



Written by [D. Michael DeRidder](#) on October 22, 2024

## FBI Investigating Leak of U.S. Intel on Israeli Strike on Iran

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is investigating the leak of classified U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) documents last week, according to a statement released by the FBI. The [DOD documents contained information](#) on the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) preparing for a strike against Iran, and were allegedly leaked on Telegram shortly before the planned strike.

White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby responded to questions on the leak, and noted President Biden is [concerned about a leak within the DOD](#), stating:



adamkaz/iStock/Getty Images Plus

We're not exactly sure how these documents found their way into the public domain.... The president remains deeply concerned about any leakage of classified information into the public domain. That is not supposed to happen, and it's unacceptable when it does.

The FBI also responded, confirming it is investigating the alleged leak, but stated it had no further comment due to the ongoing investigation:

The FBI is investigating the alleged leak of classified documents and working closely with our partners in the Department of Defense and Intelligence Community.... As this is an ongoing investigation, we have no further comment.



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(TS//TK//RSEN//REL TO USA, FVEY) Israel: Air Force Continues Preparations for Strike on Iran and Conducts a Second Large-Force Employment Exercise, 15-16 October 2024

Report Title

(TS//TK//RSEN//REL TO USA, FVEY) Israel: Air Force Continues Preparations for Strike on Iran and Conducts a Second Large-Force Employment Exercise, 15-16 October 2024

Report Details

Target/OOI ID	Image ID/Mission	Sensor	TOT (Z)	Target/OOI Name	Latitude	Longitude
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Text Type	Status	TR1	TR2	Report Type	Producer / Agency	DAC Group
RMK	APPROVED	OPR		SUPIR	CX / NIMAST	dacpcmw

Change Significance	Correction	Report Number
SIG	N	20241016CX0102360401

Report Summary

(TS//TK//RSEN//REL TO USA, FVEY) Israel: Air Force Continues Preparations for Strike on Iran and Conducts a Second Large-Force Employment Exercise, 15-16 October 2024

(TS//TK//RSEN//REL TO USA, FVEY) The Israeli Air Force (IAF) continued air-launched ballistic missile (ALBM) handling, covert UAV operations, and conducted a second large-force employment (LFE) exercise from 15 through 16 October 2024, according to imagery analysis. The IAF has handled at least 16 Golden Horizon ALBMs and at least 40 IS02 (Rocks) ALBMs since 8 October, according to imagery analysis.

-(TS//FGI ISR//NF) The IAF continued ALBM handling at Hatserim Airfield on 15 October 2024. The IAF placed concealment screens over six F-15I hardened aircraft shelter (HAS) entrances on an alert apron on 16 October, which indicated ALBM handling occurred in the HAS area. We cannot differentiate if this activity is related to IS02 (Rocks) or Golden Horizon ALBMs; however, three possible Golden Horizon ALBM-associated dollies arrived in a separate HAS adjacent to the F-15I alert HAS complex. We did not observe increased personnel at the ALBM handling area at Hatserim Airfield on 16 October.

-(S//REL TO USA, FVEY) The IAF likely handled air-to-surface missiles (ASM) at Ramat David Airfield and Ramon Airfield from 15 through 16 October. The IAF handled one probable unidentified ASM at Ramat David Airfield on 15 October. One unidentified ASM was in front of hardened aircraft bunker typically associated with precision-guided munitions generation. At Ramon Airfield, one munitions cart probably outfitted with missile handling equipment arrived within the ALBM area on 16 October, indicating ALBM handling likely occurred.

-(TS//TK//RSEN//REL TO USA, GBR) The IAF continued to conduct covert UAV flight activity at Ramon Airfield from 15 through 16 October. The IAF opened the RA-01 operations hangar screen and the gate to the RA-01 operations area, indicating an RA-01 airframe was transiting to or from the operations area at 1731Z 15 October. On 16 October, NGA observed personnel and ground equipment arrive within the RA-01 operations area, indicating pre or post-flight activity occurred.

(S//REL TO USA, FVEY) The IAF conducted an LFE exercise on 15 October, the second LFE exercise since 13 October, likely to practice air-to-air refueling and combat search and rescue operations with a large number of aircraft. The LFE exercise included at least three KC-707 tankers, one G-550 Gulfstream airborne early warning aircraft, and possibly fighter aircraft, according to SIGINT reporting. [1] The KC-707 tankers and G-550 Gulfstream aircraft involved in the LFE exercise is a similar package to what the IAF used to conduct long-range strikes in Yemen on 29 September 2024, according to imagery analysis

[@Midde\\_East\\_Spectator \(Telegram\)](#)

(U) Sources

(S//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL) [1] Originating Agency: NSA; Source ID Number: S/CY/227249-24; Date of Publication: 15 October 2024; Report Title: Middle East Hostilities: Israeli Air Force Aircraft Participate in a Large Force Employment Exercise Amid Possible Strike Preparations, 13 October 2024 (S//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL); URL: S/CY/227249-24 (ic.gov); (Source information available Classified S//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL).

(U) Point of Contact:

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Written by [D. Michael DeRidder](#) on October 22, 2024

**NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
 (S)REL TO USA, GBR) **Israel: Defense Forces Continue Key Munitions Preparations and Covert UAV Activity Almost Certainly for a Strike on Iran, 16 October 2024** 16 October 2024

(S)REL TO USA, GBR) **The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) continued key munitions preparations and covert UAV activity on 16 October almost certainly for a strike on Iran.** We cannot definitively predict the scale and scope of a strike on Iran, and such a strike can occur with no further GEOINT warning.

(S)REL TO USA, PVEY) The Israeli Air Force (IAF) continued long-range air-launched ballistic missile (ALBM) handling on 16 October. The IAF has handled at least 16 Golden Horizon ALBMs and at least 40 IS02 Rocks since 8 October, according to imagery analysis. The IAF also maintained the readiness of aerial refueling and support aircraft and likely conducted an aerial refueling exercise on 15 October.

(S)REL TO USA, PVEY) All Israeli mid- and upper-tier air defense systems remained deployed.

(S)REL TO USA, PVEY) The Israeli Navy continued to disperse from Haifa, and the IAF continued to partially disperse aircraft at Ovdva airfield.

(S)REL TO USA, GBR) The IAF continued covert UAV operations on 16 October. Israel's covert UAVs enable long-range, covert surveillance in Iran and throughout the region.

(S)REL TO USA, PVEY) We did not observe any Jericho II medium-range ballistic missiles (MRBM) activity on 16 October. Israel likely dispersed MRBMs on 1 October, and we lack indications that the dispersal has concluded. MRBM dispersal is almost certainly defensive; we have not observed indications that Israel intends to use a nuclear weapon.

**Select GEOINT indicators of Israeli Military Activity Oriented to Iran**

	Indicator Observed	Predictive Ability	Indicator Observed	Predictive Ability
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Weapons Handling</b>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Air</b>	
Long-range ALBM handling	●	Medium	Covert UAV flight operations	● Low
Rocks/IS02 ALBM handling	●	Medium	Combat search and rescue preparations	○ Low
Precision-guided munitions handling	●	Low	Aircraft defensive dispersal	● Low
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Air Defense</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Nuclear and Missile</b>	
Elevated missile and air defenses*	●	Low	Nuclear forces on alert	○ Low
Interceptor resupply	●	Low	Missile forces on alert	○ Low
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Ground Forces</b>			Nuclear or missile dispersal	● Low
Change in IDF posture related to Iranian proxies in northern Israel*	●	Low	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Forces</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Navy</b>			Special forces preparations for external operations**	○ Medium
Navy defensive dispersal	●	Low		

Table is classified SECRET//NOFORN

(S)REL TO USA, PVEY) Israeli air defenses have been on a heightened readiness level since the 7 October 2023 attacks. Israeli ground forces have maintained an elevated defensive posture in northern Israel, primarily to defend northern Israel against crossborder incursions from Lebanon and Syria.

\*\* (S)REL TO USA, PVEY) Israeli special forces have been active throughout the current conflict.

Category Threshold Met:  Yes  No  Change since 15 October

Legend: ● Yes ○ No ● Change since 15 October

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 (S)REL TO USA, PVEY) This document contains FOREIGN GOVERNMENT INFORMATION and DOD reporting (S)FOUO Classification. This observational report was not coordinated.

The Telegram channel Middle East Spectator [responded to allegations claiming](#) it is affiliated with the Iranian government, stating, “Middle East Spectator is an open-source news aggregator. We are independent journalists, and are not tied to any government entity or organization.” The channel also released the following statement in response to multiple reports claiming the channel was connected to the DOD whistleblower, [stating in a post on Telegram](#):

As a response to various media inquiries, we express that Middle East Spectator is not aware of any additional leaked classified U.S. documents.

We also reiterate that we have no connection to the original source, which we assume to be a whistleblower within the U.S. Department of Defense.

As far as we are aware, the documents first appeared in a private Telegram group with just over 7000 members, where the leaker was likely present. Somehow, the documents found their way out of the group; it was at this moment that Middle East Spectator took notice of the documents through an anonymous DM. Such DMs were sent to various other people and news outlets.

We furthermore reject claims made by various media outlets, including Axios and the Jerusalem Post, stating that we are ‘Iran-affiliated’. Middle East Spectator is a tight-knit team of fully independent journalists.





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