



Rabbinic Recap

The week of September 29, 2017

U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

United States Establishes Military ‘Living Facility’ in Israel

On Sept. 18, the United States will open a “living facility” for American soldiers in Israel, located within the Israeli Air Force’s (IAF) Mashabim Air Base in the heart of the Negev Desert (in southern Israel). The U.S. military’s European Command (EUCOM) will operate the living facility, which includes barracks that will house dozens of U.S. soldiers; offices; and support services. On Sept. 18, senior leaders from the U.S. military participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the new facility. “As part of the United States’ continued commitment to Israel, on September 18, senior leaders from the US military participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony... to commemorate the opening of a new building on an Israeli Air Force base,” said Meghan Henderson, deputy director of EUCOM’s Media Operations Division. “The buildings are facilities on the existing Israeli Air Force Base to support our U.S. service personnel who are working there.” Maj. Gen. John Gronski, deputy commander of U.S. Army National Guard in Europe, added that the facility “symbolizes the strong bond that exists between the United States and Israel...The United States and Israel have long planned together, exercised together and trained together. And now, with the opening of this site, these crucial interactions will happen every day.

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

Hamas Speaks Highly of Deadly Shooting Attack that Killed Three Israelis

According to [The Jerusalem Post](#), Hamas spoke highly of a deadly shooting attack on Tuesday outside the Har Adar settlement near Jerusalem. “Once again Jerusalem proves that it is the heart of the conflict with the occupation,” Hamas spokesman Hazim Qassim said in a statement on his Facebook page. “The operation this morning in northern Jerusalem is a new chapter of the Jerusalem intifada and... an affirmation that our uprising youth will continue to fight until the people and land are completely liberated.” Even though Hamas has said it does not want war with Israel at the present moment, it has encouraged shooting, ramming and knifing attacks against Israelis in the West Bank and Jerusalem. In Tuesday’s attack, a Palestinian assailant opened fire on Israeli security personnel outside Har Adar, leaving three dead and one severely wounded, police said. The attacker, a laborer from Bayt Surik, a village east of Har Adar, was shot dead at the scene, police added. Islamic Jihad blessed Tuesday’s attack, saying it “embodies the living conscience of the Palestinian people and cause.” “The blessed [operation] is a slap in the face of normalizers and conspirators and it says to all the people of the land that it is not possible to neglect one iota of Jerusalem’s soil or accept Zionists who are assailing [it],” Islamic Jihad spokesman Daoud Shahab said in a statement. Fatah rarely rebukes Palestinians who carried out attacks against Israelis. However, PA President Mahmoud Abbas, who is also

Fatah chairman, has instructed the Palestinian Authority security forces to prevent attacks against Israelis. According to Israeli and Palestinian security sources, the PA has foiled hundreds of attacks against Israelis.

IRAN

IDF: Iran supplying Hezbollah with ever more accurate missiles

Iran is working tirelessly to outfit the Hezbollah terrorist group with more accurate missiles for a future war with Israel, which may dramatically affect the nature of such a conflict, according to Israeli military assessments released Wednesday. [The Times of Israel](#) reports that the IDF also believes that Iran will continue with its efforts to establish a presence in Syria through proxies, with which it can support Hezbollah and potentially open a second Syrian front against Israel. Currently, Tehran has just 1,500 of its own Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Syria. However, the IDF believes that the Islamic Republic also controls over 10,000 fighters from Shiite militias. Hezbollah also has several thousand troops in the country, assisting Syrian dictator Bashar Assad in his war against rebel groups. Iran announced on Saturday, September 23, 2017, that it has successfully tested a new missile, with a 1,250-mile range, which is capable of reaching Israel and U.S. bases in the Gulf. Regarding Iranian missile development, the Israeli military agrees with its American counterparts that video footage of a ballistic missile test released by Tehran earlier this week was, in fact, recycled footage from over nine months ago. Iran said on Saturday that it successfully tested a new medium-range missile. State television carried footage of the launch of the Khoramshahr missile, which was first displayed at a high-profile military parade in Tehran on Friday. It also carried in-flight video from the nose cone. But according to a Fox News report, two U.S. officials claim that the video was more than seven months old and dated back to a failed launch in late January, which resulted in the missile exploding shortly after liftoff.

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

IDF emergency team arrives to help quake-stricken Mexico

An IDF emergency team from the Home Front Command arrived last week in Mexico, where they are providing assistance after the Central American nation was hit by a powerful earthquake that has killed at least 245 people. Some of the IDF team will be helping with search and rescue operations, the army said. The Israeli delegation was made up of 71 soldiers and officers who had already begun providing assistance. Earlier, the army said that apart from a small search and rescue team, the delegation was made up mostly of engineers who will help assess the structural integrity of buildings in Mexico City and other affected areas. There is no field hospital; however, the army has said this could be added in the future. The delegation is slated to return on September 29, ahead of the Yom Kippur holiday, the spokesperson said. [The Times of Israel](#) noted that Israel is often one of the first countries to send humanitarian delegations to countries hit by natural disasters. Israeli disaster relief delegations provided rescue and medical services after an earthquake in Turkey in 1999, an earthquake in Haiti in 2010, a typhoon in the Philippines in 2013 and, most recently, an earthquake in Nepal in 2015. Last year, the United Nations' World Health Organization identified Israel as having the world's [top emergency medical team](#).