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## ENVELOPE

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## HEADER

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201413Z JUL 09

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

INFO (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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RHMFSS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

RUZEHAA/CDR USEUCOM (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i) VAIHINGEN GE (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

RUZFMXI/CDR USTRANSCOM (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i) SCOTT AFB IL

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RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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RUEPWDC/DA (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i) WASHINGTON DC

RUEADWD/DA WASHINGTON DC (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

RHMFSS/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC

RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC

RHMFSS/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

RHEFHLC/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC

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RUETIAA/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC

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RUCNFB/FBI WASHINGTON DC

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RHMFIS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE

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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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RHMFIS/USCENTCOM

MACDILL AFB FL

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

RUZCISR/USCENTCOM

MACDILL AFB FL

(b)(3):10 USC 424

RUCQSAB/USSOCOM

MACDILL AFB FL

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

RHMFIS/USSTRATCOM

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OFFUTT AFB NE

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RULWAAA/USSTRATCOM

OFFUTT AFB NE

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RHEHWSR/WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM WASHINGTON DC

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## CONTROLS

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SERIAL: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424 .

/\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*/

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**BODY**

COUNTRY: (U) ISRAEL (ISR); SYRIA (SYR); LEBANON (LBN) .

IPSP: (U)

(b)(3):10 USC 424

SUBJ: (b)(3):10 USC 424 SUCCESSFUL TEST FOR ISRAEL'S IRON DOME  
SHORT-RANGE ROCKET DEFENSE SYSTEM (U) .

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY  
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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DOI: (U) 20090716.

REQS: (U)

(b)(3):10 USC 424

**SOURCE:**

**SOURCE A.**

1. (U) DESCRIPTION -- //OPEN SOURCE//OPEN SOURCE. "MA'ARIV", A DAILY  
RIGHT-WING, RELIGIOUS, NEWSPAPER PRINTED IN JERUSALEM, ISRAEL.  
HEBREW. DATE OF SOURCE: 20090716.
2. (U) CONTEXT STATEMENT -- INFORMATION PROVIDED IN HEBREW AND  
TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH.

SUMMARY: (U) SEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, TEXT PARAGRAPH 1,  
BELOW.

TEXT: 1. (U) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. THE ISRAEL MINISTRY OF  
DEFENSE (MOD)  
AND RAFAEL SUCCESSFULLY TESTED THE IRON DOME SHORT-RANGE ROCKET  
DEFENSE SYSTEM THE WEEK OF 12 JULY 2009. THE TESTS INTEGRATED ALL  
IRON DOME COMPONENTS INCLUDING RADAR, COMMAND AND CONTROL UNIT,  
LAUNCHER, AND INTERCEPTOR. SECURITY OFFICIALS SAID THE SYSTEM  
SUCCESSFULLY INTERCEPTED A NUMBER OF THREATS. THE PLAN IS STILL TO  
ACHIEVE OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY BY 2010. THE ISRAEL AIR FORCE (IAF)  
AIR DEFENSE SCHOOL HAS ALREADY SET UP A TEAM TO DRAFT THE DOCTRINE  
FOR THE SYSTEM.

2. (U) ACCORDING TO OPEN SOURCE MEDIA, THE ISRAEL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE  
(MOD) AND RAFAEL ANNOUNCED ON 15 JULY 2009 THE SUCCESSFUL TESTING OF

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THE IRON DOME SHORT-RANGE ROCKET DEFENSE SYSTEM. THIS SYSTEM IS GEARED TOWARD PROVIDING A RESPONSE TO SHORT-RANGE ROCKETS, INCLUDING KASSAMS AND KATYUSHAS. THE SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO BECOME OPERATIONAL IN 2010, THE FIRST OF WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE DEPLOYED IN SDEROT. THE MOD IS ALSO THINKING OF DEPLOYING SOME OF THE NEW SYSTEMS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF ISRAEL AS A RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE FUTURE HIZBALLAH ROCKET FIRE.

3. (U) THE TESTS THAT RAFAEL CARRIED OUT DURING THE WEEK OF 12 JULY 2009 SAW THE INTEGRATION OF ALL THE IRON DOME COMPONENTS INCLUDING THE RADAR, A COMMAND AND CONTROL UNIT, A LAUNCHER, AND AN INTERCEPTOR. SECURITY OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT (QUOTE) DURING THE EXPERIMENTS, THE SYSTEM SUCCESSFULLY INTERCEPTED A NUMBER OF THREATS. ALL THE SYSTEMS WERE IN ORDER AND THE THREAT WAS DESTROYED AS PLANNED (UNQUOTE). IT WAS FURTHER STATED THAT SEVERAL MORE EXPERIMENTS WILL BE HELD OVER THE COMING MONTHS, (QUOTE) IN A BID TO BRING THE SYSTEM TO OPERATIONAL WORTHINESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (UNQUOTE).

4. (U) THE COMPLETION OF THE TESTS WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN THE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND A KEY STAGE IN ITS COMPLETION AND OPERATIONAL READINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TIMETABLE. ACCORDING TO DESIGN STUDIES, THE SYSTEM'S MAIN WEAKNESS IS THE INITIAL 4.5 KILOMETER (KM) TRAJECTORY, BECAUSE THE FLIGHT TIME, APPROXIMATELY 15 SECONDS, IS WHAT IT TAKES FOR THE IRON DOME TO IDENTIFY AND INTERCEPT IT.

5. (U) IN RESPONSE TO THE SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT, MINISTER OF DEFENSE EHUD ((BARAK)) SAID THAT A (QUOTE) MULTILAYER DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR ISRAEL IS A NATIONAL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE. THE NEW SYSTEM WILL SERVE AS A DEFENSE LAYER AGAINST MISSILE THREATS, RANGING FROM KASSAM TO SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES, AND WILL ALLOW THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT AND THE IDF TO FULFILL THEIR SUPREME DUTY, WHICH IS TO DEFEND THE CITIZENS OF ISRAEL IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY (UNQUOTE).

6. (U) THE ISRAEL AIR FORCE (IAF) AIR DEFENSE SCHOOL HAS ALREADY SET UP A TEAM TO DRAFT THE DOCTRINE FOR THE SYSTEM. THE MILITARY WANTS TO MOBILIZE SHARP MINDS FROM THE IAF, INCLUDING THOSE CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO UNITS FOR THE ARROW WEAPON SYSTEM, PATRIOT, AND HAWK BATTERIES, TO BE AT THE FRONTLINE OF IRON DOME.

(b)(1);(b)(3);10 USC 424;Sec. 1.4(c)

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(1);(b)(3):10 USC 424;Sec. 1.4(c)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

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