supplied 50 km range Fajr-3, the 70 km range Fajr-8, the 125 km-range Zelzal 1 and 210 km-range Zelzal 2 rocket systems were not employed, having sustained considerable damage as a result of Israel Air Force (IAF) strikes.

Hizbullah emerged from the conflict strategically weaker, and, with the implementation of Resolution 1701, lost its autonomy in south Lebanon.

A Western defence source told Jane’s that Iran, with Syrian compliance, has now ramped up deliveries of rockets, ATGWs and other advanced systems in “an effort to re-establish Hizbullah’s military strength and status.

The underlying message here is one of “unfinished business” or preparation for a second stage of operations.

All Hizbullah-Mohtashemi Pour, Iran’s former ambassador to Syria and one of the main forces behind the foundation of Hizbullah, confirmed on 1 November in an interview with the AKI news agency that Tehran had begun restocking Hizbullah with weapons.

Later, on 6 November, Mohtashemi Pour noted that Tehran had started to re-arm Hizbullah for all its needs.

The extent of this commitment was borne out in a speech by Hizbullah Secretary General Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah at the Divine Victory Rally in Beirut on 22 September. “The resistance today has more than 20,000 rockets. The resistance is today stronger than on July 12 and stronger than ever before,” he said.

While these numbers have yet to be independently confirmed, the source noted that the Iranian unit charged with liaising with Hizbullah, the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) “Qods Force” — currently headed by IRGC Brigadier General Qassem Soleimani -- since the end of the conflict, significantly stepped up the transfer of war materiel, along with funding, training and intelligence on Israel, to the Islamic Resistance.

Much of this weapons supply has been facilitated by the compliance of Damascus in smuggling weapons across its borders, the source claimed. “While Iran is the key weapon supplier, Syria was, and still is, the dominant if not exclusive channel for weapon transfers to Hizbullah. This operation is led by Syrian in cooperation with senior IRGC officials in Iran and Syria,” the source added.

However, most of the rockets fired on Israeli positions were Syrian made and the majority of ATGW deployed by Hizbullah were Russian made, acquired and supplied by Syria.

Terje Roed-Larsen, the UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1559, announced on 31 October that he had received reports from government sources of “extensive weapons smuggling into Lebanon”.

In an unprecedented step, the Lebanese armed forces have deployed over 8,000 troops along the 265 km Lebanon-Syria border to counter these activities.

While they have managed limited successes, “the length of the border and the forces allocated for the mission by the government are insufficient”, the sources said.

“Moreover, because of the sensitivity of the issue and the considerable concern over Hizbullah’s military strength — where the Lebanese forces do not want to openly confront Hizbullah — the current trend is to turn a blind eye toward the border activity and to detect and cover up exposed weapon smuggling incidents as quickly as possible,” the sources said.

At the same time, 19 vessels of the reinforced UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL-2) are patrolling Lebanese waters and inspecting ships approaching the country to prevent maritime smuggling.

A Western diplomatic source told Jane’s that Tehran had learned in the early stages of the conflict where it lacked the means to contend with IAF operations — has specifically pressured Iran for the supply of more advanced weaponry, including surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems.

The source said that “following the supply of an undisclosed quantity of Iranian-made Noor [reverse-engineered Chinese C802/VJ-2] radar-guided anti-ship cruise missiles and Chinese QQ-1 [Vanguard] shoulder-launched SAMs”, Iran has agreed to supply advanced Russian-made SAM systems to Hizbullah as part of its strategy to transform Hizbullah into “a coherent fighting force and a regional strategic arm’.

The source added that Tehran will supply Hizbullah with Russian-produced SAMs, including the Sirela-22M (SA-7 ‘Grail’), Sirela-3 (SA-14 ‘Gremlin’) and Iglia-1R (SA-16 ‘Gimlet’) man-portable SAMs. Iran is also understood to have agreed to deliver its own version of the Chinese QQ-1 man-portable low- to very-low-altitude SAM system, the Mithaq-1 — developed by the Iranian Defence Ministry’s Shahid Kazemi Industrial Complex in Tehran.

Iran has, in the interim, set out to restock Hizbullah’s inventory of 122 mm Grad-series Katyusha rockets, 240 mm Fajr-3 and 333 mm Fajr-5 rockets, truck-mounted Falaj-1 and Falaj-2 truck-mounted multiple-launch rockets systems, RAAD-T and Toophan ATGWs and Nader improved rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), the source said. However, to date there is no evidence that Tehran is replenishing Hizbullah’s Zelzal-series longer-range rockets, although sources suggest these could still be smuggled in separate component parts by Syria, the source said, continues to resupply Hizbullah with 220 mm and 300 mm rockets (dubbed Raad and Khabib-1 (M302) by the IDF respectively); Kornet-E. Metis-M and Konkurs ATGWs; and RPG-29 tandem-warhead RPGs.

These moves come despite offers to Israel from Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on 19 December to crack down on Hizbullah and the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in exchange for a return to negotiations.

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Congratulating the Richland Springs Coyotes Football Team

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Richland Springs Coyotes football team for winning the 2006 Six-Man Division 1 State Champions and the Sports Illustrated six-man football poll national championship.

With its second national crown in 3 years, Richland Springs becomes only the third school to achieve such an honor.

Playing before a record crowd of 12,000 fans at a sellout's Shotwell Stadium, they defeated the Rule Bobcats by a score of 78-58, finishing the year with a perfect 14-0 record. The Coyotes broke the 1988 record for the highest score in a championship game and amazed the fans with their speed and skill by recovering the on-side kick to open the game.

Six-man football has a long history in Texas. From its beginning in 1938, Texas now has over 102 public schools and as many as 60 private schools continuing this proud tradition of six-man football.

I want to recognize the tireless efforts of Coach Burkhart, Coach Ethridge, Coach Dodson, and Coach Rogers for the national and State titles they have brought to Richland Springs.

I also want to recognize members of the team: Coey Smith, Jeremiah Ramirez, Case Fikes, Houston Burleson, Mark Williams, Haustin Burkhart, Kevin Carson, Shelby Smith, James Farris, Nigel Bates, Mitchell Jacobson, Andrew Fowler, Chevy Saldivar, Tyler Ethridge, Richie Daniels, Adrian Avila, Bobby Borders, Khalid Khatib, Patrick