Lessons Learned from ISRAEL EMS EXCHANGE

November 2013
Geo-political factors
Began in the early 20th century

The conflict is wide-ranging— the term is also used in reference to the earlier phases of the same conflict, between the Jewish and Arab residents living in Palestine before the establishment of the State of Israel

It forms part of the wider Arab–Israeli conflict
Islam - religion
Muslim – person (that practices Islam)
Arab- Middle Eastern Ethnicity

Ethnicity is not a religion
HOWEVER, most Arabs are Muslim
Militant Groups

- **Hamas**—largest Palestinian militant organization (considered a terrorist group by US, Israel, and European Union)—wants to liberate Palestinian territories from Israeli occupation. Rockets target civilians to terrorize Israeli homefront.

- **Hezbollah**—Shi'a Muslim militant group and political party based in Lebanon.

- **al-Fatah**—Palestinian political and military organization founded in 1958 by Yasser Arafat to bring about the establishment of a Palestinian state. In 2006 was defeated by Hamas in the elections for the Palestinian National Authority.
### Understanding Palestine...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The people</th>
<th>The land</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Palestinians are largely culturally and linguistically Arab</td>
<td>• The term &quot;Palestine&quot; came from the name that the conquering Roman Empire gave the ancient Land of Israel in an attempt to obliterate and de-legitimize the Jewish presence in the Holy Land</td>
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<td>• Muslim 75% (predominantly Sunni), Christian and other 8%, Jewish 17%</td>
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Bottom line...

- The Arab campaign against Israel is rooted not in any negotiable grievances but in a basic opposition to the very existence of Jewish sovereignty.
Middle East Geography
The remaining key issues are: mutual recognition, borders, security, water rights, control of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, Palestinian freedom of movement, and legalities concerning refugees.
Focus on Rockets, Missiles, and Explosives
Areas which came under Israeli control after the 1967 war. Final status pending negotiation. The Golan Heights have been under Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration since 1981. Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005.
Rocket Ranges from Gaza

- **CODE RED**
- 10 kilometers is equal to **6.21 miles**
Border Concerns in Gaza

- **Rocket Attacks**: Northern Gaza is being used to fire rockets at Israeli towns and cities.
- **Attacks On Crossings**: The Karni and Kerem Shalom Crossings have been the scenes of numerous attacks on Israelis.
- **Terrorist Training Camps**: Former Israeli settlements are now being used as terrorist training camps.
- **Tunneling Into Israel**: Tunnels are being built in order to infiltrate Israel and carry out attacks.
- **Cash Smuggling**: Hamas has smuggled tens of millions of dollars through the Rafah Crossing.
- **Weapons Smuggling**: Terrorists have used tunnels and sea routes to smuggle in massive amounts of weapons.
ISRAEL – Health Demographics

- Population 7.7 million
- Over 65 years of age 10%
- Under 14 years of age 28%
- National Health Insurance Since 1995
- 4 HMOs
- General Hospital beds 1.95/1000
- Life expectancy at birth (yrs) F=82, M=79
- Infant mortality rate 4‰
Expectations of ALL Israelis to Meet Country’s Public Safety Needs

- Military service right out of high school (M & F)
- 67 percent of the Jewish community and 50 percent of all Israelis perform national service
- “Equal Burden Law”
- Public service—large volunteer EMS force
Israeli Landscape - Relatively Rural

View from Sderot

Gaza City
Largest Threats Come from Rockets and Suicide Bombers
Suicide Bombers

- Suicide bombing- **terrorist tactic of choice** for more than 20 years
- Men, women, and older children have been suicide bombers
- Targets have included buses, clubs, trains, restaurants, police checkpoints, and other public locations where there are **large groups of exposed people** (also known as “soft targets”)
- General disregard for “innocent victims” such as children
Bomber Profile

- Suicide bombers appearing to surrender may do so as a ruse to draw in and kill law enforcement personnel and other responders.
- Even if a suicide bomber sincerely wants to surrender, a second party (handler) may initiate the detonation remotely.
- “Double-tap” attack—minutes after a suicide bomber attack, a second bomber will attack the first responders or gathered crowds.
Mitigate

...Prepare
Situational Awareness
Iron Dome Missile Defense System

- MOBILE
- Interception rate over 90%
- Each interceptor costs around $50,000 and usually two are fired at rockets slated for interception
Interceptor from Iron Dome
Physical Barriers
Warning Systems, Safe Rooms, and Building Fortification... 

...is a way of life!
Underground Municipal Facilities
Protected and Ventilated
But Hamas has tunnels too...
Response
# Two Systems...

**US**
- Scene Safety - no entry until secured by law enforcement
- Patients to staging area for triage

**Israel**
- Acknowledge possibility of secondary device but focus is on evacuation of casualties
- All patients needing definitive care direct to hospital, no stopping for primary or secondary triage
20% Surge Capability
MANDATED by Government
Lockdown Capabilities
Decontamination at the Hospital – Not Scene
YELLOW Line Distinguishes Zones
Prescribed Roles
Direct Transport to "Anxiety Centers" Is Permitted
Preplanning

Ground rules

- Every hospital employee must be accessible 24 hours of every day, and must know his role in an emergency situation.

- Every department has written directions on how to function during an emergency situation.

- Every employee with a specific role in an emergency situation functions according to a checklist.

- Repeated exercises are held to familiarize teams with each other and with work procedures.
National Medical Dispatching Center
Magen David Adom (MDA) in Israel

- Israeli National EMS System
- Prehospital care
- National blood service (300,000 units collected annually)
- EMS Education
- National Red Cross Society
- Civil Auxiliary Service to Israeli Defense Forces
- 544,355 annual EMS dispatches (1491 runs per day)
Magen David Adom in Israel

- 1545 Employees
- 11450 Volunteers
- 1 National Dispatch Center
- 11 Regional Dispatch Centers + 115 Dispatch Posts
- 160 ALS Ambulances
- 671 BLS/ILS Ambulances
- 94 First Responder Motorcycles
- 24 Multicasualty Response Vehicles
- 1 Air Medical Unit
Western Galilee Hospital

- 6 mi from Lebanese border
- Largest hospital in the Galilee region of northern Israel
- 62 departments and specialty units
- 627 registered beds
- Staff of over 2,200 (making it the largest employer in the area.)
- In 2009, the hospital recorded 120,000 ER visits, 60,000 admissions, 15,000 surgical procedures, 6,000 births and 29,000 dialysis treatments.
Underground at WGH...
Providing Emergency Care

- Underground facility 10 meters (33 feet) below sea level
- Lockdown procedures
- Closed Air Filtration System for protection against biohazard
Hospitals Have Learned to Adapt...
Used to intimidate, maim, and kill...
What Can We Learn??
Response  ...Recovery
We could do better...

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<th>US</th>
<th>Israel</th>
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<td>• Public views mitigation and response as a government responsibility</td>
<td>• Individual preparedness is a public responsibility</td>
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<td>• Public lacks confidence in the government’s ability to respond effectively</td>
<td>• Single coordinated, national public education program</td>
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<td>• Federal government’s communication of threats has been inconsistent</td>
<td>• Deliver unified, consistent messages about preparedness and threats</td>
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Challenges Ahead...

- The average person living in the United States is more likely to encounter natural disasters and traditional crime than an act of terrorism.
- This factor makes it difficult for officials to get the public to prepare for the worst.
- *Emergency authorities need to change their perceptions of the public* from seeing them as victims to considering them as partners and force multipliers.
Practice Resiliency
Link to EMS Video

http://bcove.me/trb4adjo