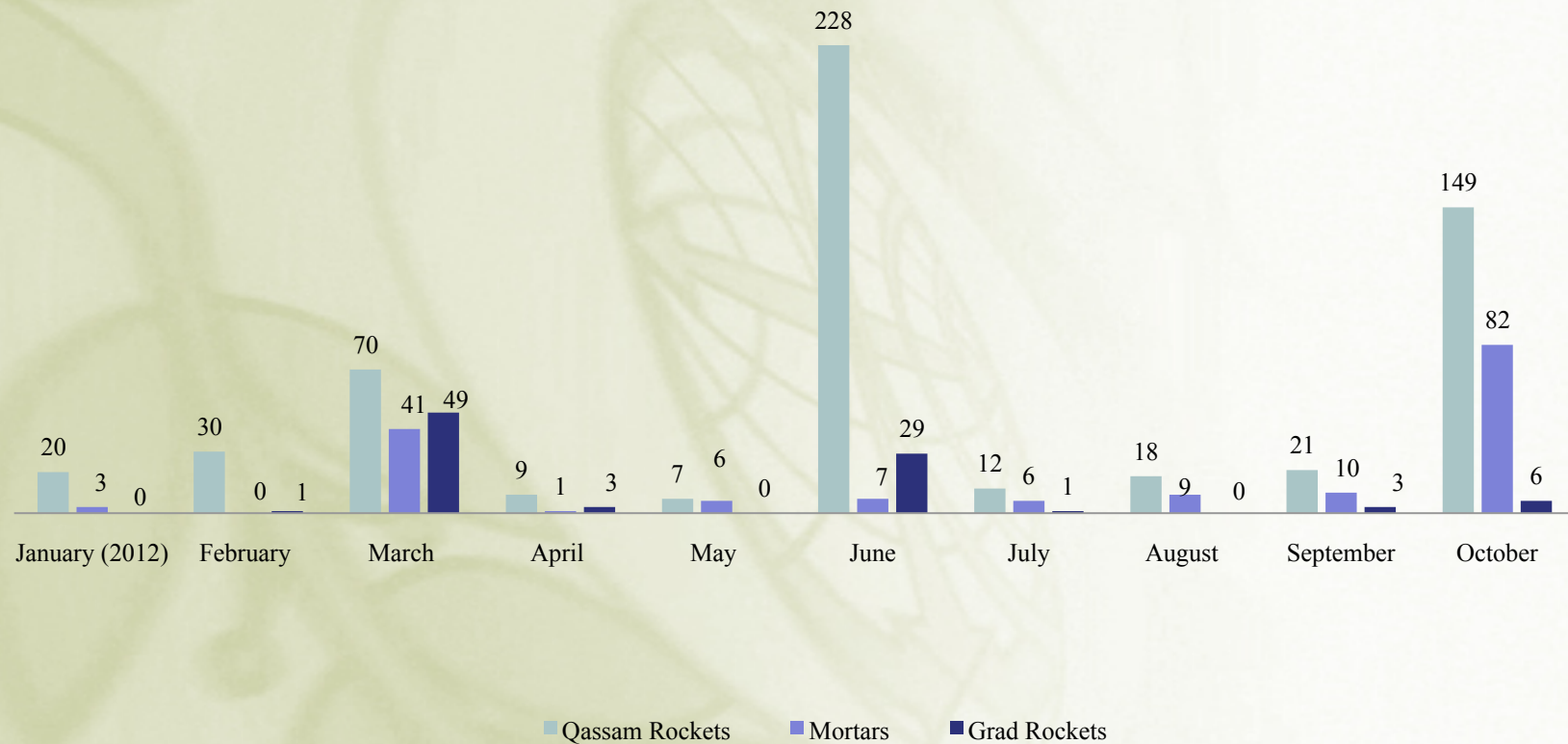
Yearly Distribution





Background - Hamas rocket and mortar attacks

Monthly Distribution - 2012





Background – Recent Events

Israel's operation was precipitated by an intense escalation by Hamas and other terrorist groups in the region. Indeed, just before the commencement of the operation, four rockets that possibly originated in Sinai hit Israel.

Recent attacks

Date	10/11	11/11	12/11	13/11	14/11	Total
Rockets	35	68	13	1	74	191

IAF Airstrikes

Date	10/11	11/11	12/11	13/11	14/11	Total
Airstrikes	3	6	3	2	98	112



Background – Recent Events



A rocket fired from the Gaza Strip on Nov. 11 directly hit this house in the southern Israel town of Sderot



On the morning of Nov. 12, a rocket fired from Gaza struck this house in the southern Israeli town of Netivot.



Background - Recent Events

Hamas has also recently attacked IDF soldiers on routine patrols of the area. This includes:

10 November 10- Anti-tank missiles were fired at an IDF force in the vicinity of the *Karni* crossing. 4 IDF soldiers were injured (one severely).

8 November 8- A tunnel consisting of explosives set off approximately six km south of the *Kissufim* crossing while an IDF force was present. One IDF soldier was lightly injured. An IDF vehicle sustained damage.

23 October- An IED exploded near an IDF force near the *Netiv Ha'asara* community. One IDF officer was severely injured.



Background - Hamas rocket buildup



Underground Fajr 5 rocket launching site owned by Hamas in Zeitoun.



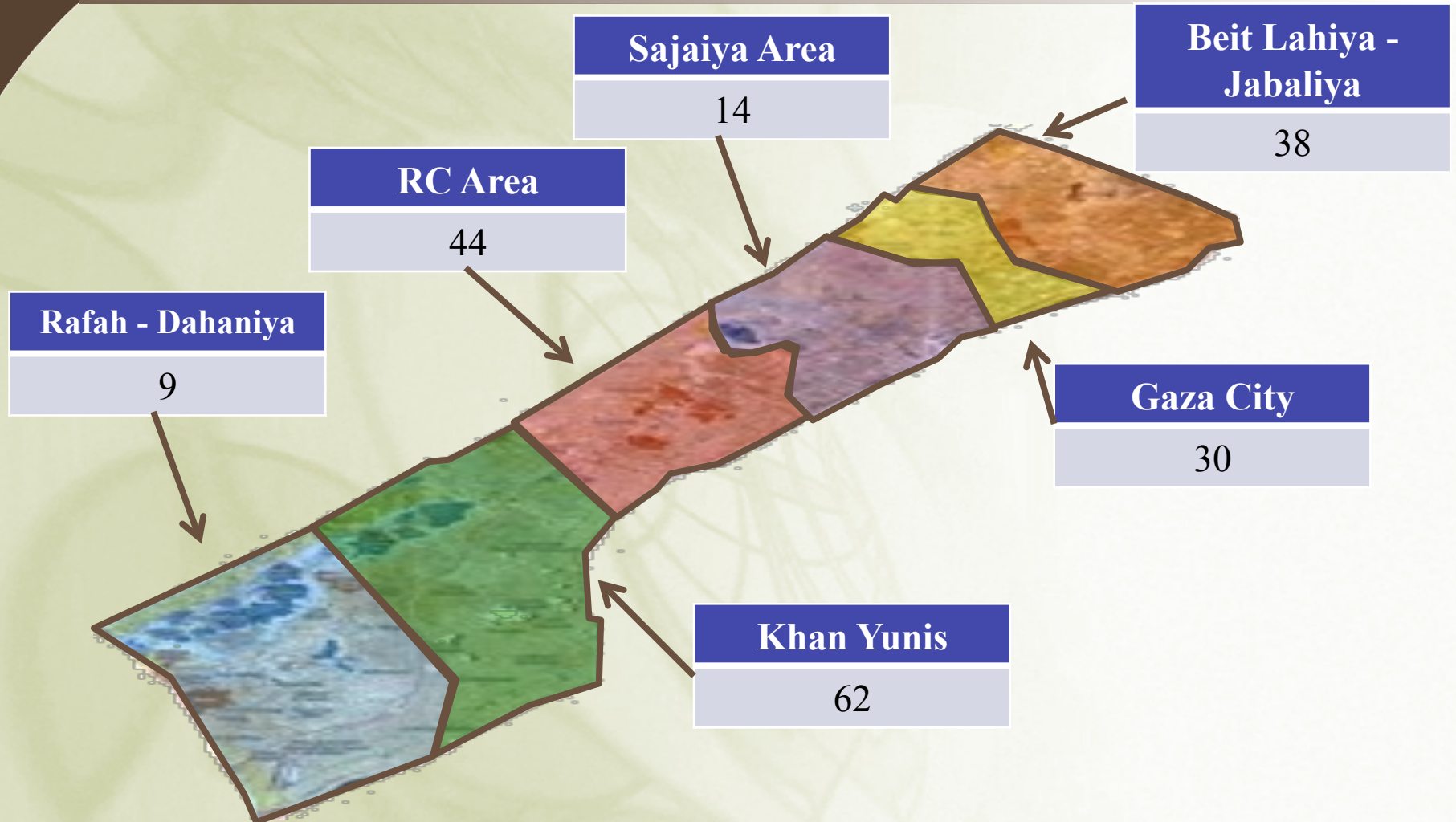
Background - Hamas rocket buildup



Fajr 5 rocket being unloaded and concealed in underground launch site

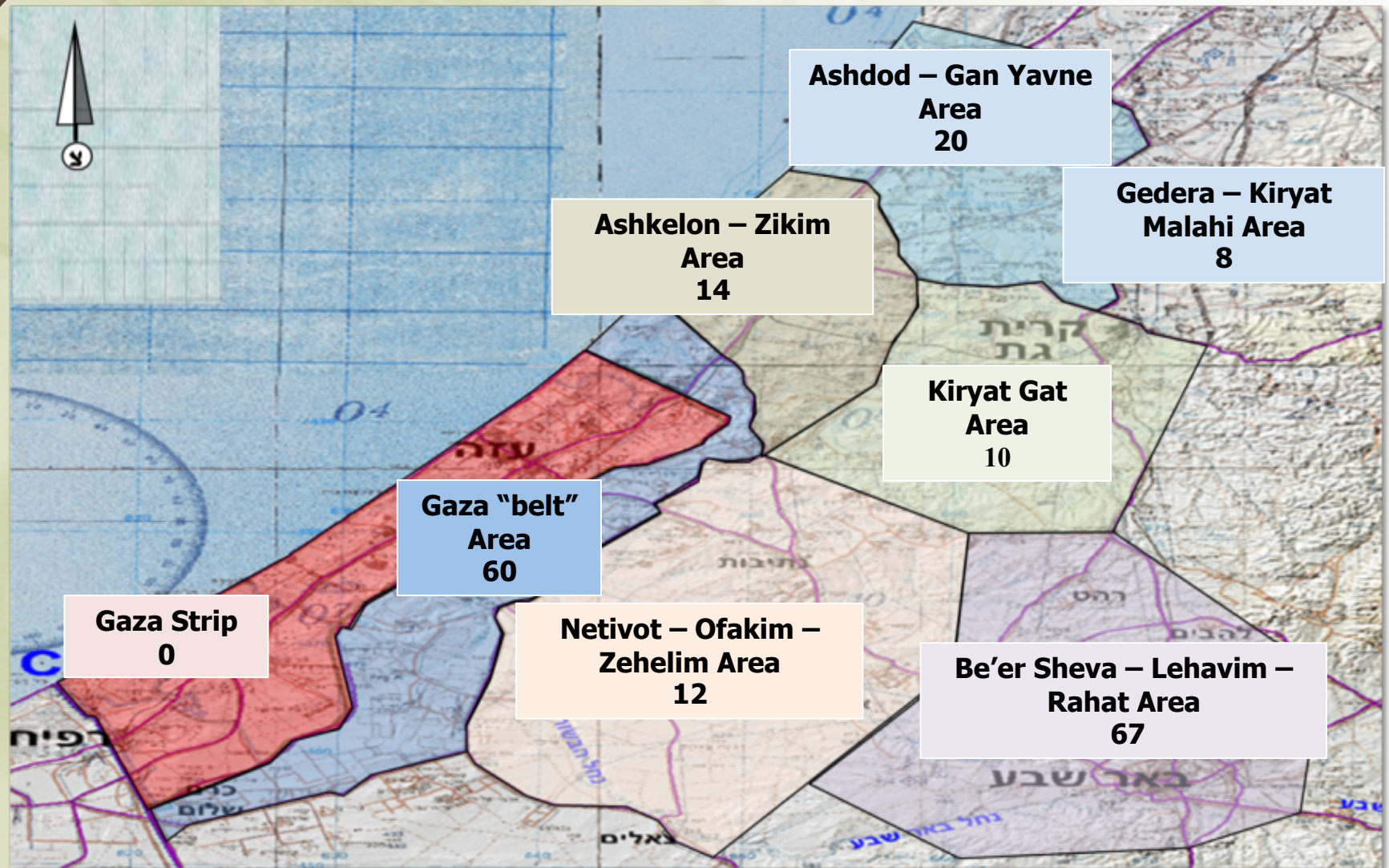


Launch Areas



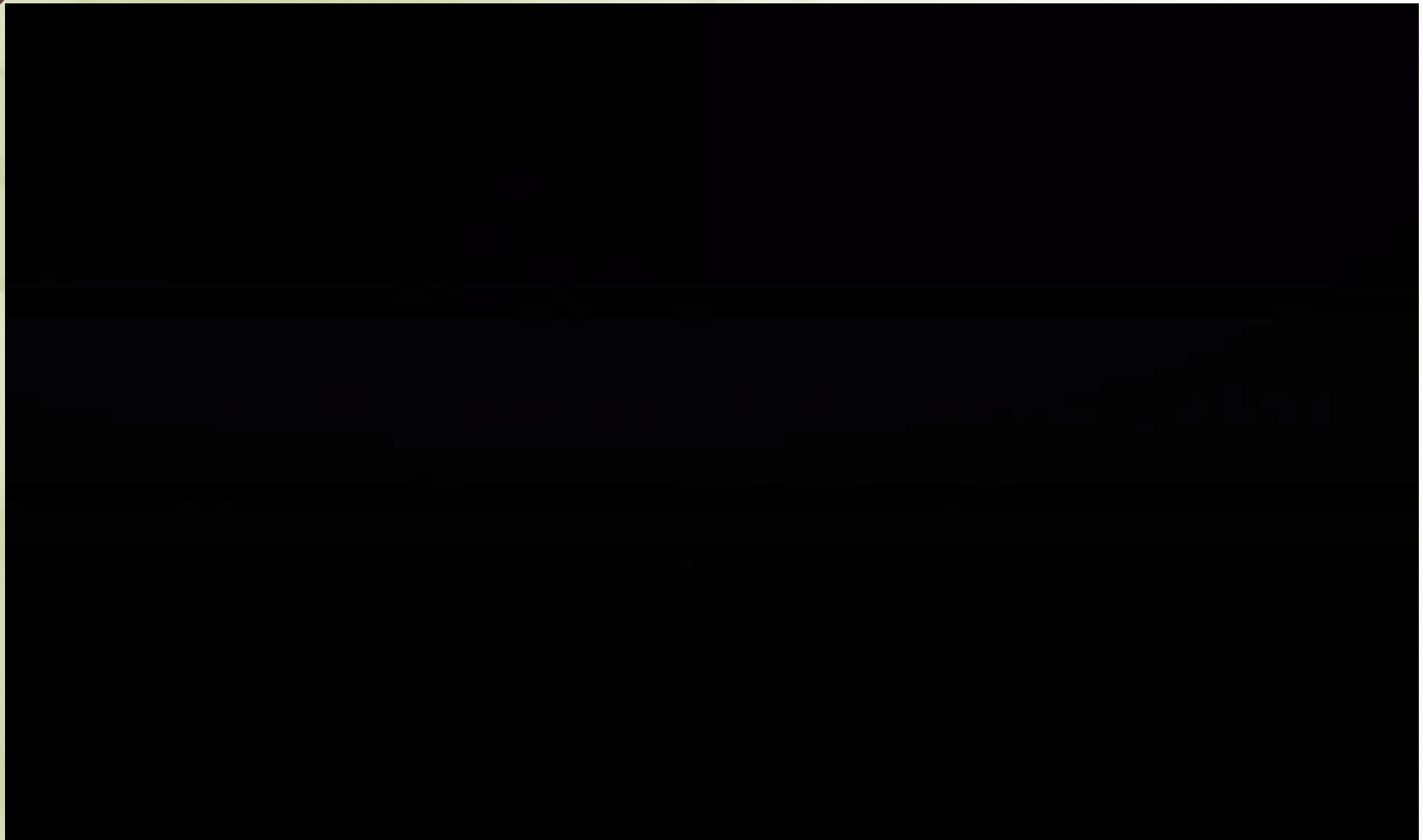


Verified Rocket/Mortar Hits by Area





Significant Events – IAF targets Ahmed Jabari



IAF Targets Ahmad Jabari



Significant Events

Rocket attacks: 279– confirmed launches and 191 confirmed hits

Iron Dome interceptions: 82 successes out of 97 attempts = 85% success rate

IAF Airstrikes (targets hit): 198



Significant Events

Israeli Casualties				
	Killed	Lightly Injured	Moderate Condition	Critical Condition
IDF Soldiers	-	1	2	-
Israeli Civilians	3	16	2	2
Total	3	17	4	2

Amongst the Palestinians, 13 killed, 9 combatants and 4 non-combatants, and over 90 have been injured.



Significant Events



The burnt remains of a car after being hit by a Grad rocket in Beersheba on 14 November



The Iron Dome missile battery in action near Beersheba on 14 November



Significant Events



Victims of the Kiryat Malahi rocket attack



A family seeks cover while the alarm is sounded in Ashdod