

GAZA

IDF 2007 ASSESSMENT: WAR IN GAZA CERTAIN

Feb 23, 07. Israeli defence and security officials agree that Syria, with the backing of Iran, is apparently preparing for war with the Jewish state, but do not believe that conflict will erupt this year.

The Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, however, is a different story. The terrorist arms build-up in Gaza, coupled with ongoing attacks from the area that are certain to one day result in a mass-casualty incident is a recipe for war.

Gaza-based terrorists are firing rockets into southern Israel on almost a daily basis. Many have come dangerously close to hitting **strategic facilities** in Ashkelon that if struck, could result in the deaths of hundreds or thousands of Israelis. If that happens, and it almost has on several occasions, Israel would feel compelled to enter Gaza in force.

When the Israelis get there, they will find a Hamas-led force armed with advanced weapons thanks to months of successful smuggling via the Egyptian Sinai and employing Hizb'allah tactics put to good use against the IDF last summer.

That spells a prolonged and deadly fight against the "Palestinians" that is likely to end with an enormous increase in international pressure on Israel to make concessions. - *Jerusalem Newswire*

HAMAS HAS ADVANCED ANTI-TANK MISSILES

Feb 21, 07. Further blemishing the supposed benefits of having fled the Gaza Strip more than a year ago, IDF officials now say they are reasonably sure that Gaza-based Hamas forces are in possession of semi-advanced anti-tank missiles.

Arms prohibited by the Palestinian's peace agreements with Israel have been flowing into Gaza ever since Israel handed over control of the Gaza-Sinai border to Egypt and the "Palestinians." - www.jnewswire.com

HAMAS' MILITARY WING: "TRUCE IS OVER"

Hamas' Kassam Brigade has declared an end to a cease-fire with Israel, according to a statement released on Feb 21. The call to end the truce appeared on Hamas's official website, in both English and Arabic. It is the first time in months that Palestinian armed forces directly under the control of the Hamas government openly threatened to attack Israel. (This was not a formal announcement from Hamas.)

IDF WARNS OF TUNNELS IN WEST BANK

Feb 11, 07. Dozens of tunnels being dug across the Philadelphi Corridor - between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, and it is only a matter of time before Palestinians in the West Bank also begin digging tunnels under the security fence since they are being cut off from Israel.

Israel Security Agency Shin Bet Chief Yuval Diskin said there were at least 10 tunnels being dug from Gaza into Israel intended to be used in attacks against Israeli targets. He said that there were also **dozens of tunnels** being dug in Rafah that are used to smuggle weapons into Gaza from the Sinai Desert.

Davidi revealed that the Palestinians had improved their defence systems around tunnels and that now almost every tunnel in the Gaza Strip was surrounded with booby-traps and explosive devices. - *Jerusalem Post*