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MEMO

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Hizballah: A Threat to United States and Israel

Hizballah is a terrorist network with global reach that poses a direct threat to Israel and to American interests at home and abroad. Hizballah has killed more Americans than any terrorist group other than al-Qaeda and has launched dozens of attacks against Israel since it withdrew from southern Lebanon in 2000. Its core principles, enumerated in its 1985 platform, pledge allegiance to Iran's supreme leader, and call for the destruction of the United States and Israel.

Hizballah's leader and platform call for the destruction of the United States and Israel.

- Hizballah's Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah has called for the destruction of both countries in interviews on the terrorist group's TV station al-Manar. "Death to America is a policy, a strategy and a vision," he said in 2003. Last year, he said: "Israel is our enemy. ... Its destiny is manifested in our motto: 'Death to Israel.'"
- Hizballah's platform of core principles, written in 1985, defines Israel and the United States as major enemies and incites violence and war against them. "We see in Israel the vanguard of the United States in our Islamic world. It is the hated enemy that must be fought until the hated ones get what they deserve... Therefore our struggle will end only when this entity is obliterated."
- Hizballah promotes violent radical Islam and invented the modern-day suicide bombing, carrying out the first such attacks against American soldiers in Beirut. Nasrallah said in 2005, "The most honorable death is death by killing, and the most honorable killing and the most glorious martyrdom is when a man is killed for the sake of Allah, by the enemies of Allah."

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- Until Sept. 11, Hizballah was responsible for the deadliest terrorist attacks against the United States, killing 257 Americans in the 1983 bombings of the U.S. embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut.
- In 1985, Hizballah hijacked a TWA airliner, taking 39 American passengers hostage for 17 days and brutally torturing and murdering an American sailor. Imad Mugniyeh, Hizballah's security chief, and two others who carried out the attack are on the FBI's most wanted list.
- Throughout the 1980s, Hizballah kidnapped 12 Americans and dozens of Europeans. Many of the hostages, including CIA station chief William Buckley, were killed, while others were held in captivity for years.

More...

Hizballah is Iran's proxy in Tehran's fight against Israel and the West.

- Hizballah has declared its fealty to Iran, declaring in its platform, "We obey the orders of one leader, wise and just, that of our tutor and jurist who fulfills all the necessary conditions: [former supreme leader of Iran] Ruhollah Musawi Khomeini."
- Iran views Hizballah as its front line in its war against the West. Iran, through its Revolutionary Guards, founded Hizballah in 1982, and continues to provide the terrorist group with \$100 million a year and has provided Hizballah with the thousands of rockets and missiles used against Israel during the recent fighting.
- Hizballah has launched dozens of unprovoked attacks against Israel since it withdrew from Lebanon. During the recent fighting, Hizballah fired more than 4,000 rockets into Israel, killing more than 50 and wounding more than 2,000.
- Many leading analysts believe Iran influenced the timing of Hizballah's July 12 attack against Israel to divert the G-8 Summit's planned focus on Iran's nuclear program.

Hizballah cells operate in the United States and around world, raising money and preparing for potential attacks against Americans.

- The FBI and Justice Department recently opened a probe into Hizballah sleeper cells and other Iran-related groups suspected of gathering information to target subways and other public infrastructure in major U.S. cities, including New York and Los Angeles.
- Hizballah cells in Argentina are responsible for the bombings during the 1990s of the Jewish Center and Israeli embassy in Argentina, killing more than 100 civilians. Hizballah operatives also planted explosives in 1985 at a restaurant in Spain, killing 18 and wounding 82.
- In addition to operating cells in the United States, Hizballah terrorists have operated and carried out attacks in Argentina, Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

Basic Facts Summary

- **Hizballah's leader and platform call for violence against the United States and Israel.**
- **Hizballah has killed more Americans than any terrorist group other than al-Qaeda.**
- **Hizballah is Iran's proxy in Tehran's fight against Israel and the West.**
- **Hizballah cells operate in the United States and around world, raising money and preparing for potential attacks against Americans.**