

supplied 50 km range Fajr-3, the 70 km range Fajr-S, 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 rehabilitate Hizbullah's military strength and status".

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

Ali Akbar 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 Kazem Soleimani—has, 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 weapons transfer to Hizbullah. This operation is led by Syrian military officers in co-operation with senior IRGC officials in Iran and Syria," the source added.

However, most of the rockets fired on Israel during the conflict 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 Lebanese government officials 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 general 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 source 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 the Islamic Resistance—citing lessons learned in the early stages of the conflict where it lacked the means to contend with IAF operations—has specifically pressured Iran for "an array 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/YJ-2] radar-guided anti-ship cruise missiles and Chinese QW-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 Strela-2/2M (SA-7 "Grail"), Strela-3 (SA-14 "Gremlin") and Igla-1E (SA-16 "Gimlet") man-portable SAMs. Iran is also understood to have agreed to deliver its own version of the Chinese QW-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 Falaq-1 and Falaq-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 packages.

Syria, the source said, continues to resupply Hizbullah with 220 mm and 302 mm rockets (dubbed Raad and Khaibar-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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APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LYNCH). Pursuant to sections 5580 and 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 42-43), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution:

Mr. BECERRA, California
Ms. MATSUI, California.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SELECT INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT PANEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4(a)(5) of rule X, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's ap-

pointment of the following Members of the House to the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel of the Committee on Appropriations:

Mr. HOLT, New Jersey, Chairman
Mr. OBEY, Wisconsin
Mr. MURTHA, Pennsylvania
Mr. REYES, Texas
Mr. DICKS, Washington
Mrs. LOWEY, New York
Mr. CRAMER, Alabama
Mr. SCHIFF, California
Mr. LAHOOD, Illinois, Ranking Minority Member
Mr. LEWIS, California
Mr. YOUNG, Florida
Mr. HOEKSTRA, Michigan
Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, New Jersey.

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

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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 Abilene'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 that they have brought to Richland Springs.

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

Couch, Genero Hernandez, Randy Couch, Daniel Barrett, Abraham Ahumada, Branch Vancourt, C.J. Finke, Dean King, Dean Charriez, Jestin Fox, and Ryan Soto.

I congratulate the Richland Springs Coyotes on their national and State championships and wish them the best of luck next season.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, this evening the President, in bowing to the electoral reality of last November and, with finally some recognition of real problems confronting our Nation and our citizens, is about to begin, in his State of the Union, to address the issue of the need for an expansion of health insurance. Forty-six million Americans lack health insurance, 1 million more per year every year this President has been in office. He will also address the issues of energy efficiency, energy independence, and global warming; and we welcome some remarks from the President in those areas. And he is going to address the debt and the deficit.

We welcome this new focus on these extraordinarily important and difficult issues that have been pretty much ignored during his Presidency. Unfortunately, his rhetorical U-turn is not going to be matched by the reality of his proposals. In order to provide health insurance to 46.1 million people who don't have it, he says we should tax people who do have health insurance.

Now, that is interesting because the President, of course, gets his health insurance for free. And his proposal would also extend tax benefits to the wealthiest among us because many people who don't have health insurance can't benefit from tax breaks. They don't pay Federal income taxes.

That is not a real solution. A real solution would be to take on the anti-trust immunity of the insurance industry, estimated to raise \$45 billion, saving consumers that money. That is the cost of uninsured health care in America.

Energy efficiency and independence, well, we will wait and hear what the President has to say. But remember a year ago, he talked about our addiction to oil, and all his policies have been designed to further that addiction thus far.

On the debt and the deficit, he still wants to cut taxes for the wealthiest

among us. He wants to extend, to make permanent, all of his tax cuts; exempt all estates from taxes; and says he is going to balance the budget. Well, if he was really going to do that by the year 2012, he would have to eliminate the Federal Government except for the Department of Defense, a little bit of the Department of Homeland Security, because the projected deficit is as large as about the rest of the discretionary budget if his tax cuts are maintained. You have to begin to raise revenues from the wealthiest among us to address this gaping maw hole, the deficit.

And then there is one very important problem where he isn't even pretending to change direction, one where a majority of the American people and a majority of the United States disagree with the President's nostrum, and that is his desire to escalate the war in Iraq as a way out. Defying his own Joint Chiefs of Staff and the senior officers and advisers in the military; defying the Prime Minister of Iraq, who said we shouldn't put more Americans into Baghdad; defying the American people; and defying this Congress, the President is going to offer us more stay the course in Iraq and try to spin it into a new policy that will lead to success.

We want to succeed, but to succeed, the Iraqi Government has to be willing to take on some of its own problems. The Shiias and the Sunnis have got to stop slaughtering each other trying to settle a 1,400-year-old grudge and putting us in the middle of their civil war. They have got to begin to meaningfully share power, and they have got to begin to resolve their own issues. And the U.S. sending more troops is not going to lead them down that path.

So I fear that what the President is proposing there will lead to more conflict. It may look good in the short term, but long term it is not going to resolve this very difficult issue.

I hope that the President offers us some real changes in direction tonight and not just a rhetorical U-turn to bow to the reality of the elections.

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

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WE NEED A NEW DIRECTION

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, a State of the Union Address is an opportunity for the Nation to take stock of where it is at this exact moment.

It is obvious that the entire domestic agenda has been swallowed up by the war in Iraq. With over 3,000 U.S. soldiers killed in action; with over 650,000 innocent Iraqi civilians dead in the

war; with this Nation's having spent over \$400 billion in the war and, according to Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, will spend up to \$2 trillion for the war in Iraq, we have seen the hopes and the aspirations of the American people for more jobs, for better housing, for decent health care, for education for their children just swept aside as the administration focuses intently not only on the war, but escalating the war.

I think all across this country people are hopeful that America will have a new agenda, one which will recognize that we must focus on America's basic needs. It is time for America to come home. Come home and start taking care of the needs of our people here for decent housing, the needs of our people for health care. Over 100 million Americans either have no health insurance or lack access to adequate health insurance, and yet we are about destroying the health of the people of Iraq instead of focusing on the needs of our people here back home.

Martin Luther King said it years ago in his speech at Riverside Church in New York. He said that the hopes and the aspirations of people of two countries were being set aside. He was speaking of Vietnam and the United States. Today the hopes and the aspirations of people of two countries, of Iraq and the United States, are being set aside in this head-long rush to escalation of a war.

Now, what should be our policies, and what steps should we take? First of all, this isn't just about opposing escalation. I would say that is pretty easy to do based on the record of this administration's conduct of the war. But we should be taking a strong stand against the occupation. We should be demanding that the United States end the occupation, that we bring our troops home, that we close our bases. That then will set the precondition that is necessary for the world community to come together and support a peacekeeping and security mission in Iraq. That then sets the stage for the Iraqi people to reach a moment of possibility for reconciliation between the Shiites, the Kurds, and the Sunnis. It is absolutely imperative that the United States announce that it is going to end the occupation because it is the occupation which is fueling the insurgency.

Tonight the Nation is waiting for a new direction. It is not looking for more war. It is not looking for more casualties. It is not looking for a continued destruction of our domestic agenda. So we are here to state that there is a plan, and I have submitted it.

The Kucinich 12-point plan is the plan that sets the stage for America to take a new direction. That direction is out of Iraq, but it is also a direction of reconciling with the world community because the way this administration responded to 9/11 separated us from the world community. At a moment when the whole world was ready to embrace the United States in its suffering and