**Describe your military or national service. Where did you serve? 4 lines**

I served in the Intelligence corps for almost a decade. As a soldier, I worked as an intelligence investigator for the Southern Command. After completing officer training, I commanded the same bureau I had served in previously as a soldier. I subsequently continued to the position of Head of the Political Research Section in Intelligence, following which I served as a Team Commander and Instructional Officer for the Intelligence Officers’ course for close to two years. In my last post, I served as the Head of IDF Intelligence’s Polygraph Debriefing Center.

**Describe your interests and hobbies. 7 lines**

The fields that most interest me are education, psychology, and the human spirit as well as the study of ethics and morality, history, and current events; these are also the fields I chose to work in, in my own life. I believe that the ability to bridge the world of ethics with history and current events and with that of the human spirit (and relating to each person in his or her own way) – is, in fact, the very core of education. My hobbies mostly consist of music (listening and a bit of playing) and reading books.

**How did you hear about the Azrieli Fellows Program? 2 lines**

I heard about the program from a colleague who is participating in the program, as well as from my department at the university.

**B**

**1 page abstract of thesis – in English**

In its early years, beginning in 1982, Hezbollah’s intelligence efforts of were basic and included the collection of tactical information as a basis for attacks on IDF forces that remained inside Lebanon. By the 1990s, Hezbollah had already activated an effective intelligence system. This system was based mainly on visual and human intelligence, with limited technical abilities. Hezbollah utilized every encounter to learn about the IDF's forces and weapons, reaching conclusions vis-à-vis future encounters. During the same period, Hezbollah developed signal intelligence capabilities, such as the interception of the Israeli UAVs' video transmission.

Following Israel’s retreat from South Lebanon in 2000, Hezbollah’s intelligence activities focused on profiling IDF movement throughout the north of Israel and collecting information as a basis for ‘quality’ operations such as the kidnapping of soldiers. Furthermore, during this period, Hezbollah collected and analyzed information in preparation for war, making strategic assessments regarding the probability of a vast attack by Israel in Lebanon, and collecting precise data about security and sensitive locations in Israel, most likely with an eye to directing missile attacks in the case of war.

In the Second Lebanon War in 2006, Hezbollah maintained continual intelligence activity. Forward observers assigned to the military forces, located the IDF forces and their movement routes, marking targets for Hezbollah’s weapons. Hezbollah also eavesdropped on the IDF communication network, tracking their activities and intentions in real time. Furthermore, Hezbollah operated spies and agents inside Israel, some of them senior personalities (as Knesset member 'Azmi Bshara). Another valuable source of information for Hezbollah was the Israeli media broadcasts that revealed a lot of data dealing with the IDF operational programs and mentioned places hit by rockets by name. Thus, Hezbollah assembled a good picture of IDF activities, prepared their fighters well and in time and thus succeeded in inflicting significant damage on the IDF forces.

Over the years, Hezbollah succeeded in building an organized and effective intelligence system. The intelligence abilities and areas of expertise grew apace with the military development. Being the main enemy of Hezbollah, Israel and the nature of the conflict with the IDF served as the main factor for the development of the intelligence activity of the organization. Furthermore, the circumstances under which Hezbollah worked, as an organization operating within states, had a crucial influence on this activity, as did the support of Iran and Syria in intelligence equipment, methods and training. In addition, the fact that Hezbollah was a non-state organization that needed to cope with the strong state intelligence of Israel, while eventually, gradually, becoming part of the governmental institutions and gaining access to Lebanon's abilities and databases, was a game-changer. In conclusion, Hezbollah’s intelligence was an essential component of the organization, developed as an integral part of it and succeeded in providing them with high quality information about Israel.

**C**

**Please attach a short summary of up to 5 lines of your area and topic of research. This is in addition to the Research Statement requested below.**

The research was carried out within the framework of Middle East studies. It seeks to describe and examine the intelligence activities that served as the crucial infrastructure for terrorist activities by two of the main terror organizations that have acted against the State of Israel since the 1980’s – Hezbollah and Hamas. In addition, it serves historically as a pioneering, in-depth study insofar as intelligence activities carried out by a Middle Eastern terror organization.

1. Please provide a 2 - 5 page research statement that includes the following:

* State the issue or area you wish to address in your research.
* Describe the current status of research in this area.
* Provide the context and set the stage for your research program.
* Describe your tentative research plan.
* State the significance of your research. How is your proposed research program unique and innovative? In what sense does it differ from previous work done in the field, and particularly in your research group in recent years? What conceptual or technical barriers need to be overcome in the development of your proposal?

The premise at the core of the study questions how the field of intelligence in Hezbollah and Hamas developed against the State of Israel. The importance of the research lies on a number of planes. First, this is a significant aspect of Hezbollah and Hamas’ activities that has thus far been left unaddressed in any significant way by the research literature and which may shed some light on our understanding of these organizations. Further, Hezbollah and Hamas’ intelligence work serves as a model for the manner in which terror/guerrilla organizations activate intelligence against the established state player—a scenario that will be useful both for theoretical work on terrorism and guerrilla organizations as well as in the intelligence field.

It is not incidental that Hezbollah and Hamas were chosen as the subjects of the study. Despite the inherent differences between them (Hezbollah being Lebanese-Shiite and Hamas Palestinian-Sunni), the organizations share a number of parallels; both are religious Muslim and see the State of Israel as their main enemy, they both emerged from campaigns of extensive publicity work among the local populations and both were the leading players in struggles which led Israel to withdraw from territories it had held (the withdrawal from the security zone in Lebanon in 2000 and the withdrawal from Gaza in 2005), thus fortifying their positions as a protective power against Israel in the respective territories. In addition, both organizations became integral parts of the governing authorities in the political landscapes in which they function. Each has an organized military wing which serves as a sort of institutionalized guerrilla army; both undertook broad-based military action against Israel and more.

Chronologically, and due to the fact that the study refers to a highly-focused aspect within the organizations – that of the Intelligence services – the research deals with the organizations’ intelligence operations against the State of Israel from their inception and throughout the period of their existence. Insofar as subject matter, the study will focus on presenting the organizations’ central developments and areas of operations within a range of intelligence areas in chronological order, both within the various intelligence disciplines (including counterintelligence) and in the use of intelligence gathered for the purposes of the organizations.

The relevant research literature regarding intelligence operations by the Hezbollah and Hamas terror organizations is limited at best. Apart from the thesis-equivalent work written by the author of this paper on the development of intelligence operations by Hezbollah up to the Second Lebanon War, books and studies on these organizations focus, for the most part, on ideological and organizational development. Even when they touch upon the military facet, the intelligence component is overwhelmingly pushed into the shadows, if it is mentioned at all. Insofar as Hamas, it was impossible to locate even one article dedicated to the subject or parts of it. In the case of Hezbollah, over the years a small number of articles have been published which address a very narrow aspect of Hezbollah’s intelligence activity, mostly articles concerning counterintelligence and one on the field of HUMINT. These articles are few and far between, and overwhelmingly rely on source material in Hebrew or English, rather than in Arabic.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The contribution by this study lies, therefore, in shining a light on the intelligence operations of Hezbollah and Hamas throughout the years of their struggles against the State of Israel; both from a positive intelligence view as well as vis-à-vis counterintelligence (negative intelligence). Apart from relying on the admittedly scarce material available in the literature, the research method in this paper focuses on gathering data regarding the manner in which Hezbollah and Hamas have operated on the intelligence front over the years, in Arabic, English and Hebrew, and occasionally in Persian (due to the close Iranian ties with Hezbollah and slightly less so with Hamas), as well as its organization by subject and chronologically, followed by analysis and conclusions that arise from said data.

As may be presumed, an organization’s intelligence work does not take place in the limelight, but rather in the shadows. Notwithstanding, the many years of Hezbollah and Hamas’ fight with the IDF forces have shed light on a great deal of information vis-à-vis the manner in which these organizations deploy their intelligence efforts.

Core sources of information include official reports and announcements from institutions in the State of Israel (IDF announcements and publication, reports by investigative committees such as Winograd, and others) as well as documents from the legal sphere – hundreds of indictments and decisions regarding Hezbollah and Hamas members, both within Israel and abroad, which shed light on the organizations’ intelligence activities. This study will also refer to the vast quantity of data available from the organizations themselves; books by members, articles and publications from the media they control (television stations, internet sites, news media and more), interviews with members of the organizations and materials seized by the IDF which were allowed for publication. Along with this, the study will refer to interviews with related parties; Israeli security force members who, over the years, have been involved in fighting these organizations (whether in the field or through intelligence), elements from the within the organizations who “crossed over” to the West and who have publicized information about the organization, SLA members (regarding Hezbollah) and more.

In matters of this sort, even newspaper materials are a legitimate source of information. Within the framework of this study there will be reference to journalistic books and articles published over the years in Arabic, Hebrew, English and Persian- primarily by the organizations’ media, as mentioned. Furthermore, information on the subject will be sourced from official and unofficial foreign sources, particularly American (some is partially censored, as in the case of CIA documents or American documents exposed on Wikileaks). In the more comprehensive literature and research articles in Hebrew and English on Hezbollah and Hamas in general, and on their fight against the State of Israel in particular, there occasionally appear details regarding their intelligence operations – information which will be relevant to this paper.

I face a number of challenges insofar as this research. First, the fact that historical research demands that information address a recent period and be sourced from an extremely broad base of information – both due to the fact that these are terror organizations who do not act as a state in documenting or publishing material, and also because of the fact that the research itself is on a matter which is secret by nature. Therefore, in order to create a complete picture of the situation it becomes important to gather as much information as possible from the greatest number of available sources. The next main challenge is the ability to weave in all of the details found in the multiple sources, to create a picture which will allow us to ‘tell the story’ in a fluid and coherent manner, while simultaneously managing to reach conclusions that will lead to a better understanding of Hezbollah and Hamas in particular and terror and Intelligence as a whole.

**D**

1. Please describe your personal background e.g.: childhood, family, community etc. (Up to ½ page).

I am 31 years old, married to Avital and the father of Achiya-Emannuel. I am the youngest child in my family, and have 4 older siblings and 19 nieces and nephews. I am fortunate to be part of a close, warm family, who see national concerns as a relevant part of family and personal life. I was born and raised in Petach Tikva. During high school I took extensive matriculation courses in physics, computers, Talmud and Tanach, as well as being a counselor in Bnai Akiva. Following high school, I spent a year and a half at the pre-army mechina program “Otzem”, where I deepened my views and those values I hold dear. Following my mechina studies, I was inducted into the IDF, where I remained for close to ten years, during which I served as both soldier and officer in the Intelligence Corps. During my service I began my university studies for two bachelor’s degrees and a master’s. Following my release from the army, and given my desire to continue to contribute, I turned to education and began teaching, while at the same time beginning my doctoral studies.

1. Please describe 2 significant, formative events in your life, one from your childhood and one from adulthood (up to ½ a page for each event).

A significant childhood event:

In Bnai Akiva, the youth movement of which I was a member, we used to hold song contests and musical events. When I was in 9th grade, my group was responsible for producing a large musical production, and matters evolved such that I was, in effect, the main producer for the event. I found myself, a 15-year-old boy, responsible for raising money, going to city hall to convince them to give us a decent hall, ordering thousands of shekels worth of material from suppliers and more. I even wrote the music for two of the songs in the contest. I remember the entire experience as extremely empowering, and as allowing me to express myself fully, leaving me with a strong impression which has lasted during my life about my ability to implement plans and make them happen.

A significant event during adulthood:

After my lengthy service in the Southern Command, I went to Officers’ Training. Toward the end of the course, in December 2008, “Operation Cast Lead” began. As a soldier, I had been fully involved in preparations and planning for the operation and therefore, when we were released from the officer course for Shabbat, I took my parents’ car and headed straight to my unit in Southern Command. I was fortunate that, on that very day, the ground operation began, so I was able to take part in the Intelligence operations. I stayed in the Command for 72 hours straight, without sleeping and working round the clock, and even received permission from the officer training course commander to remain an extra day, beyond the time I’d been given. My feeling of satisfaction from participating in ‘reaping the fruits’ of over a year of pre-operations planning, as well as the ability to assist in real time to those forces fighting in the field; these, along with the appreciation of the Head of Southern Command were, undoubtedly, a significant factor in my eventual decision to remain in the army for close to ten years of my life.

1. Please describe any significant voluntary activity you have been, or are currently, involved in. This may include volunteer work in the community, emissary work abroad, involvement in youth movements, university campus activity etc. Provide details of the type of work you did. What did you contribute to the activity and what did you gain from being involved?   
   (Up to ½ page).

During high school, I was a Bnai Akiva counselor in an underprivileged neighborhood. The children were from a different background from the one I grew up in, culturally speaking. My encounter with them opened up new horizons and gave me the ability to listen and learn from what, at first glance, seemed strange and different from what I was used to.

During my years in the army, as a soldier and later as a commander, I was involved in several volunteer projects with my soldiers. Among others, we volunteered in centers for people with disabilities, homes for the aged and more. I tried to instill both in myself and in my soldiers the idea that these in meetings every one of us had something to offer – despite being the ‘volunteers,’ we also had a lot to learn. In effect, those encounters taught us to handle difficult situations, steadfastness and more. As a teacher, I continued to undertake volunteering opportunities with my students, including a mentoring program for primary school children.

After nearly three years in the army, I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease and was immediately released from the army on medical grounds. Within a week I had completed the volunteering process in order to return to service and from then until my eventual release, I served as a volunteer officer in the army.

In addition, over the past year I have been teaching weekly on a volunteer basis at a pre-army program for high school graduates. During lessons, we learn about the human spirit, ways that peoples can develop traits like modesty and patience, and developing the ability to look favorably upon reality. In my lessons, I try to blend the intellectual world I acquired during my studies as well as my life experience in general, from the army and in the education system, in order to ensure the sessions are not only theoretical, but practical as well. I feel that I learn as much as I teach. Questions that the students ask, and their desire to determine their own way in life without cynicism and with the innocence of youth inspire me each time anew.

1. Describe an experience or event in your life in which someone demonstrated leadership and had an impact on you personally.

Why was that person an effective leader? (Up to ½ a page).

One of the people who, in my view, represents what leadership is, is the principal of the school I am privileged to teach at, Moshe Gardos. Moshe was a homeroom teacher originally and later founded the school that he has now run for twenty years. The secret to his leadership, in my eyes, is composed of three principles which are not often linked. The first is the simple and true love for every person in the school, both teachers and students. From his gaze, full of compassion, through his manner of speech and including his sincere concern for the needs of each person. The second element is his uncompromising demand – out of great love for all – to not give in and to demand excellence. He sets clear limits and does not leave anyone behind. The third factor is modesty. Moshe possesses an inner humbleness which allows him to be open and available to opinions, suggestions and recommendations different from his own. He is unafraid to admit to mistakes or change direction accordingly. The combination of all of the above – the love of man, high expectations and strong boundaries, along with humbleness and an ability to listen – lead to great educational successes, which allows pupils to grow at their own pace and allows every teacher, student and even parent feel committed to the search for success that we all seek at this school.

1. Write a 5 sentence paragraph to convince high school students to accept an element of your thesis topic for their own final matriculation project (“avodat gemer”).

Throughout life, people gather information and process it, in order to understand how to behave in the world. In the same way, every country gathers data and analyzes it, in order to learn how to act vis-à-vis other countries, both friendly and not. We are accustomed to thinking of terror organizations as a bunch of terrorists armed with guns or bombs who simply fire randomly. Did you know, however, that terror organizations also gather intelligence? If you would like to see how this process occurs, try to investigate how Hezbollah gathered intelligence on the State of Israel during the Second Lebanon War. They carried out observations, listened to communications networks, gathered information from the open media, ran agents and in these ways discovered a great deal of significant data about the IDF’s movements. In order to understand how intelligence operations function within a terror organization implies discovering a whole new, significant and fascinating, layer to their activities, allowing us to better understand the organization.

1. What was the most unexpected thing that you have ever done in your life?

When I was young, I was extremely overweight; I weighed close to 130 kg. The situation stemmed mostly from poor eating habits (mainly junkfood), lack of exercise and a preference for focusing on my brain rather than my body. At 18, when I entered the pre-army mechina program,I surprised even myself when I began to lose a significant amount of weight. My eating habits changed and I even began to work out. A number of years later I became almost completely vegan and most of my nutrition today comes from fruits and vegetables. If someone had told me, or those close to me at the age of 20 that when I was 30 I would weight 70 kg, none of us would have believed it. The shocking change was accompanied,, unsurprisingly, by a process of inner examination and work on traits such as willpower, commitment, self-discipline and more.

1. What improvements would you like to see in Israel in the next 20 years? What should be done today, in order to reach these goals? (Up to ½ a page).

Among the main tasks facing the State of Israel in the coming generation, I have chosen to address two central ones. The first of these is the public discourse. It is no secret that Israeli society is composed of people from different cultures, movements and opinions. This leads to an inherent tension between the need to maintain the uniqueness of each element of society and the need to live together as one. The discourse in recent years, as a result of social media in large part, has gone sharply downhill, and in my opinion is overdue for a change. One can argue lovingly. What is required is a change of emphasis within the Israeli education system. The desire to excel at one’s studies is clearly important, however it must be grounded in the development of a rich, ethical world which allows each student to develop their own system of beliefs, and know how to hold a respectful conversation with people who think differently than they do. This process is occurring today in pre-army mechina programs, but it needs to go mainstream. This is the main reason I chose, following my release from the army, to go and teach specifically at a secular school, despite the fact that I am not secular myself; from a desire to try and become part of the bridge which is so needed within Israeli society.

The second task is a change in the map of settlement. Most of the residents of Israel live in a limited area, at a time when the Negev and the Galilee are suffering badly from a lack of settlement. There are a number of reasons which have led to this, and as someone whose siblings all live in the Negev and the Galilee, but has not yet taken the step himself, I am familiar with both sides of the situation. On the one hand, I think that insofar as security, socially, financially, in terms of personal welfare and more – the future is in the Galilee and the Negev, and the sooner we develop metropolitan areas outside of Gush Dan (the Center), the better for all of us. On the other hand, as one who still lives in the Center, I can understand the difficulty in making the change. In order for this dream to actually occur, there is a need for development both at the physical level (infrastructure, transportation, shopping, schools, hospitals) as well as at the spiritual-cultural level (opening cultural centers), along with further government investment in grants to sweeten the deal. I believe that in the near future I will succeed in joining my family in this mission.

1. See, for example: C.A. Wage: "The Hezbollah Security Apparatus", *Terrorism Research Initiative,* Vol.2, No.7 (2008), pp. 1-14; "Hizbollah-Syrian Intelligence Affairs: A Marriage of Convenience", *Journal of Strategic Security* 4*,* No.3 (2011), pp. 1-14; "Hezbollah’s Counterintelligence Apparatus", *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence.* Vol.25, No. 4 (2012), pp. 771-785 as well as Amir Kulick, "Hizbollah Espionage against Israel", *Strategic Assessment,* Vol. 12, No. 3 (2009), pp. 119-132 and B. Berti "Hizb Allah’s Counterintelligence War", *CTC Sentinel*, Vol.5 (2), 2012, pp. 8-10 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)