

ELBIT SYSTEMS

Elbit Systems UK, headquartered at Aztec West 600, is wholly owned subsidiary of Elbit Systems Ltd,¹ based at the Advanced Technology Center P.O.B 539, Haifa 3100401, Israel.²

Elbit Systems, Israel's largest weapons firm³, manufactures a wide range of military equipment, including Unmanned Aircraft Systems^{4 5} (more commonly known as drones), missiles⁶ and bombs.⁷

Elbit Systems is a major contractor to the Israeli military. Elbit provide 85% of Israel's military drone fleet⁸, describing its drones as "the backbone" of the Israeli Defence Force's unmanned aircraft system".⁹

Elbit describes its products as "battle-proven" following their use in Gaza.¹⁰

Israel's drone fleet include the Hermes 450 and 900, both are listed on Elbit Systems UK's website.¹¹

ELBIT SYSTEMS UK DIRECTORS¹²

- Martin Clifford St John Fausset, Country of residence is England, CEO of Elbit Systems UK, company director
- Joseph Gaspar, Country of residence is Israel, company director
- Bezahel Machlis, Country of residence is Israel, CEO of Elbit Systems Ltd (based in Haifa, Israel), business executive
- Mark William Poffley, Country of residence is United Kingdom,
- Colin Peter Smith, Country of residence is United Kingdom, non-executive director

¹ <https://www.elbitsystems-uk.com/about-us/vision-mission>

² <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241591/persons-with-significant-control>

³ <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2023/11/17/israels-weapons-industry-is-the-gaza-war-its-latest-test-lab>

⁴ <https://elbitsystems.com/about-us/introduction/>

⁵ <https://www.elbitsystems-uk.com/what-we-do/unmanned/aerial/tactical-uas>

⁶ <https://www.elbitsystems-uk.com/what-we-do/air-space/munitions/missiles-rockets>

⁷ <https://elbitsystems.com/munitions>

⁸ <https://breakingdefense.com/2023/06/israels-elbit-highlights-military-civilian-hermes-900-starliner-at-paris-air-show/>

⁹ <https://elbitsystems.com/products/uas/>

¹⁰ <https://elbitsystems.com/pr-new/elbit-systems-to-showcase-full-suite-of-c4i-battlefield-management-systems-at-dsei/>

¹¹ <https://www.elbitsystems-uk.com/what-we-do/unmanned/aerial/male-uas>

¹² <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241591/officers>

ELBIT SYSTEMS UK SUBSIDIARIES

1. UAV ENGINES

- a. UAV Engines Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Elbit Systems UK
- b. The engine of Elbit's Hermes 450 was designed and produced by UAV Engines¹³
- c. In January 2009, the UK was urged by Amnesty International to halt exports due to evidence of UK-built engines -manufactured at UAV Engines - being used in Elbit drone, Hermes 450, in Gaza;¹⁴
- d. Further information of Elbit's Hermes 450 use in attacks on Palestinian civilians is listed below.
- e. UAV Engines also produces the AR731 engine,¹⁵ which is used to power the Israeli Aerospace Industries' (IAI) Harpy,¹⁶ a loitering munition in used by the IDF¹⁷

2. INSTRO PRECISION

- a) Instro-Precision is a Private Limited Company incorporated on 6 March 1964; it is registered in the UK as an 'active' company (Companies House number **00794972**).¹⁸
- b) Its registered office address is Sentinel House Artillery Way, Discovery Park, Sandwich, Kent, United Kingdom, CT13 9FL.¹⁹
- c) The Nature of business is listed with Companies house as '26511 - Manufacture of electronic measuring, testing etc. equipment, not for industrial process control'.²⁰
- d) Instro-Precision has three current officers, one of whom is an Israeli National (Nadav YARDEN).²¹
- e) Nadav YARDEN is listed as a Director and was appointed on 10 May 2010. His Occupation is stated to be "Vice President Chief Operations Officer" and resides in Israel. Note this new title was given to Nadav YARDEN on 7/12/21

¹³ https://www.armadainternational.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ARM_COM_2006_07_UAV.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/amnesty-urges-suspension-uk-arms-sales-israel-evidence-revealed-israel-military>

¹⁵ <https://uavenginesltd.co.uk/products/ar731-38-bhp/>

¹⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IAI_Harpy

¹⁷ <https://sputnikglobe.com/20240110/1116090768.html>

¹⁸ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/00794972>

¹⁹ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/00794972>

²⁰ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/00794972>

²¹ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/00794972/officers>

and the change of occupation was submitted to Companies House.²² His correspondence address is: "Elbit Systems Electro-optics Elop Ltd, 5 Hamada Street, Advanced Technology Park, Rehovot, Israel, 76703".²³

- f) Martin Clifford St John FAUSSET is another Director and was appointed on 4 December 2017. His specific occupation is stated to be "Company Director". He is a British national and his correspondence address is the same as the registered company address: "Sentinel House, Artillery Way, Discovery Park, Sandwich, Kent, United Kingdom, CT13 9FL".²⁴
- g) Martin FAUSETT is described as the CEO of Elbit Systems UK within press releases.²⁵
- h) John Frederick KNIGHT was appointed the "Commercial Director" of Instro-Precision on 31 July 2021. He is a British National residing in the UK. His correspondence address is Sentinel House, Artillery Way, Discovery Park, Sandwich, Kent, United Kingdom, CT13 9FL.²⁶
- i) Elbit Systems UK Limited (05241591) has owns 75% or more of shares in Instro-Precision, as well as voting rights, with the right to appoint and remove directors.²⁷
- j) For the financial year ending 31 December 2022, Instro-Precision Limited had a turnover of £16,509,027 and gross profit of £3,092,260 (administrative expenses of £3,304,868). Profits prior to taxation £232,954 and after taxation £99,374.²⁸
- k) Instro-Precision made 52 export licence requests to Israel from 2016 to 2020. Two of these were refused and two stopped. Of the rest all but two were for ML5b.²⁹ ML5 is "Fire control equipment and related alerting and warning equipment, related systems, test and alignment and countermeasure equipment, as follows, specially designed for military use, and specially designed components and accessories therefor:" and (b) is specifically "Target acquisition, designation, range-finding, surveillance or tracking systems; detection, data fusion, recognition or identification equipment; and sensor integration equipment".

3) UAV TACTICAL SYSTEMS LIMITED

²² <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/00794972/filing-history>

²³ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/00794972/officers>

²⁴ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/00794972/officers>

²⁵ <https://www.elbitsystems-uk.com/media-events/recent-news/elbit-systems-uk-to-provide-further-icavs-d-to-support-uk-armed-forces>

²⁶ https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/officers/RZaiMtXf4YiTiQpLzQ3yt5B_mko/appointments

²⁷ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/00794972/persons-with-significant-control>

²⁸ See page 11 of Full Accounts 31 December 2020: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/00794972/filing-history>

²⁹ Ceri Gibbons s9 Witness Statement

- a) UAV Tactical Systems Limited (UAV Tactical) is a Private Limited Company, incorporated on 24 September 2004 it is registered in the UK as an 'active' company (Companies House number **05241592**).³⁰
- b) Its registered office address is Unit F Meridian East Meridian Business Park, Braunstone Town, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE19 1WZ.³¹
- c) The Nature of business is listed with Companies house as 'Manufacture of electronic components' and 'Defence activities'.³²
- d) UAV Tactical has 7 current officers, two of whom are Israeli nationals, 3 British, and one officer's nationality is undeclared.³³
- e) Yoav KASTEL was appointed on 4 January 2022 and their correspondence address is the same as the registered office address. His listed role is Secretary rather than Director.³⁴
- f) Richard Arthur David APPLEGATE was appointed as a Director of UAV Tactical on 4 October 2011.³⁵ His occupation is Company Director. He is also a Director of Elbit-owned UAV Engines Limited, appointed in 2016 and currently holds the position of Strategy Director.³⁶ He is also a Director of Elbit-owned Elite KL, appointed in 2016 and formerly held the position of Strategic Consultant with three different ESUK groups (ESUK Aerospace and Simulation (Group) Ltd, ESUK Aerospace and ESUK Aerospace and Simulation (Holdings) Ltd.³⁷ He is also the Director of Eagle Strategic Consulting Limited, a private limited company since 2010, which is also involved in the following business activities 'Management consultancy activities other than financial management' and 'Defence activities'.³⁸
- g) Suzanne Jayne STATTON is a company director, appointed on 25 April 2013. She also holds a number of other positions including directorships for the Thales Group.³⁹
- h) Christopher William HINDLE is also a Company Director, appointed on 11 February 2022. HINDLE has 29 other active appointments, 20 of which are for different forms of Thales companies, all of one of which he was appointed on

³⁰ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241592>

³¹ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241592>

³² <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241592>

³³ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241592/officers>

³⁴ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241592/officers>

³⁵ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241592/officers>

³⁶ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/officers/c2yEIPUBlfbzXEVzxm6uqNOKrng/appointments>

³⁷ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/officers/c2yEIPUBlfbzXEVzxm6uqNOKrng/appointments>

³⁸ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/07401779>

³⁹ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241592/officers>

the 1 August 2023. The earlier appointment with Thales properties Ltd was on the 1 March 2017.⁴⁰

- i) Andre LAING was appointed on 9 April 2023 and his occupation is Company Director. He also has the correspondence address of the registered office.⁴¹
- j) Unlike other Elbit subsidiaries, the two Israeli Directors have the correspondence address of the registered office address in the UK despite residing in Israel. Yoram Shmuely was appointed on the 20 March 2023 as Company Director and Vered HAIMOVICH was appointed on 31 December 2020.⁴²
- k) Elbit Systems UK Limited (05241591) has been listed as a Person with Significant Control since 6 April 2016. Elbit UK has more than 50% ownership of share and voting rights; the right to appoint or remove directors; and has significant influence or control over UAV Tactical (as stated on Companies House).⁴³ The other Person with Significant Control since 6 April 2016 is Thales UK Ltd (868273).
- l) For the year ending 31 December 2022 (the latest accounts available) UAV Tactical generated a turnover of £16,141,000 of £20,560,000 and gross profit of £2,017,000. It also had £2,820,000 net assets.⁴⁴
- m) Between 2016 and 2020 U-TaCs has exported to Israel on 6 different licences with the following codes of equipment exported:⁴⁵
 - a. ML5b – ‘Fire control equipment and related alerting and warning equipment, related systems, test and alignment and countermeasure equipment, as follows, specially designed for military use, and specially designed components and accessories therefor:
Target acquisition, designation, range-finding, surveillance or tracking systems; detection, data fusion, recognition or identification equipment; and sensor integration equipment;
 - i) ML10c1 – “Aircraft”, “lighter-than-air vehicles”, “Unmanned Aerial Vehicles” (“UAVs”), aero-engines and “aircraft” equipment, related goods, and components as follows, specially designed or modified for military use:

⁴⁰ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/officers/gTC10gcoVDOTpxgDX0BEeFLGvEk/appointments>

⁴¹ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241592/officers>

⁴² <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241592/officers>

⁴³ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241592/persons-with-significant-control>

⁴⁴ UAV Tactical Full Accounts made up on 31 December 2022: <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241592/filing-history>

⁴⁵ Ceri Gibbons s9 Witness Statement

- c. Unmanned "aircraft" and related equipment, as follows, and specially designed components therefor:
 - 1. "UAVs", Remotely Piloted Air Vehicles (RPVs), autonomous programmable vehicles and unmanned "lighter-than-air vehicles";
- ii) ML10c2 – '2. Launchers, recovery equipment and ground support equipment;'
- iii) ML10c3 – '3. Equipment designed for command or control;'
- iv) ML15d – 'Imaging or countermeasure equipment, as follows, specially designed for military use, and specially designed components and accessories therefor:
 - d. Infrared or thermal imaging equipment;'
- v) ML6a – Ground "vehicles" and components as follows:

N.B.: Electronic guidance and navigation equipment is controlled in ML11.a.

 - a. Ground "vehicles" and components therefor, specially designed or modified for military use;

Technical Note: For the purposes of ML6.a. the term ground "vehicles" includes trailers.

Note: In ML6.a. modification of a ground "vehicle" for military use entails a structural, electrical or mechanical change involving one or more specially designed military components.'
- vi) ML11a – 'Electronic equipment, "spacecraft" and components, not specified elsewhere in this Schedule, as follows:
 - a. Electronic equipment specially designed or modified for military use and specially designed components therefor;'⁴⁶
- n. UAV Tactical Systems Limited (UAV Tactical) was created in 2005 for the purpose of delivering a specific Tactical Unmanned Air System capability to the British Army for its Watch-keeper Programme.⁴⁷
- o. UAV Tactical launched Project Lydian in 2007 after winning a contract with the British Army to supply and support Elbit manufactured Hermes 450 drones in Iraq and Afghanistan. These drones flew 24/7 and covered any target required for a fixed hourly rate and clocked up more than 100,000 flying hours.⁴⁸
- p. **According to Elbit, the Hermes 450 is described as "a multi-role high-performance tactical UAS" and as "the primary platform of the [Israeli Defence Force] IDF in counter-terror operations". It is "mature and combat-proven UAS with over 300,000 operational flight hours and a class-leading safety and reliability record".**⁴⁹

i. ELITE KL

⁴⁶ See definitions within the UK Strategic Export Control List:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1052560/uk-strategic-export-control-lists.pdf

⁴⁷ <https://u-tacs.co.uk/about>

⁴⁸ <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/examining-the-deployment-of-the-u-k-s-troubled-watchkeeper-drones-at-fort-bliss>

⁴⁹ <https://elbitsystems.com/uas-hermes-450-tactical-long-endurance-uas/>

A) Elite KL Limited Ownership & Control

1. Elite KL Limited is a Private Limited Company that was incorporated on 28 October 1996. It is registered in the UK as an 'active' company (Companies House number **03270136**).⁵⁰
2. Its registered office address is Elite House Sandy Way, Amington Industrial Estate, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B77 4DS.⁵¹
3. The Nature of business is listed with Companies house as 'Manufacture of other parts and accessories for motor vehicles'.⁵²
4. Elite KL Limited has 5 current officers, four of whom are Israeli nationals. All active officers except one list their correspondence address as the same as the registered office address. Lilach Broks Shalom, resident in Israel, provides her correspondence address as Elbit Land, Ramat Hasharon, Israel.⁵³
5. Aharon Arotchas is one of the current officers, appointed on 21 May 2023. He is an Israeli National and his occupation is listed as Business Executive.⁵⁴
6. Reuven Shahar was appointed on 21 June 2022. He is also an Israeli National and his occupation is listed as Company Director. This is his sole appointment. Lilach Broks Shalom was appointed on the same date as Shahar and similarly holds this as her sole appointment.⁵⁵
7. Dan WOLFF is another listed officer of Elite KL Limited, appointed on 11 April 2011.⁵⁶ He is an Israeli National and his occupation is Senior Vice President Finance and Control.⁵⁷ Dan Wolf previously held the position of Senior Vice President Finance and Control with Elite Rail Systems Ltd (07290271).⁵⁸ This company was dissolved on 30 September 2014.⁵⁹

⁵⁰ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/03270136>

⁵¹ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/03270136>

⁵² <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/03270136>

⁵³ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/03270136/officers>

⁵⁴ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/03270136/officers>

⁵⁵ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/03270136/officers>

⁵⁶ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/03270136/officers>

⁵⁷ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/03270136/officers>

⁵⁸ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/officers/QBxu1U7BzKm-->

⁵⁸ [gsWuWjsqZlIQ/appointments](https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/officers/QBxu1U7BzKm--gsWuWjsqZlIQ/appointments)

⁵⁹ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/07290271>

8. Elite KL Limited has 1 officer who is a British National.⁶⁰ Richard Arthur David APPLEGATE was appointed on 3 July 2016.⁶¹ He holds several other appointments and is the Director of UAV Tactical, UAV Engines Ltd and Eagle Strategic Consulting Ltd. formerly held the position of Strategic Consultant with three different ESUK groups (ESUK Aerospace and Simulation (Group) Ltd, ESUK Aerospace and ESUK Aerospace and Simulation (Holdings) Ltd).⁶²
9. For the year ending 31 December 2022 (the latest accounts available) Elite KL Limited declared a gross profit of £3,171,258, with a profit for the financial year after deductions of £93,177. Elite KL Limited's net current assets were valued at £4,591,386 and total assets less current liabilities as £6,514,934.⁶³
10. Elite KL is a subsidiary of Elbit Systems Limited, a multi-domestic defence and electronics company, with annual revenues of around \$3Billion. Alongside their sister company, Kinetics, they offer a 'range of military grade products' and 'offer complete solutions to the defence vehicle manufacturers'.⁶⁴
11. On Companies House, Elbit Systems UK is listed as a Person with Significant Control, with ownership of 75% or more shares and voting rights and the right to appoint and remove directors.⁶⁵

B) Elite KL Military Products and Services

12. Elite KL Limited offers products for military vehicles and personnel such as; Vehicle HVAC, Individual Occupant Cooling (ducted air), Individual Crew Colling System (vest) (ICCS), Auxiliary Power Units (APU), vehicle power management and distribution, and HVAC for control rooms / shelters – CAN BUS / J1939 communication.⁶⁶
13. They also offer third party testing and certification for EMC and shock vibration.⁶⁷

C) Elbit Systems - Kinetics

14. Elite KL's sister company, Elbit Systems - Kinetics, has listed some of the benefits of the Auxiliary Power Units (APU) for modern fighting vehicles as 'silent operation mode', which allows reduction of 'noise and thermal signatures'.⁶⁸

⁶⁰ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/03270136/officers>

⁶¹ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/officers/c2yEIPUBlfbzXEVzxm6uqNOKrng/appointments>

⁶² <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/officers/c2yEIPUBlfbzXEVzxm6uqNOKrng/appointments>

⁶³ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/03270136/filing-history>

⁶⁴ <https://elitekl.co.uk/military/>

⁶⁵ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/03270136/persons-with-significant-control>

⁶⁶ <https://www.elitekl.co.uk/military/>

⁶⁷ <https://www.elitekl.co.uk/military/>

⁶⁸ <https://elbitsystems.com/product/auxiliary-power-units-apu/>

15. Kinetics also advertises their Kinetics Life Support System (LSS) for armoured fighting vehicles, which includes: 'chemical, biological and nuclear (NBC/CBRN) protection; Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC); as well as cooling for electronic equipment.' The sub-systems can be manufactured as independent units or integrated as one 'overall LSS solution'.⁶⁹
16. Kinetics also boasts of its design of an 'All-in-One solution' through a combination of an 'APU with Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and chemical/biological/radiological and nuclear (NBC/CBRN) protection capabilities'.⁷⁰
17. Another specialism of Kinetics is in the production of hydraulic systems and components used in armed vehicles. Kinetics both developed and produced military hydraulic systems to support control systems which operate 'turrets, gun or missile launchers, and enhanced suspension systems for military vehicles. Such products are currently integrated in Merkava and M-1A2SEP main battle tanks, HIMARS mobile rocket system and the M-109A6 Paladin self-propelled gun'.⁷¹
18. The customer service aspect of Elbit Systems – Kinetics additional 'after-sale logistics support'.⁷²
19. The APUs and LSS have been 'adapted by renowned global OEMs as standard equipment on a wide range of military platforms operating in the most demanding battlefield conditions. **These tailor-made and off-the-shelf-solutions are fully proven and in use by the Israel Defence Forces and other military organizations around the world.**'⁷³
20. In 2011 Defence Update stated the Elbit Kinetics Ltd was the 'principle supplier of the Nuclear, Biological, Chemical (NBC) protection system and Individual Crew Cooling Systems (ICES) for Israel's Merkava main battle tank, from the first model to the current Merkava Mk4 tank'.⁷⁴
21. The 5th generation of the Merkava Tank was announced in September of 2023 after what was said to be 5 years of development. Elbit Systems, Rafael and Israel Aerospace Industries amongst others were stated to have been involved in the development. Elbit is highlighted particularly in the development of the helmet (generating an image with AI support that enables the crew "to 'see through' the vehicle's armor"). The firepower of the tank is said to be a "significant upgrade, increasing the 'lethality' of the military" and would "guarantee the EDF's qualitative advantage every time, in defence and attack".⁷⁵
22. The Merkava Tank "has been the IDF's main battle tank since the 1980s", with mark 4 models in use since 2003.⁷⁶ In 2010, in an interview with 'Defence Update' Brigadier general Yaron Livnat, Merkava Tank Program Manager (PM), has described the significance of the

⁶⁹ P.4 https://elbitsystems.com/media/Kinetics_6pgs_R.pdf

⁷⁰ <https://elbitsystems.com/product/all-in-one-solution/>

⁷¹ https://defense-update.com/20110112_kinetics_lts.html

⁷² P. 5 https://elbitsystems.com/media/Kinetics_6pgs_R.pdf

⁷³ P.5 https://elbitsystems.com/media/Kinetics_6pgs_R.pdf

⁷⁴ https://defense-update.com/20110112_kinetics_lts.html

⁷⁵ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/advanced-sensors-high-tech-helmet-israels-5th-generation-battle-tank-revealed/>

⁷⁶ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/advanced-sensors-high-tech-helmet-israels-5th-generation-battle-tank-revealed/>

Merkava Programme Management office as a 'special breed' that is 'unlike its counterparts worldwide' as it is a 'military unit under IDF command and a branch of the Ministry of Defense (MOD) which is running a "business", managing an operation in the methods used in the commercial world.⁷⁷

ELBIT SYSTEMS INVOLVEMENT IN GAZA GENOCIDE (SINCE OCTOBER 7 2023)

In a video published by Elbit Systems on 23rd October, Elbit President and CEO Bezhael Machlis, congratulated employees for working around the clock during the "second week of fighting" and stated that "the systems of Elbit Systems are at the heart of the IDF's operational solution and our involvement is critical". He continues to explain how the Minister of Defense called him personally to express his appreciation.^{78 79}

Bezhael Machlis is listed as a business executive director of Elbit Systems UK, headquartered at Aztec West 600⁸⁰.

In November of 2023, Elbit reported it had "boosted supplies to Israel's military due to the country's war with Hamas militants, as it reported higher quarterly profit". It also confirmed the continued role of Elbit in supplying "hundreds of products to Israel's Defence Ministry, including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), artillery, munitions and electronic warfare systems."⁸¹

The Jerusalem Post reported on 28 November that "The IDF has fired over 100,000 shells to date during the current war". They note this comes from the IDF's Firepower Command, where "a significant amount of... firepower" comes "from drones, such as Unit 5252 Zik drones" (Hermes 450s).⁸²

In December of 2023, following the start of Israel's latest offensive on Gaza, Elbit Systems announced it had been awarded a "series of contracts" from the Israel Ministry of Defence "in an aggregate amount that is material to the Company". The announcement cites the contracts as being awarded "since the beginning of the Swords of Iron War" and the

⁷⁷ https://defense-update.com/20100609_merkava_40_years_interview.html

⁷⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1781429715663625>

⁷⁹ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1abB5Fv5dBcnG_eBMEMOth2lRqNsKAdqT/view

⁸⁰ <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/05241591/officers>

⁸¹ <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/israeli-defence-firm-elbit-q3-profit-up-ramps-up-production-war-2023-11-28>

⁸² <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-775523>

“considerable increased demand for its solutions”. It notes that further developments could “generate material additional orders to the company”.⁸³

In 2023 there have also been several significant mentions of the use of Elbit’s weaponry:

- i. (03.11.23) Elbit Legion-X drones (quadcopters);⁸⁴
- ii. (22.10.23) Israeli Air Force announces use of Elbit’s ‘Iron sting’ bombs⁸⁵
- iii. (20.10.23) Hermes 450 drones used in airstrikes;⁸⁶
- iv. (12.09.23) Advanced Skylark UAVs provided by Elbit, to enable equal “capability for lower tactical echelons”;⁸⁷
- v. (22.06.23) Elbit Hermes 450 drones used to conduct drone strikes in civilian areas (Jenin refugee camp);^{88 89}

On January 29th 2024, the Israeli Ministry of Defense posted a video of artillery shells, with a description explaining how “the production line for armor and artillery shells at the Elbit Systems company has been operating continuously since 7th October 2023 and has already supplied large quantities of ammunition to the fighting forces” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTypXPYXE50].

ISRAEL’S PREVIOUS USE OF ARMED DRONES AGAINST PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS

1. From 2008 to September of 2023, according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “incursions and attacks by Israeli security forces have killed 2,749 Palestinian civilians in Gaza”. 2,198 of these deaths were a result of aerial attacks. That does not even consider the crucial infrastructure that drones and UAVs have damaged and destroyed.⁹⁰ Drones are also critical to Israel’s maintenance of its illegal blockade and siege of the Gaza Strip.⁹¹

⁸³ <https://elbitsystems.com/pr-new/elbit-systems-awarded-contracts-from-the-israel-ministry-of-defense-in-an-aggregate-material-amount/?pageid=PR%20-20%20News>

⁸⁴ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidhambling/2023/11/03/how-israeli-drones-will-lead-the-attack-on-gaza-tunnels/>

⁸⁵ <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20231023-israel-tests-new-iron-sting-bomb-in-gaza/>

⁸⁶ <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2023/10/20/in-the-war-against-hamas-israeli-drones-are-key-here-is-why/>

⁸⁷ <https://defence-industry.eu/elbit-systems-to-supply-the-advanced-skylark-mini-uas-system-to-the-idf/>

⁸⁸ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/with-drone-strike-idf-changes-west-bank-rules-in-response-to-emboldened-terrorism/>

⁸⁹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/6/21/israel-air-strike-hits-suspicious-vehicle-in-west-bank-attack>

⁹⁰ <https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/N2326071.pdf>

⁹¹ United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict – The Goldstone Report: <https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/12session/A-HRC-12-48.pdf>

2. Analysts have described the military strategy of Israel in Gaza for years as “mowing the grass”. A reference to the repeated “displays of overwhelming military strength” with the aim of degrading enemy capabilities. This ‘strategy’ has garnered significant criticism for the deaths caused by Israeli forces during these operations.⁹² Some of these are detailed below.
3. 2023, Operation Home and Garden
 1. In July of 2023, Israeli forces conducted the largest operation in the West Bank since 2022 through a “two-day large- scale air and ground operation in Jenin Refugee Camp and its surroundings”. The operation killed 12 Palestinians (including 4 children) and injured more than 100.⁹³
 2. The United Nations Human Rights Council stated over 20 air strikes by armed drones (including the Hermes 450) were carried out in the refugee camp.⁹⁴ The IDF confirmed the use of armed drones as part of the operation and in reporting their use was described as “crucial”. Battalion 636 Commander Lt Col. G said his drone units take part in “‘every operation’ in the region that the IDF conducts”.⁹⁵ It was reported that “suicide drones” were also put into use for the first time. These were developed by Rafael.⁹⁶
 3. It was noted at the time that already in July 2023 was the “deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since the UN began recording in 2005”.⁹⁷
4. 2023, Operation Shield and Arrow
 1. In May 2023 Israeli forces launched a 5-day operation with the stated purpose of targeting three commanders of Al-Quds Brigades. In the 5 days they conducted 323 air strikes, resulting in the deaths of 33 Palestinians, at least 12 of which were civilians. Essential infrastructure, including schools, health-care facilities and electric and water lines were also damaged.⁹⁸
 2. IDF drones are reported to have logged over 4,000 hours during the operation.⁹⁹
 3. Despite the stated emphasis on careful planning, bombs dropped to kill a target killed civilians. When targeting one commander bombs also killed his two children, three civilians (Dr. Jamal Khaswan, Mirfat Khaswan, and their son Yusef) on a separate floor and injured six others.¹⁰⁰ In another strike, the bombs targeting a

⁹² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/05/14/israel-gaza-history/>

⁹³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/acaps-briefing-note-palestine-escalation-violence-jenin-12-july-2023>

⁹⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/co-israel/index>

⁹⁵ <https://danieljimperato.com/eyes-in-the-sky-how-idf-drones-played-a-key-role-in-operation-home-and-garden/>

⁹⁶ <https://www.ynet.co.il/news/article/ry00njpn2>

⁹⁷ <https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/1483-2023-becomes-deadliest-year-for-palestinians-in-the-west-bank-as-israeli-military-launches-fresh-attack-on-jenin-refugee-camp#:~:text=The%20death%20toll%20of%20Palestinians,UN%20began%20recording%20in%202005.>

⁹⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/co-israel/index>

⁹⁹ <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-744845>

¹⁰⁰ <https://inews.co.uk/news/world/israeli-raids-gaza-militants-families-government-2328448#:~:text=Dr%20Jamal%20Khaswan%2C%20a%20Russian-Palestinian%20former%20head%20of,Gaza%20from%20Israeli%20bombing%20of%20a%20nearby%20home.>

commander killed two teenage girls (Dania and Imam Adas) in the adjacent building.¹⁰¹

4. The United Nations Human Rights Council noted that residents “did not receive warnings prior to the attack” and the bombs that were used “should be capable of making pinpoint strikes”.¹⁰² The Jewish Institute for National Security said in a brief in 2023 that the IDF usually “conducts careful checks” to minimize collateral “but in this operation a greater freedom of action was permitted so that it could conduct the airstrikes simultaneously to prevent any of the targets from fleeing.”¹⁰³

5. 2022, Operation Breaking Dawn

1. In August of 2022, Israel launched the three-day Operation Breaking Dawn in Gaza as allegedly “pre-emptive measures” against “indications of an imminent PIJ attack against civilians”.¹⁰⁴ UAVs and drones were stated to be critical to the operation, with more than 2,000 flight hours conducted. Brig-Gen. Omri Dor, commander of Palmachim Air Force Base said “The whole of Gaza is ‘covered’ with UAVs that collect intelligence 24 hours a day” allowing for the production of significant intelligence and precise targets.¹⁰⁵
2. Elbit’s Hermes 450 is reported to have seen “the most use” being operated from the Palmachim Air Base.¹⁰⁶ The ‘Zik’ (5252) unit was also significantly discussed.¹⁰⁷ ‘Zik’ is a nickname for the Hermes 450 drone.¹⁰⁸
3. According to the UN 49 Palestinians were killed and at least 360 Palestinians were injured, including 151 children, during the offensive. Amnesty International reported that 17 of those killed by Israeli forces were civilians. In a press release they stated: “Throughout the August offensive, Israeli authorities boasted about the precision of their operation. Yet Amnesty International found that victims of these ‘precise’ attacks included a four-year-old boy, a teenager visiting his mother’s grave, and a 22-year-old student at home with her family. The third attack, which killed seven Palestinian civilians, appears to have been caused by an unguided rocket launched by Palestinian armed groups”.¹⁰⁹
4. Amnesty investigated two attacks in particular as possible war crimes because “they appear either to have deliberately targeted civilians or civilian objects or to have been indiscriminate attacks”. One such instance, involved a projectile targeting a house where 11 civilians were staying. Amnesty international stated it believes that

¹⁰¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/17/israeli-attorney-general-petitioned-for-inquiry-into-civilian-casualties-in-gaza?ref=upstrack.com&c=10563989672269959383&mkt=en-us>

¹⁰² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/co-israel/index>

¹⁰³ https://jinsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/JINSA_20230510_OperationShieldArrow_v3-1.pdf

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/operation-breaking-dawn-was-a-tactical-success-but-wont-be-last-round-of-fighting/>

¹⁰⁵ <https://allisrael.com/drones-played-large-role-in-operation-breaking-dawn-idf-says>

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1660766250-israel-s-armed-drones-allowed-for-surgical-precision-in-gaza>

¹⁰⁷ <https://israeldefense.co.il/en/node/31263>

¹⁰⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/mar/23/gaza-war-crimes-allegations-drones>

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/10/israel-opt-investigate-war-crimes-during-august-offensive-on-gaza/>

the house was the “intended target of the attack” and should be investigate as a possible war crime.¹¹⁰ The projectile is manufactured by the Israeli company IMI Systems, owned by Elbit Systems.¹¹¹

6. In July of 2022 the Israel Military lifted the ban on reporting the use of armed drones in Israel and Palestine. Despite the “open secret” of the drones/UAVs use reporting on this has been banned in Israel for decades. Reporting on the lift of the ban +972 posit that the ban has stopped “reporters from investigating the killing of civilians in drone strikes, whether by design or by accident.”¹¹² This should be kept in mind when considering information on earlier operations.

7. 2021, Operation Guardian of the Walls

1. In May 2021, an 11-day Israeli offensive was carried out against Gaza.¹¹³
2. Drones were said to be used “extensively” throughout the conflict, and the Times of Israel noted the Hermes 450 and 900’s use.¹¹⁴ IAF Chief Amikam Norkin said ““The UAV array conducted over 6,000 flight hours during Operation Guardian of the Walls, maintained operational continuity with many aircraft over the Strip, and basically allowed aerial forces of the air force and the entire IDF to operate...”¹¹⁵
3. During the offensive Israeli air and artillery attacks killed 253 Palestinians, including 66 children.¹¹⁶ The Guardian reported that during the assault some of Israel’s attacks has “destroyed a health clinic, hit the home of an aid worker, killed two doctors, destroyed high-rise residential towers, blown up a mattress factory and flattened the offices of international news organisations”.¹¹⁷
4. In their May 2022 report the International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory highlight the High Commissioner for Human Rights statements as to the “thee apparent failure to verify that targets were military objectives” by Israeli forces and the fact this “raised serious concerns regarding the compliance of Israel with the principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions under international humanitarian law”.¹¹⁸
5. In August of 2021 Human Rights Watch reported that the Israeli airstrikes on four high-rise buildings during the May 2021 fighting may have “violated the laws of war and may amount to war crimes”.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁰ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/6079/2022/en/>

¹¹¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/10/israel-opt-investigate-war-crimes-during-august-offensive-on-gaza/>

¹¹² <https://www.972mag.com/armed-drones-automated-killing-palestinians/>

¹¹³ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/23/gaza-israels-may-airstrikes-high-rises>

¹¹⁴ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iaf-completes-first-multinational-drone-drill-with-5-foreign-militaries/>

¹¹⁵ <https://www.thedefensepost.com/2021/07/23/israel-international-drone-exercise/>

¹¹⁶ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/30/waking-up-screaming-gazan-children-traumatised-by-israeli-war>

¹¹⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/17/israel-gaza-conflict-200-palestinians-killed-in-a-week-say-officials>

¹¹⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/co-israel/index>

¹¹⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/23/gaza-israels-may-airstrikes-high-rises>

6. In another case of civilian targeting an IAF drone bombed a vehicle killing 4 farmers (Aatef al-Barawi, Nael al-Barawi, Wael al-Ghawla, and Talaat Agha) who had been loading peaches onto their vehicle. The IDF confirmed all four were civilians.¹²⁰
8. 2018, Great March of Return
 1. Between 2018 and 2019, Israeli drones were being used during the 'Great March of Return' protests in Gaza. At different stages of the protests, which began in 2018, drones have been used for surveillance, target acquisition, and to provide lethal force.^{121 122 123 124 125}
9. 2014, Operation Protective Edge
 1. The Hermes 900 was used extensively by the Israeli Defence Force during Operation Protective Edge in 2014. Drones were used against Gaza's population of 2 million, killing more than 2250 people, as well as destroying at least 18,000 Palestinian homes and damaging 73 medical facilities.¹²⁶
 2. In one reported attack, four children were killed and four more injured by two drone strikes while they played on Gaza beach.¹²⁷ The Hermes 450 was one of the drones used within this attack.¹²⁸
 3. IDF military official Roy Riftin has described the use of drones during Operation Protective Edge as "phenomenal" and "a real asset".^{129 130 131}
10. 2012, Operation Pillar of Defence
 1. An eight-day assault starting on the 14 November 2020 on the Gaza strip aimed at a purported 1,500 military targets. B'Tselem's investigation found during the assault, "the Israeli military killed 167 Palestinians, including at least 87 who did not take part in the hostilities, 32 of whom were minors".¹³²
 2. Human Rights Watch subsequently carried out an investigation of 14 strikes by aerial drones and where "there was no indication of a legitimate military target at the site at the time of the attack". On the investigation Sarah Leah

¹²⁰ <https://www.972mag.com/armed-drones-automated-killing-palestinians/>

¹²¹ <https://www.ahhttps://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/co-israel/index ljazeera.com/news/2019/03/gaza-great-march-return-protests-explained-190330074116079.html>

¹²² https://www.codepink.org/from_palestine_to_mexico_expose_their_role

¹²³ <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/drones-over-gaza-how-israel-tested-its-latest-technology-protesters>

¹²⁴ www.amnesty.org/en/countries/middle-east-and-north-africa/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/report-israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories

¹²⁵ www.hrw.org/news/2019/06/12/gaza-unlawful-attacks-may-fighting

¹²⁶ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/2/28/israels-cabinet-ignored-warnings-over-2014-gaza-war>

¹²⁷ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/8/12/report-details-deadly-drone-attack-on-four-palestinian-children>

¹²⁸ <https://theintercept.com/2018/08/11/israel-palestine-drone-strike-operation-protective-edge/>

¹²⁹ <http://www.ism-italia.org/wp-content/uploads/Defencenews20140812-Israeli-Forces-Praise-Elbit-UAVs-in-Gaza-Op-By-Barbara-Opall-Rome.pdf>

¹³⁰ <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2018/12/21/combat-proven-israels-thriving-war-business-in-europe>

¹³¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2018/12/21/combat-proven-israels-thriving-war-business-in-europe>

¹³² https://www.btselem.org/download/201305_pillar_of_defense_operation_eng.pdf

Whitson, Middle East director at Human Rights Watch, said: “Israeli forces too often conducted airstrikes that killed Palestinian civilians and destroyed homes in Gaza without apparent legal justification”.

3. Amongst those killed by Israeli drone strikes were three men carrying tomatoes, a science teacher sitting with his toddler and a friend in the back garden (the toddler survived), a 79-year-old man and his 14-year-old granddaughter in their olive grove and a farmer with his nephew walking down a road. In these cases, and many more Human Rights Watch “found no evidence of Palestinian fighters, weaponry, or other apparent military objectives at the time of the attack”.¹³³

11. 2008, Operation Cast Lead

1. Operation Cast Lead was a 22-day assault on the Gaza Strip, beginning in December of 2008. Independent human rights organizations estimate between 1,385 and 1,419 Palestinians were killed, “a majority of them civilians, including at least 308 minors under the age of 18. More than 5000 more were wounded”.¹³⁴
2. In a 2009 report Human Rights Watch investigates in detail six incidents resulting in 29 civilian deaths where combatants and civilians were not distinguished. According to human rights groups 42 drone attacks had killed 87 civilians from December 2008 to January 2009.
3. In three incidents “drones fired missiles at children playing on rooftops in residential neighborhoods, far from any ground fighting at the time”. In another a “drone-launched missile hit a group of university students as they waited for a bus on a crowded residential street in central Gaza City, killing 12 civilians”. Hermes and Heron drones are specifically cited to be in use in HRW’s report.¹³⁵

12. In 2019, a recent study by the Lancet into the medical consequences of drone strikes on civilian populations in Gaza concluded that drone strikes were the most commonly reported cause of amputation injury and were associated with more severe injuries and more additional surgeries than injuries caused by other explosive weapons.¹³⁶

¹³³ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2013/02/12/israel-gaza-airstrikes-violated-laws-war>

¹³⁴ <https://imeu.org/article/operation-cast-lead>

¹³⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2009/06/30/israel-misuse-drones-killed-civilians-gaza>

¹³⁶ The Lancet ‘Traumatic amputations caused by drone attacks in the local population in Gaza: a retrospective cross-sectional study’. [VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(18)30265-1/fulltext), E40-E47, JANUARY 01, 2019.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(18\)30265-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(18)30265-1/fulltext)