



# STUDY GUIDE

## WHAT IS HEZBOLLAH?

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**KEY TERMS:** Hezbollah      terrorists      Lebanon  
Iran      ambitions      threat

<b>NOTE-TAKING COLUMN:</b> Complete this section <u>during</u> the video. Include definitions and key terms.	<b>CUE COLUMN:</b> Complete this section <u>after</u> the video.
<p>What did Hezbollah do that made it first known internationally?</p> <p>How many rockets did Hezbollah launch at Israel during the war in 2006?</p> <p>What did Hezbollah do to the Shah of Iran in 1979?</p>	<p>What has Hezbollah become?</p> <p>What makes Hezbollah different, and more dangerous, than other threats to the world?</p>

## DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:


- At the beginning of the video, Dr. Badran asks, “Imagine you live in a small country with more than a hundred thousand missiles pointed at it. And imagine the leaders who control those weapons had one stated purpose: to destroy you, to literally wipe your country off the map. What would do you?” How would you answer his question? Why do you think that such a place actually exists? Explain.
- After reminding us about Hezbollah’s first major terrorist attack against American and French soldiers, Dr. Badran goes on to explain that, “More bombings followed, killing 24 people at the US Embassy Annex in Beirut in 1984; killing 85 at the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires in 1994; and killing 19 at a housing complex for American oil executives in Saudi Arabia in 1996.” Why do you think that Hezbollah committed such atrocities? Do you consider Hezbollah to be a legitimate terrorist organization? Why or why not?
- Dr. Badran answers this last question by noting that, “Today, Hezbollah is a military force, a political party, a terrorist group and transnational criminal organization engaged in drug trafficking, money laundering, and arms smuggling. But the most important thing to remember about Hezbollah is not Hezbollah- it’s Iran. Hezbollah is an extension of Iran and it operates under its command.” Why do you think that Iran funds and operates such a massive criminal organization?
- Towards the end of the video, Dr. Badran points out that, “Since 9-11, the world has come to associate terrorist threats mainly with non-state actors like al-Qaida & ISIS. But unlike all these others, Hezbollah is a state enterprise. As such, the threat Hezbollah poses to the West, to Arab countries, and to Israel’s existence, is different – and far more dangerous.” Why do you think that the world tends to focus more on terrorist groups that are ‘non-state actors,’- i.e. why do you think that Hezbollah tends to ‘fly under the radar’ in comparison to groups like Al-Shabaab? What do you think makes the Hezbollah threat so dangerous? Explain.
- Dr. Badran concludes the video by asking, “How do we stop Hezbollah? The key: Stop Iran.” What do you think Dr. Badran means by this? How, specifically, do you think that this can be accomplished?

## EXTEND THE LEARNING:

### CASE STUDY: Hezbollah Drone Base

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Here’s Hezbollah’s game-changing secret drone base,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What has Hezbollah been incorporating into their military arsenal for years, and what status does that give them in terms of military capability? How much does Hezbollah get in aid money from Iran each year? What is the airbase ‘alarming evidence’ of? Which type of drones are being used? What does the airstrip demonstrate? What does the airstrip hint at? What has Hezbollah shown, in terms of drone technology?
- Do you think that Hezbollah drone bases could be as much of or more than a threat to Israel and other countries than their missiles? Why or why not? If Iran is allowed to continue developing nuclear weapons, do you think that Hezbollah would one day have those to threaten the world with as well? Why or why not? Do you think that learning about such economic and military support from Iran for Hezbollah is justification for doing whatever it takes to ‘stop Iran,’ as Dr. Badran notes in the video as being critical to stopping Hezbollah? Why or why not?
- Which points made in the video are supported by text in this article? Explain and give specific examples.



# QUIZ

WHAT IS  
HEZBOLLAH?

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quiz in all black



# QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

## WHAT IS HEZBOLLAH?

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1. What does Hezbollah translate to in English?

- a. Party of Iraq
- b. Party of Iran
- c. Party of God
- d. Party of Quran

2. Today Hezbollah is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. a military force
- b. a political party
- c. a terrorist group
- d. All of the above.

3. What country is Hezbollah an extension of?

- a. Israel
- b. Iraq
- c. Iran
- d. Lebanon

4. Like al-Qaida and ISIS, Hezbollah is a non-state actor.

- a. True
- b. False

5. How can Hezbollah be stopped?

- a. It can't be.
- b. Stop Iran.
- c. Through the United Nations.
- d. Withdraw American funding to Israel.

## Here's Hezbollah's game-changing secret drone base

Armin Rosen  
Apr. 24, 2015, 1:11 PM



In this Nov. 12, 2010 file photo, Hezbollah fighters hold their party flags, as they parade during the opening of new cemetery for colleagues who died in fighting against Israel, in a southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon. Hussein Malla/AP

For years, the Lebanese Shi'ite militant organization Hezbollah has incorporated unmanned aerial vehicles into their arsenal, developing perhaps the most sophisticated aerial capabilities of any non-state armed group on earth.

IHS Jane's has now used Google Maps to locate their airbase in northern Lebanon, according to an analysis published on April 23rd.

Hezbollah is arguably the Arab world's most capable military force. The group is a direct proxy of the revolutionary regime in Iran, which sends the group perhaps as much as \$350 million in aid a year, according to Matthew Levitt's Hezbollah: The Global Footprint of Lebanon's Party of God.

Hezbollah has an estimated 100,000 rockets— an arsenal that likely includes Russian-made precision-guided missiles. Its infusion of fighters is largely responsible for the survival of Syria's Assad regime after

four years of war against ISIS, Al Qaeda, and secular armed groups. Hezbollah has operated cells and smuggling networks on every continent, and it's the only Arab military force that can plausibly claim a battlefield victory against Israel.

The airbase is alarming evidence of the group's vaunted operational capabilities — as well as the depth of its relationship with Tehran.

The airstrip includes a 2200-foot unpaved runway, several outbuildings, and an antenna that "could potentially be used to extend the range of a UAV ground control station." (It can be found at 34.3109624, 36.3492857 on Google Maps).



Business Insider via Google Maps

It's located a few miles south of the town of Hermel in northern Lebanon, and about 10 miles to the west of the border with Syria.

As the Jane's report notes, the airstrip is too short to accommodate most manned aircraft, while its unpaved surface and mountainous surrounding terrain make it largely off-limits to planes that technically capable of landing on a runway of its length. That means there's a strong possibility it was "built for Iranian-made UAVs, including the Ababil-3, which has been employed over Syria by forces allied to the Syrian regime, and possibly the newer and larger Shahed-129."

The Ababil-3 is a small reconnaissance drone with limited range and flight endurance; it's also been deployed by the Sudanese armed forces in the former Iranian ally's various civil conflicts. But as The Aviationist notes, the Shahed-129 is superficially similar in design to the US's Reaper and Predator platforms, and Iranian military officials claim that the drone can carry as many as 8 Sadid missiles.'



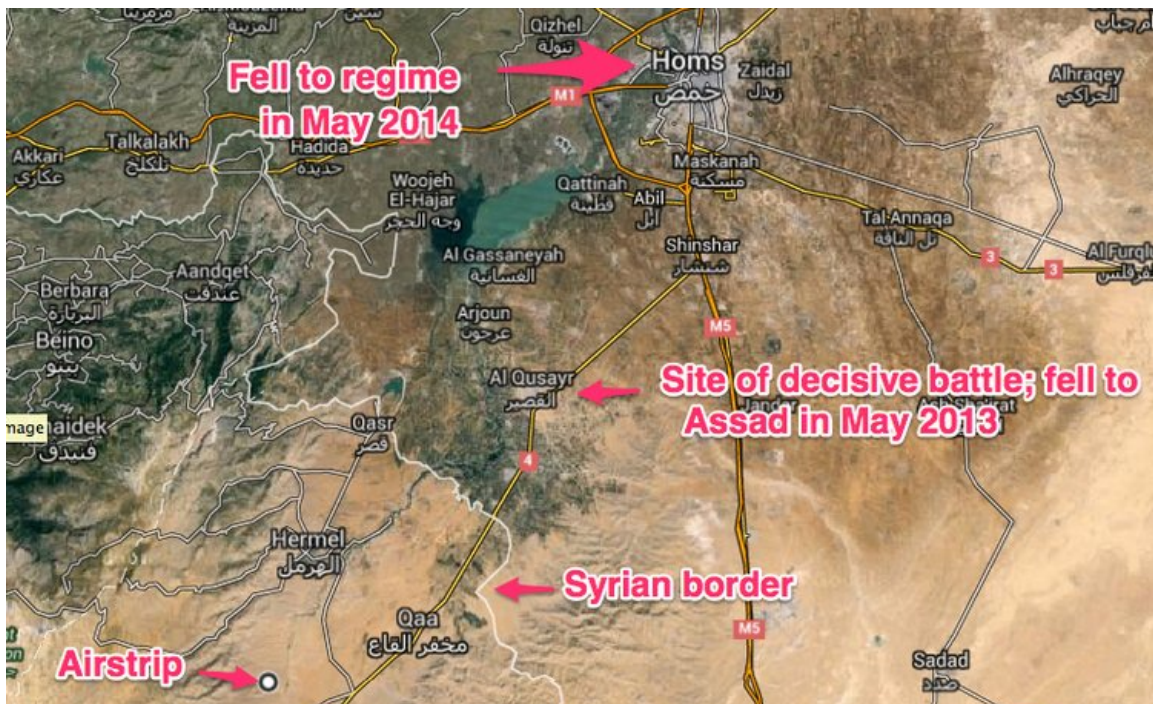


IRNA

If Hezbollah is in fact operating these drones from the airstrip, it's highly likely that Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps or other Iranian personnel are assisting them.

The airstrip demonstrates not only Hezbollah's impressive air capabilities, but the depth of Iranian cooperation in developing them: Hezbollah's primary sponsors clearly see the urgency of the group developing an aerial component. And as Jane's reports, the airstrip "was built sometime between 27 February 2013 and 19 June 2014," suggesting that this shift in focus was not just recent, but influenced by events next door.

The airstrip isn't far from Qusayr, the Syrian border town where the most important Assad regime victory of the first phase of the Syrian civil war took place. Between mid-2012 and early 2013, a huge infusion of Hezbollah troops helped the regime secure the town against anti-regime rebels over months of heavy combat, denying the Assad regime's opponents of a chance to control a strategic crossroads between Damascus, Homs, Lebanon, and the Mediterranean coast.



Google Maps



The regime and its Hezbollah allies only fully controlled the city in May of 2013— three months after work began on the airstrip.

Homs, a hotbed of secularist opposition to Assad, is within Ababil-3 range of the Hezbollah airstrip. It finally fell to regime forces in May of 2014, in a defeat that threatened to cripple Syria's remaining moderate resistance forces.

The airstrip hints at the importance of Hezbollah aerial surveillance in the Syria conflict, and also shows the depths to which the Iranian proxy has involved Lebanon in the conflict next door. The airstrip's most likely purpose is for operations in Syria, but it's positioned a safe distance from the conflict's frontlines and behind the border of an officially neutral state.

As researcher Philip Smyth has demonstrated, the involvement of radical, pro-Assad Shi'ite foreign fighters is one of the most decisive and less-examined aspects of the Syria war. This airfield further demonstrates how Iran and Lebanese Hezbollah has turned the Syrian Civil War into a regional conflict — and used Lebanon's territory to bail out the Assad regime.

And while Hezbollah is far from a typical case, it shows that drone technology has now proliferated to the point where a non-state group can essentially build and operate its own military airport.