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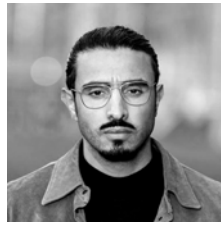
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The insanity of repetition: Israel's return to the Lebanese quagmire

Israel's latest incursion into south Lebanon repeats the same tactical missteps of the past, plunging the occupation army into a familiar quagmire and raising the urgent question: How long can the cycle of failure continue before lessons are finally learned?

Once again, history reverberates through the mountains and valleys of south Lebanon.

On 2 October, Israel launched its '[limited](#) ground incursion' – a renewed attempt to force Hezbollah behind the Litani River.

But what began with familiar arrogance quickly unraveled into disaster. Three Merkava tanks left smoldering in the dirt, and [eight soldiers](#) from the Egoz unit eliminated. Yet, as the sun rose on 13 October, the grim pattern persisted.

Anti-tank fire struck again, wounding 25 Israeli soldiers in separate incidents. Overhead, helicopters cut through the morning sky, ferrying the wounded and the dead from the battlefield to Rambam Hospital in Haifa – each flight a harsh reminder of an offensive spiraling out of control.

Despite its technological edge and attempts at military censorship to hide the extent of the losses, the US-backed Israeli army pushes onward, blind to the [lessons carved in its past](#). Hezbollah's resistance, precise and unyielding, exposes the same fatal flaws of an aggressor clinging to force.

As this new chapter unfolds, one can't help but wonder – how many times will the occupation army tread this doomed path before considering Einstein's warning – that insanity is repeating the same thing over and over, expecting different results.

The Kornet redefined the battlefield

In the days following 8 October, Hezbollah's [battlefield updates](#) have consistently emphasized one key phrase: *direct hits* – Israeli radar stations obliterated, military convoys shattered by precise strikes, and armored vehicles reduced to smoldering wreckage.

These operations, carried out in support of the Palestinian resistance in Gaza, have been so devastatingly effective that Tel Aviv invoked military censorship, desperate to conceal the full extent of its losses, as it has been doing [throughout the conflict](#) on the northern front over the past year. But behind the phrase “direct hits” lies a weapon few might recognize – the Kornet missile.

Although not always visible to the viewer, the Kornet's role is unmistakable. First deployed by Hezbollah in 2006, the Kornet transformed into a battlefield [game-changer](#), proving its worth in ambushes against Israeli Merkava tanks.

On 11 August 2006, 24 Merkava tanks rolled into a deadly trap, as if swallowed by the Bermuda Triangle, vanishing under a barrage of Kornet missile fire. By the end of it, 11 tanks lay in ruin – charred remains of Israel's once-feared armored division.

This decisive moment showcased Hezbollah's mastery of asymmetric warfare, where small, mobile units equipped with precision-guided Kornets could dismantle Israel's armored might. The Merkava, long regarded as the [symbol of Israeli dominance](#) in ground warfare, was designed to excel in direct combat. However, in the unforgiving Lebanese terrain, the Kornet missile revealed a critical vulnerability: the Merkava's reliance on heavy armor, which, despite its thickness, was helpless against the Kornet's ability to pierce reactive plating.

The missile's precision focused on the tank's soft spots – its engine and lower hull – areas that conventional defenses struggled to protect against long-range, guided strikes. The once-formidable Merkava, crippled in its ability to maneuver through Lebanon's rugged landscape, became an easy target for well-planned ambushes.

Now, with Israeli convoys once again making daily incursions into Lebanon – repeating the very missteps of 2006 – it's as if history is whispering its warnings, only to be ignored.

Israel's persistence in retracing these familiar steps shows a refusal to reckon with past lessons, locked in a cycle that leads to the same inevitable failures.

Entrapped in the Resistance's web

The Kornet missile, first deployed by Hezbollah during the 2006 war, has become a defining force in its tactical operations.

This [Russian-made](#), laser-guided anti-tank missile, capable of penetrating up to 1,200 millimeters of reactive armor from distances of up to 5.5 kilometers, turns Israel's Merkava tanks into unsuspecting prey caught in carefully planned ambushes.

Hezbollah's elite Radwan special forces, particularly within the [Aziz and Nasr units](#), utilize this weapon with precision, turning each ambush into a coordinated strike that devastates Israel's most advanced armored forces.

The Kornet's range allows Hezbollah fighters to strike from concealed positions and swiftly reposition, ensuring they remain elusive in the heat of battle. These units, operating across the varied terrain of southern Lebanon, have made the Kornet indispensable in their strategy of attrition warfare.

Meanwhile, the [Badr unit](#), stationed north of the Litani River, remains vigilant, holding strategic points and using ambushes to deal significant damage to Israeli forces.

The Kornet's role has expanded beyond targeting armored vehicles, as Hezbollah has creatively adapted it to strike at military installations, including radar stations, blinding Israel's northern defenses.

This tactical shift has forced military analysts to reconsider the missile's potential, showing how even a relatively simple weapon can reshape the dynamics of warfare when wielded with ingenuity and precision.

Lifting the 'Trophy'

Israeli engineers quickly sought solutions to protect their armored vehicles following the significant vulnerabilities exposed in 2006.

By 2007, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems unveiled the [Trophy APS](#), specifically designed to safeguard Merkava [Mark 3 and Mark 4 tanks](#). Equipped with the Elta EL/M-2133 radar, Trophy provides 360-degree detection and launches explosively formed penetrators (EFPs) to intercept incoming threats.

This system enabled Israel to maintain its technological edge, significantly reducing anti-tank missile threats. However, Trophy's 1.5-second reload time created a narrow but exploitable window – an opportunity Hezbollah quickly seized.

In response to Israel's technological advancements, Hezbollah sought a way to exploit this reload time. The solution came with the [Tharallah](#) Twin Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) system, equipped with [Dehlavieh missiles](#), an Iranian variant of the Kornet-E.

Designed by Iran's Aerospace Industries Organization, the Dehlavieh, introduced in 2012, boasts a range of 10 kilometers and tandem warheads capable of penetrating 1,200 millimeters of reactive armor.

The Tharallah system fires two missiles in rapid succession. The first missile triggers the Explosive Reactive Armor (ERA), while the second penetrates the main armor, exploiting Trophy's reload time.

Acquired by Hezbollah in 2015, the Tharallah system is mounted on a quad launcher, configured for both day and night precision strikes.

This clever countermeasure reveals the Axis of Resistance's strategic ingenuity, turning modest resources into powerful, game-changing tactics – much like a master chess player outwitting an opponent with far superior pieces.

While Israel's war machine thrives on an endless flow of US dollars, it's not brute force but creative strategy that shifts the balance of power on the battlefield.

Cake from Shipunov to Nasrallah

In a little-known detail, revealed during a 2020 interview on Al-Manar TV, Hezbollah's political advisor [Hussein al-Khalil](#) shared a story that took many by surprise. After the 2006 war, Arkady Shipunov, the renowned Russian designer of the Kornet missile, sent an unexpected gift to the recently-assassinated Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah – a cake.

It was more than just a gesture of appreciation; it symbolized Shipunov's pride in how Hezbollah had wielded his creation to devastating effect. The Kornet had proven itself not just as a weapon, but as a game-changer on the battlefield, punctuating Israel's military vulnerabilities with each direct hit on their once-vaunted Merkava tanks.

This cake, a simple token, carried profound significance as a tribute to the strategic brilliance that turned the Kornet into a symbol of asymmetrical warfare. Shipunov's pride reflected the growing recognition that the Lebanese resistance had showcased the missile's superiority in a way few had expected.

Galloway's echo

As Israel once again finds itself entangled in Lebanon, the echoes of George Galloway's legendary 2006 [Sky News interview](#) with Anna Botting resonate more powerfully than ever. Despite Sky News' attempts to bottle up the harsh truth of Israel's military failures, the

reality spilled out – undeniable – even as military censorship and media bias worked overtime to obscure it.

Galloway’s biting words, “Look at the other half of the screen” and “Israel is getting a bloody good hiding,” sliced through the carefully-crafted media narrative, exposing Israel’s recurring military blunders for what they truly were.

While Botting clung to the narrative of Israeli success, the live footage painted a different picture – Israeli soldiers being carried away after devastating Kornet missile ambushes. It was irrefutable evidence of a tactical failure that no amount of censorship could hide.

‘Not tank country’

Fast forward to 2024, and the scene is eerily familiar. Israeli helicopters, their rotors slicing through the morning air, shuttle the dead and wounded from the battlefield to Rambam Hospital in Haifa, a stark reminder of an offensive spiraling out of control. And still, the same efforts are underway to cover the mounting damage and losses.

As the late Hezbollah secretary-general [warned](#) in July, “If your tanks come to southern Lebanon, you will not suffer a shortage of tanks, because you will have no tanks left.”

One can’t help but wonder – how long will it take for Israel to understand, as Einstein warned, that repeating the same actions and expecting a different result is the very definition of insanity?

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