

## Israel - The Secret Arsenal of the Jewish State

Israel has long maintained a policy of “nuclear ambiguity”, a calculated silence with neither affirmation nor denial of the possession of nuclear weapons meant to act as an effective deterrent, while allowing Israel to escape international censure and scrutiny. However, it has long been known that Israel is in possession of a substantial arsenal of nuclear weapons, as confirmed by Mordechai Vanunu, a former nuclear technician who “blew the whistle” on Israel’s nuclear program.

### Air Bases

Palmikhim, Tel Nor

### Strategic weapons plants

The Bor, Soreq, Tirosh

### Missile facilities

Nes Zionyaa, Be’er Yaakov, Hirbat Zekharyah

Rafael, Yodefah: Yodefah is home to one of the many Rafael facilities, Rafael being the organization responsible for producing Israel’s nuclear weapons. Reentry vehicles, rocket motors, warheads, and anti-ballistic missiles are all developed by Rafael in various facilities, perhaps the most advanced of which is Yodefah.

Eilabun: A weapons storage facility containing, among other things, nuclear landmines, and tactical nuclear artillery shells, useful for destroying conventional forces.

Palmikhim: Israel’s primary research-and-development facility, where ballistic and intercontinental ballistic missiles are assembled. Several large hangars of indeterminate use are housed at this airbase.

Nes Zionyaa: Home to Israel’s chemical and biological warfare divisions, defense analysts claim that the Israeli Jericho ballistic missile can be equipped to deliver chemical warheads.

The Bor: Israel’s main underground command and control post, used in times of crisis and war. It is located beneath the Israeli Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv.

Tel Nof: Israel’s nuclear wings, or “Black Squadrons” are housed here, within easy distance of nuclear storage facilities. A number of aircraft remain on constant 24-hour alert.

Be’er Yaakov: Main missile assembly facility in Israel. This is where Arrow and Jericho missiles are put together, as well as the Shavit launchers.

Soreq: A highly sophisticated weapons research laboratory that deals with research, design and construction of nuclear armaments, as well as nuclear testing.

Tirosh: A heavily-guarded nuclear weapons storage facility.

Hirbat Zekharyah: A heavily-guarded nuclear weapons storage facility.

Dimona: The heavily-defended Dimona Center produces the plutonium used for the Israeli nuclear arsenal. It contains, among other facilities, a reactor and a reprocessing plant necessary to extract produced plutonium.