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Robo-Snipers, "Auto Kill Zones" to Protect Israeli Borders

By Noah Shachtman ✉ June 04, 2007 | 12:04:55 PM Categories: [Guns](#), [Sabras](#)

For years and years, the Israeli military has been trying to figure out a way to keep Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip from crossing over into Israel proper. The latest tactic: create a set of "automated kill zones" by networking together remote-controlled machine guns, ground sensors, and drones along the 60-kilometer border.

Defense News' Barbara Opall-Rome reports that "initial deployment plans for the See-Shoot system call for mounting a 0.5-caliber automated machine gun in each of several pillboxes interspersed along the Gaza border fence."



Connected via fiber optics to a remote operator station and a command-and-control center, each machine gun-mounted station serves as a type of robotic sniper, capable of enforcing a nearly 1,500-meter-deep no-go zone.

The IDF's [Israeli Defense Forces] Southern Command is also considering adding Gill/Spike anti-tank missiles to extend the no-go zones to several kilometers, defense and industry sources here said.

The guns will be based on the [Samson Remote Control Weapons Station](#). And the pillboxes are supposed to be positioned "at intervals of some hundreds of meters along the border," *Jane's Defence Weekly* observes. They'll be "protected and secured (alarms, sensors and steel doors) and feature retractable armored covers that protect the weapon station when not in use."

Once IDF sensors locate a potential target, the operator can cue Sentry Tech to verify or engage the target through its own electro-optic (EO) day/night sensor package. The sensor-acquired information is transferred to the electro-optic package of the weapon station, which slews to the target, enabling the operator to locate and track the target... Each Sentry Tech can cover another in the event of a system failure and a single [center] can control up to 15 weapon stations.

The idea, ultimately, is to have a "closed-loop" system -- no human intervention required. But, Opall-Rome notes, "until the top brass is completely satisfied with the fidelity of their overlapping sensor network -- and until the 19- and 20-year-old soldiers deployed behind computer screens are thoroughly trained in operating the system -- approval by a commanding officer will be required before pushing the kill button."

Opall-Rome adds that "See-Shoot embodies the IDF's goal of waging no-signature warfare along its border areas. It obviates the need to dispatch infantry to intercept intruders or to respond to probing maneuvers by enemy squads."

The nearly \$4-million system is supposed to be completed by the end of the summer. "But the Israeli government has already authorized IDF Southern Command to begin operating parts of the system in response to the recent surge in violence emanating from the terror-infested strip."

It's all part of a larger plan to "wag[e] no-signature warfare along its border areas. It obviates the need to dispatch infantry to intercept intruders or to respond to probing maneuvers by enemy squads."

Which may sound like a good idea. But [Haninah Levine](#) says the tech ignores the lessons of last summer's war in Lebanon. The [Winograd Commission](#), appointed to investigate the conflict, "calls 'no-signature warfare' by its real name," he says:

"withdrawal of soldiers and military targets from positions to which [the enemy] can penetrate with relative ease," and identifies this strategy as a major component in the IDF's failures in the lead-up to the Second Lebanon War."

The problem is not that the technology fails: it's that the technology does not solve the problems which the

conditions of engagement create. Along the Lebanese border, the problem was that the rules of engagement allowed the IDF to fire only if attacked by Hezbollah: the electronic fence therefore proved useless, since alarms were regularly ignored even when the Israelis knew that they indicated Hezbollah was preparing an attack.

Along the Gaza fence, the rules of engagement are much more aggressive, but the Palestinians will still probably try to "train" the IDF to ignore the system's alarms by sending unarmed civilians towards the fence. The statement that "the technology here is not as important as the need to evaluate each potential threat on a case by case basis" is as true from a military point of view as it is from a human-rights point of view. And, by the way, the only known case of Palestinians kidnapping an Israeli soldier along the Gaza fence since the disengagement took place when the Palestinians emerged from a tunnel well behind the IDF lines - a tactic which this system would do nothing to thwart."

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This also, especially if automated, brings another political vulnerability to the Israelis as well: One can't help but try to compare this with the Berlin wall and Apartheid, both of which as comparisons naturally damage the Israeli political position.

Israel is in a strange situation, because if they were not Israel, any other country acting in this manner would face huge international condemnation. Thus it is critical that they NOT become like any other country in the eyes of world opinion.

Tools like this will probably improve the security situation, but may harm in the long run political battle.

Posted by: Nicholas Wevaer | Jun 4, 2007 10:21:32 AM

Interesting story, but the photo does not match the weapons system described in the story. The photo shows a Mk19 40mm grenade machine gun slaved to a fire control system and target acquisition system. This is not the same as a .50 caliber (12.7mm) machine gun.

That said, the Mk19 would be a perfect weapons system for this kind of mission, engaging personnel in a somewhat open area.

Posted by: Ranger Guinness | Jun 4, 2007 10:50:02 AM

Also, wouldn't a .5 Caliber round be equal to .005 inches if a 50 Caliber round is a half inch?

Posted by: Dion Edon | Jun 4, 2007 11:24:16 AM

That was sarcasm directed at the insanely detailed posts above NOT an actual critique!

Posted by: Dion Edon | Jun 4, 2007 11:25:56 AM

Where is the story about Putin threatening Europe with his nuclear arsenal?

I want to know how the liberal meme of "The Missile Defense Shield Does Not Work" is holding up now with Putin getting so freaked out over the shield.

Granted, the shield will not stop a massive Russian nuclear bombardment, but that's not the point. The point is to shield from a single accidental launch, or a lesser developed "Rogue Nation".

Why is Putin acting so hostile? Sure the liberals will say it's Bush's fault. But also, why are they so freaked out about our missile shield if according to the liberals "it's just smoke and mirrors / defense slush fund".

Posted by: Ayane | Jun 4, 2007 11:45:58 AM

This is so obviously insane. Just wait for the first report of a wayward Israeli schoolbus being blown to smithereens on a field trip.

Posted by: John H. Farr | Jun 4, 2007 12:25:42 PM

This system appears designed to counter the Palestinian tactic of suicide bombings and kidnappings by removing human beings from zones of danger while still preventing hostile incursion.

Strategy: Protect civilians and infrastructure, while defending against rouge agents who are willing to die in order to spread maximum terror and carnage.

Tactic: Robots kill terrorists, enforcing a "kill-zone" well-before any actual human targets are within the terrorists' range.

Potential backlash: Hundreds of suicide terrorist volunteers march on the robots, are gunned down and die, and the international media portray the "martyrs" as unarmed, defenseless civilians cut down by evil Terminator clones programmed by vicious Deatheaters.

Prediction: On the whole, it will probably be worth it to secure Israel.

Posted by: threotorches | Jun 4, 2007 12:27:23 PM

I agree Nicholas if those evil JOOOoo's would just lay down and be Slaughtered like good sheepl, everything would be just so much easier. Why hell the whole world could maybe have warm fuzzies again.

A defensive weapon that is only deadly if you walk into a clearly marked kill zone, Immoral? Daring to put up a fence between your women and children and your screw ball neighbors that think they are on a mission from god to kill your entire family then move into your home, Immoral? Why How dare those evil JOOOoo's think they deserve survival.

True "Intelligia" in action..

Posted by: C-Low | Jun 4, 2007 12:30:04 PM

C-Low:

Nice troll. About 7.8 on the GodwinOMeter.

Posted by: Nicholas weaver | Jun 4, 2007 12:33:59 PM

Why no single shot weapons? Why must we always throw up a cloud of lead and hope that it works? A single shot is much more demoralizing than a swarm... Plus you needn't be out maintaining and re-supplying the weapon... The anti-mortar weapon does the same spray-and-pray when a single round would work... Oh well, its nice to be rich...

Posted by: AndyJ | Jun 4, 2007 12:55:51 PM

I politely disagree with the above poster who wrote:

"Israel is in a strange situation, because if they were not Israel, any other country acting in this manner would face huge international condemnation"

Everything Israel does is condemned, all the time. Except when it's glaringly obvious, such as when Hamas won power in the last election and refused Israel's right to exist.

....Geez, I bet in 24 hours this wired.com article's message board will be full of angry and of the wall based comments about the mid-east issues, complete with "Jews are Nazi's" references.

Posted by: Jon | Jun 4, 2007 12:59:03 PM

I don't have a problem with the concept of a border wall. The problem with the Israeli wall is that they built the damn thing well outside their own borders. It would be like our government building a US - Mexico fence on Mexican land.

In many places, the Israeli wall cuts off Palestinian farmers from their fields. By building the wall well outside their borders, the Israelis have reinforced their status as an Apartheid-like oppressor.

Adding automatic machine guns to a wall that is built on Palestinian land won't help that perception. In fact, automatic machine guns are a PR nightmare waiting to happen. Most human snipers will not knowingly fire upon small children, farmers, and unarmed workers. But an auto-bot sniper will have no compunction in firing on such targets.

It's no wonder that more and more citizens of the 1st world harbor no love for the Israelis. It's not a Jewish thing, it's not an arab thing, it's a human rights thing.

The Israelis just don't seem to care what the world thinks of them. I used to have sympathy and respect for the Israelis, no longer.

Posted by: Desmond | Jun 4, 2007 1:26:12 PM

Compared with how South Africa got treated, Israel gets off light. And look at the visceral reation the entire topic digs up. Beyond this thread, look at the reaction that Carter got for just NAMING his book "Peace not Aparthied".

But I won't add to THAT anymore in this theread.

All I was tying to point out was that this solution, although very good tactically and strategically (if the strategy is to keep the palestinians isolated), if fully automated could be, and will be used as a grand strategic disaster for Israel.

And even without automation, the resemblance to the Berlin Wall's no-mans-zone is not good PR.

The weak are in a very powerful position in global grand strategy. If you defeat the weak, you are a bully. If the weak defeat you, you are an incompetent bully.

Posted by: Nicholas Weaver | Jun 4, 2007 2:03:25 PM

I like this idea. Whoever thought it up is a genius. Put some of these at the Mexican American borders along with the wireless cars with these guns systems also for those who fight through the sheild . This will deter all sorts of dissidents. Clearly mark the signs and make sure the kids are educated on this to stay away. Danger! Guns Kill! Good Job ! I think it will work! Max

Posted by: Max Anderson | Jun 4, 2007 4:12:31 PM

Wouldn't it make more sense to incorporate a non-lethal system to use against unarmed civilians entering the area? It would offer a grey area between shooting and not shooting.

I'm thinking pellet grenades or something.

Posted by: | Jun 4, 2007 6:29:22 PM

I need one of these for my house.

Posted by: John Poulos | Jun 4, 2007 6:33:21 PM

That is soooooo cool. We need more automated weapons systems. Let's put them on the US border. That'll teach 'em. Maybe not, but they're good when there be bad guys about.

Posted by: professional Adventurer | Jun 4, 2007 6:37:34 PM

Where to begin... well, lets get a personal issue of mine out of the way first: automated death machines have always struck a sour note for me.

Now, down to business. I wish, maybe more than anything else in the world, that political problems such as these could be solved by simply shooting people, but, alas, a good solution is far too complex to explain in a single post.

On the flip side, however, I am pleased that we have the technology to do something like this, I'm just not very pleased that we're doing it.

Posted by: murray | Jun 4, 2007 7:29:56 PM

Isn't this just an update of the old-fashioned "auto-kill zone" known as the mine field?

Posted by: Cameron | Jun 4, 2007 8:03:22 PM

I, for one, welcome our robot overlords.

Posted by: Grandjester | Jun 4, 2007 8:18:06 PM

Kind of ironic don't you think, that James Cameron used these bad boys in Aliens, yep automated hellfire on an unstoppable opponent, now they pop up in a similar sci-fi setting. Then again last time i checked Palestinians didn't bleed acid, attack anything and everything recklessly and inhabit the remains of somebody else's civilization. To be honest i thought they just wanted their land back, but hey what would i know I'm just a hick from Oz, and i know what would happen if we took to boat people with these.....

Posted by: Patrick | Jun 4, 2007 8:19:57 PM

"I don't have a problem with the concept of a border wall. The problem with the Israeli wall is that they built the damn thing well outside their own borders. It would be like our government building a US - Mexico fence on Mexican land." Oh, if only we would build a wall at all.

Posted by: gpb | Jun 4, 2007 8:24:24 PM

Many posters keeps referring to the defensive weapon above as a "automatic death machine." RTFA -- there's NOTHING automatic about it, since as the the article states, the trigger is operated remotely by a PERSON at a nearby command center, who is watching the potential target via camera.

Posted by: Ethan | Jun 4, 2007 8:32:43 PM

forget the deadly fire,a pigs gutz slinger machine would be more effective...J

Posted by: john jargo | Jun 4, 2007 8:37:36 PM

Pardon me, but what the hell is wrong with securing a hostile border using a tech that risks less Israeli combatant life? Israeli combatants are compulsory drafted 18-year-olds. Why would Israel not do all in its power to minimize the risk to their own life and limb?

These are being situated over a DEMILITARIZED AND BOREDERED ZONE. Most of it has a ~5-meter wall on one hand.

We can engage into the justifiability of putting the DMZ there in the first place (it had a lot to do with taking land from palestinians, and had a lot to do with the fact that the palestinians contributed a lot to a situation where a border, such as countries put between themselves and hostile things, is required -- and both sides would be right), but the system itself is not in any way different to other hostile borders other countries have.

And auto-firing guns are in no way different to auto-firing landmines either. It's a demilitarized zone, for

crying out loud, not a schoolyard. If palestinians care about their kids, they'll baricade the DMZ and not go there. If they'd rather sacrifice their kids for the sake of some media coverage, they'll send their kids to play there on purpose. I wouldn't be surprised either way.

Posted by: Michael | Jun 4, 2007 8:57:56 PM

Patrick, it would be nothing like that.

It would be like something like the state of Rhode Island, settled almost as densely as Hong Kong, being attacked by an inferior (in the military sense) braindead neighbor intent on its destruction and that is not interested in resolving things peacefully, pushing its army 10km out to establish a de-facto border without caring much what the neighbor in question has to say.

This is an (somewhat-self-serving, admittedly) oversimplification of course.

But do consider this:

Israel has a lot of emotional electorate and a very volatile internal politics system. They have governments that can barely change "something", and they have administrations so fragile they're bound from doing anything radical for fear of pissing off 1% of the population and being kicked out of power.

A border that would have been proposed by a left-wing (more concerned by human rights, presumably) government could NEVER have been actioned because the right-wing would have stood in their way.

This border, while less just humanitarianwise, was proposed by the Right wing, which leaves nobody (substantial) in their path.

The realistic choices Israelis have are between an unjust border and no border. A just border is not a realistic possibility no matter which way you bend things.

Personally I think a VERY hermetic border, with a VERY deadly DMZ (with guns pointed both ways for all I care) with all the machine guns money can buy, physically creating a separation for several decades is the only thing that can cool things off. This is not brothers being separated, but two peoples who fundamentally despise, suspect, fear, and want nothing to do with one another SO MUCH, none of the Berlin-Wall context associations apply. It's a good thing, for everyone except Israeli nutcases that want to run around shooting palestinians in palestinian lands, and for palestinian nutcases that want to do the same thing the other way.

It's a VERY GOOD THING. (And yes, I have a vested interest in peace and quiet in the region)

Posted by: Mark | Jun 4, 2007 9:09:31 PM

I think the editor forgot to read the article. Down the line they talk of creating an "auto kill zone" using these things but even that is auto only in that the soldier in the command post pushes the button, where they now have to ask their officers for permission to fire first.

The wall/border that Israel is building up is generally close to the last generally accepted proposal with the Palestinian Authority, the disagreements were over only 2% of the land that Israel has kept. Israel has said that if the PA returns to negotiations and gets more land in the negotiations they'd be willing to move the wall to the new line. They aren't set in stone forever, just until the PA stops trying to blow them up.

I still don't understand how the wall there in Israel or the US southern border is comparable to apartheid or the Berlin Wall. The latter two were to keep people in and contained, the first two are to keep people out. It's not Israel's fault that the governments of the countries bordering Palestinian territories won't accept massive movements of the Palestinians into their countries.

Posted by: Allen | Jun 4, 2007 9:16:31 PM

Wonder if Bush will read this as a new strategy to deal with our border?

Posted by: Cj | Jun 4, 2007 10:15:02 PM

A few notes to the above posters:

1) The 'robo gun' is essentially similar to a US system called CROWS... The US version is designed to replace old-fashioned turret mounts on vehicles (allowing the gunner to sit in the armored vehicle and be safe from small arms fire, a/o stand in the turret hatch & get sniped)....

2) The reason they mount machineguns is because given their range and ammo supply requirements, the class of weapons that can be used are all machineguns... It's about the 200rd (or larger) ammo-belt box, and the 1500yd effective range.... The specs basically scream 'M2HB'...

This does not mean the system will 'spray bullets' - to the contrary it will likely fire the same 3-5 round bursts of well-aimed fire that a human soldier would employ....

3) Do not confuse the fence and turret-gun solution that works for Israel as viable in the USA...

Israel has a 20km border to secure... This will require approx 20 gun turrets, due to the effective range of the weapon in question... 20km is small enough that the guns can be kept secure (a M2 is a very tempting theft target), serviced and supplied with ammo...

In the US, we have ~3300km of border to secure...

The cost of emplacing 3300 50cal machinegun auto-turrets, keeping people from stealing the guns (unless they are going to be given a 360 degree free-fire zone), keeping the guns operating, and individually refilling each gun's ammo box (even if they shoot no illegal aliens, the various 'other' things that would attract 50cal fire (weather wildlife in automated mode, or tree stumps & other targets of opportunity in bored-18yo-controller mode), plus periodic test-fires would eventually deplete the ammo supply) would be quite prohibitive...

And we haven't even TOUCHED the human-rights 'difference' between suicidal Pali jihadis there and unarmed migrant border-jumpers here...

Same applies to a fence - it's easy to build the Berlin Wall around... Berlin... 2,000 miles is a LONG WAY to wall off...

The solution to our immigration problem is to make it impossible for illegals to find work, housing, or government assistance... They will then migrate somewhere else... Of course, this involves national ID and enforcement against employers, not cool automated gun turrets...

Posted by: Dave_A | Jun 4, 2007 10:56:15 PM

Someone is taking their plays from the Aliens movie, and the Robot Sentry Guns depicted in it.

Install heat seeking sensor arrays, engage to kill software, and you have essentially the same thing.

Posted by: Gary | Jun 5, 2007 2:55:19 AM

That's a great idea for our dutch border too!!

Only, we should change the machinegun into a robotic arm which gives a anyone who wants to cross our border a nice flower, while an automated voice says: Welcome to Holland!

No-signature hospitality.

Posted by: Marcel | Jun 5, 2007 3:20:42 AM

I think it's a neat system, and 4 million to close a border is a bargain. But dont count on it to work as described or be a magic bullet.

Doesn't the current Isreal remind your of a concentration camp, but with the guns pointing outward? It does to me. Promised land.. well, great promise.. sux2bu

Posted by: Macaca | Jun 5, 2007 4:22:58 AM

I wonder how long it will take before the LAPD sets up a series of these to help with patrols?

Of course the USA will never secure their borders with such devices, the corrupt politicians want the votes from illegals to help offset the lost votes from American citizens who are fed up with their government's inane policies of taxation, Constitutional obfuscation and citizen control.

Posted by: The Rabid One | Jun 5, 2007 8:16:21 AM

I don't recall the Berlin wall shooting back. This is more like something out of a nightmare or an Aeon Flux cartoon.

Posted by: Davin | Jun 5, 2007 10:47:40 AM

hmmm... My comment was removed. Censorship?

Posted by: gt | Jun 5, 2007 10:57:44 AM

Fair is Fair. The Palestinians should have the same thing to protect their borders from Israeli land-thefts.

Posted by: bob the grapee | Jun 5, 2007 11:00:32 AM

Let's see if I am following the history. A group of Jewish converts living in Eastern Europe and West Asia get together and convince several european and one american nation to give them someone else's country. Then they make war on the inhabitants of this country and throw them out of their homes and eventually their country. Now they need automated devices to shoot these people when they try to cross back into their own country to drive the invaders out. Yeah, makes sense to me.

Posted by: bob the grape | Jun 5, 2007 11:12:18 AM

I'll support the first candidate for President who says he'll use the Samson system on OUR southern border.

At last, a solution to illegal immigration that really makes sense...and provides vital nutrition to buzzards!

Posted by: General Jack Ripper, USAF (ret) | Jun 5, 2007 11:40:14 AM

Grape

The land was British-controlled, and most of it already purchased by Jews when Britain pulled out. The Arabs and Jews fought a war, one which the overmatched Jews won. The arabs have had sour grapes ever since.

Posted by: DR | Jun 5, 2007 11:42:52 AM

I agree with Jon. They will just send enough small children to "accidentally" walk into the kill zone so that they can stir up international outrage.

Posted by: tiroloz | Jun 5, 2007 11:45:36 AM

We need to use this at the the Mexican/American border. It would only take a few non-believing criminals to get taken out for the rest of them to acquiesce.

Mexico has been around far longer than the US. But rather than fight their own battles as we have, they've run their country into the ground. And now we're letting that same mentality ruin the U.S.

Posted by: Excellent | Jun 5, 2007 11:52:43 AM

looks good. There are a lot of misconceptions here. There is not such country as Palestine and as such there are no boarders. Israel captured those lands from other counties during a war.

Posted by: Simon | Jun 5, 2007 11:53:07 AM

94% of all United Nations letters of condemnation have been directed towards israel. more people die because of strife in well more than fifty percent of countries across the globe. YES. look it up. 94%, but israel is treated far too kindly? stop the stupid.

Posted by: just the fax, ma'am | Jun 5, 2007 11:53:44 AM

It be good to have on Mexican border to keap out peoples from Mexico that come and take my job. But....Mexicans will try way to capture bullets and sell lead back to Estados Unidos. It good idea.

Posted by: Jesus Alvarado | Jun 5, 2007 11:55:43 AM

Two points. First, this story is about the Gaza border, not the West Bank. The Gaza border is well defined and Israel had withdrawn in hopes of a land for peace deal. Remember? Instead, they get Katyushka rockets fired at them every day from within independent Gaza.

Second, about history. The modern Arab and Jewish nationalist movements started around the same time in the late 1800s. Initially the two groups considered themselves "brothers" with two homelands to be established in the area colonized middle east - a small Jewish homeland and a large Arab homeland. During the 1920s, the Arab nationalist movement fractured along more tribal/geographic lines (Sauds, Iraqis, Jordan, Syria) and the Palestinians were left in the lurch by their Arab neighbors. Suddenly the Jewish state became a problem to all Arabs, and a wonderful distraction to the corruption of Arab governments and the poverty of the masses. Salaam aleichem, anyone?

Posted by: Mel | Jun 5, 2007 11:55:49 AM

Jewish people are good. I get much work from them. No pick on the Jew people.

Posted by: Jesus Alvarado | Jun 5, 2007 11:58:26 AM

So maybe the muslims can get one those to keep Israel from stealing more land?

Posted by: James Dexter | Jun 5, 2007 12:03:55 PM

Looks like a weapon right out of the movie The Terminator. As a military man familiar with different weapon systems I am highly skeptical of the effectiveness related to this platform. It might be as accurate as the plastic gun used to hunt ducks on the old video game. I would like to see this in action before the "robot" puts other nations in precarious situations.

Posted by: Nick Edwards | Jun 5, 2007 12:10:18 PM

This system would make more sense on many levels if it would shoot rubber bullets at legs instead of shooting real bullets to kill. Keeps 'em out, while avoiding the PR hell of killing women, children, etc...

Posted by: SteveDubya | Jun 5, 2007 12:14:15 PM

Just like those peaceful inhabitants of Beirut Lebanon feel like the land of Israel is there's and will only be peaceful once they themselves are dead or the whole of the state of Israel's. So sayeth the prophet.

Prediction:

Some one along the Israel boarder will make a small fortune selling digging equipment.

I cna hear it now in some opium den just across the boarder. They think they are sooooooo smart my cousin he has a plan it involves, badgers lots of badgers you know ferious digging creatures.

Posted by: Sargent Slaughter | Jun 5, 2007 12:14:44 PM

what's with the berlin wall analogy?

there's an obvious difference between

a wall to keep people in and a system designed to keep people out. Nobody got shot trying to sneak into east berlin.

Posted by: david | Jun 5, 2007 12:18:24 PM

As Mel notes, the above-mentioned system is slated for deployment along the Gaza Strip border. And, as others have pointed out, the system will ultimately be controlled by a soldier, or soldiers.

According to WeaponSurvey (<http://www.weaponssurvey.com>):

The IDF is slated to deploy a new surveillance system along the Gaza Strip border that will allow soldiers to identify and eliminate terrorists approaching the perimeter fence.

The system, developed by the Armament Development Authority (RAFAEL), will lower the risk of Israeli casualties as it is capable of firing at multiple targets simultaneously.

"It sounds like science fiction, but it is here and it is proven and will greatly improve the IDF's ability to thwart terrorist infiltrations from the Gaza Strip..."

(Originally posted on May 30, 2007).

Posted by: **Aharon Etengoff** | Jun 5, 2007 12:23:25 PM

Please get your history facts right. Jew's inhabited the land over 2 thousand years ago until they were kicked out and scattered by the Romans and oppressed and kicked out by their Arab Muslim neighbors. The Eastern European Jews were not the only ones going "back to their homeland". There were Arabic Jews already living in Israel. (Please don't call it Palestine because that's not what it is. They never had a state in the first place). Palestinians were nomads even hated by Arabs, when Jews came back home the Arab states did not want the Palestinians to be scattered to their countries. Jews wanted to share their land with the Palestinian Nomads but the Arabs could not stand Jews living in the area creating the conflict we have today. You need to remember that Europe did not back Israel. Only America. Britain took The Arabic side in the beginning until they left. Today 70% of the Jordanian population is Palestinian hence the attempt by Palestinians to kill the Jordanian royal family. I suspect your educational consists of what you listen to instead of actual facts. Do some homework before you open your mouth about issues you know nothing about. "Bob the dope".

Posted by: **Bob needs to go back to school** | Jun 5, 2007 12:28:43 PM

I can just see an innocent young boy/girl wondering near a border fence and getting shot by some stupid automated robot. That's not a solution.

On the other hand, as long as there is a human on the other end to ensure the target is legitimate, then I think it's Ok.

Posted by: **Joseph** | Jun 5, 2007 12:31:37 PM

Great idea. Why risk human life when dealing with these Palestinian terrorist. Kill'em all let Alla sort'em out.

Now if we can just get this system on the US Mexican border...

Posted by: **Mark** | Jun 5, 2007 12:32:29 PM

Several people got it right. There has never been a Palestine. There was Isreal, then an occupied Isreal. When the Ottoman Turks lost their control after WWI, the land became a League of Nations protectorate. From part of that, the Palestinian nation of Jordan was created. When Israel was created in 1948 the WestBank was Jordanian and Gaza was Egyptian and there was no peace a nor talk of a Palestinian state. Only after repeated attacks did Isreal take the West Bank and Gaza(and more since returned) for its own protection. Isreal is occupying no other country's land. The Berlin wall was to keep its people in, the proposed wall/defensive system is to keep the crazies out. Most of Isreal was reclaimed from the desert. The Palestinians could have,by now,similarly, built a thriving entity,but its leaders steal foreign aid and direct all energy to hating Isreal and fighting with each other.

Posted by: **David FeHill** | Jun 5, 2007 12:35:01 PM

Place this system from the Pacific in California to the Gulf of Mexico, and then you might have a controversy. But no one gives two shits about Palestinians, whether they're terrorists, politicians, bread makers, men, women, infants, etc. Of course, the physical distance between the victim / invader and the glorious defender / murderer will eliminate any last speck of guilt or crisis of conscience. "Hey, she was in the 'no-walk' zone, she had it coming. It wasn't even really a choice."

Posted by: **slym** | Jun 5, 2007 12:37:09 PM

This idea could be great if you use non-lethal or less-lethal weapons instead of those machine guns.

Posted by: **Telemaco** | Jun 5, 2007 12:40:11 PM

The unrelenting monstrous brutality of the Israeli military occupation against the Palestinians underlies all the aggression the Israelis are countering with their inhumane weaponry. Surely an enlightened and reasonable tax base can, through their untethered representatives, suspend the continued support of this 21st century imperialistic nightmare.

Posted by: **chris kilowat** | Jun 5, 2007 12:43:39 PM

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