

spectrum, joined in prayer and mutual support.

Today, walls are not a great deterrent in the face of enemies with modern forms of weaponry, but we do have virtual walls—like the Iron Dome. Perhaps it is in the

*zechus* (the merit) of our unity during this most recent tragedy that *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* has granted phenomenal success to the Iron Dome system. Let us take the message to heart, and increase *ahavas Yisrael* as we head toward Tisha B'Av and beyond. ■

## This Iron Dome Battery Courtesy of the USA

Although the Iron Dome was conceived and initially funded by the government of Israel, its speedy implementation has been made possible by a large injection of funding by the United States. The US has always shown strong support for Israel's defensive capabilities, and during the first year that President Obama requested funding for the system, the House of Representatives passed the \$205 million aid bill by an overwhelming margin of 410-4, in an expedited process.

Subsequently, an effort to show the community's appreciation to Congress was spearheaded by Los Angeles-based real estate developer Robert Rechnitz. Mr. Rechnitz is a major philanthropist who serves as Chairman of the Jerusalem Conference and on the Vice Chairman's Board of the Republican Jewish Coalition.

Mr. Rechnitz engaged noted government advocate and public relations specialist Ezra Friedlander of the Friedlander Group to organize the Iron Dome Congressional Tribute.

Mr. Friedlander arranged the ceremony, which was intended to show members of Congress the deep appreciation of all those who value life and support the bilateral defense cooperation between the US and Israel, which continues to be enhanced by funding for the Iron Dome.

The Iron Dome Congressional Tribute showed members of Congress how meaningful their support is to the Jewish community and to everyone who supports Israel's security. The event greatly encouraged the Congress to continue its strong bipartisan support of Iron Dome funding. In addition, the relentless bombardment of



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(Left to right) Former Israeli Ambassador to the US Michael Oren; Robert Rechnitz, Chairman of the Iron Dome Congressional Tribute; Ezra Friedlander, CEO of The Friedlander Group; Senator Rand Paul (R-KY).

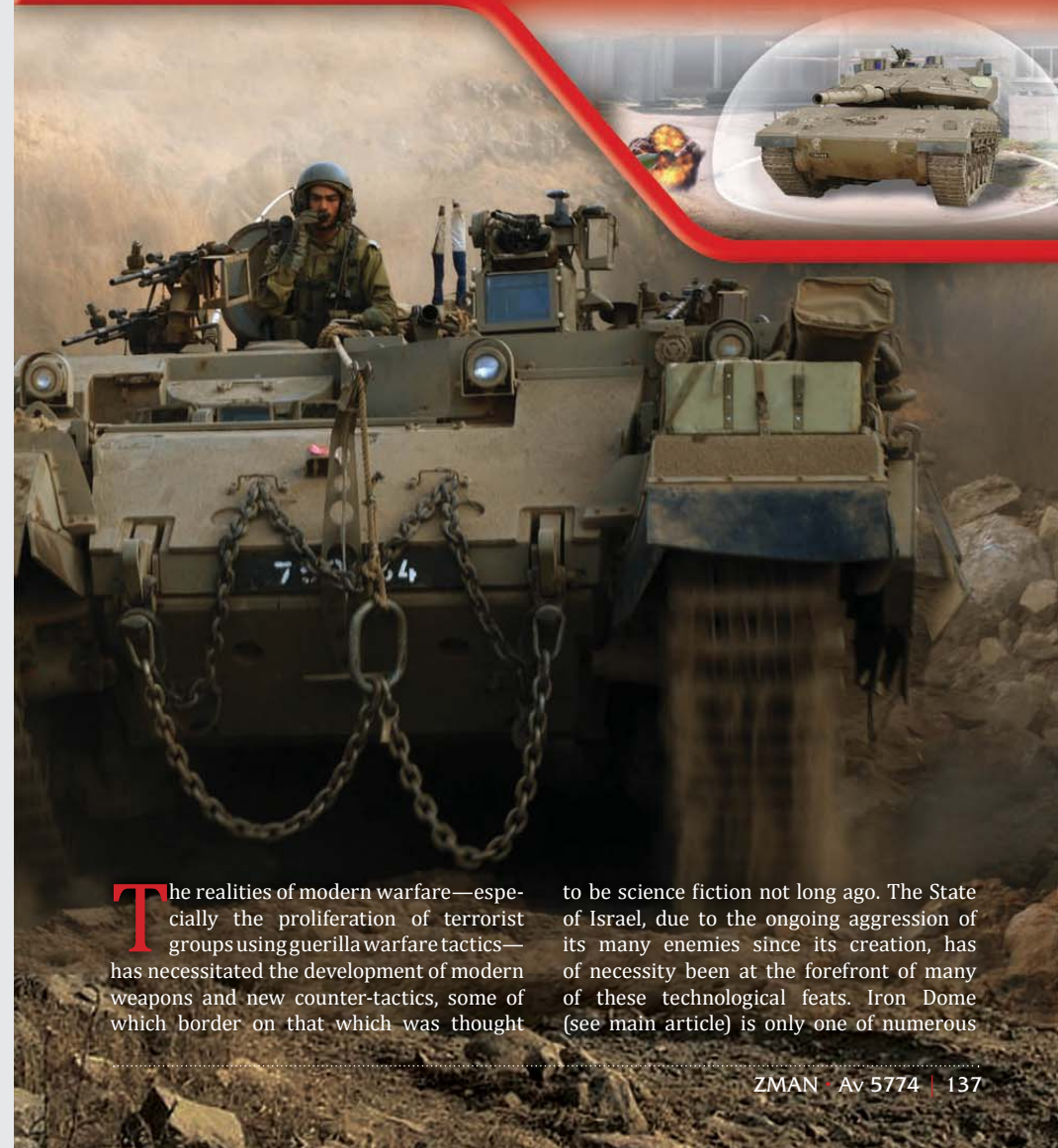
Israel by Hamas has highlighted the urgency of Iron Dome, and its success has generated much enthusiasm. During the third week of Operation Protective Edge, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel declared that "Iron Dome has saved countless Israeli lives." Hagel is requesting an immediate grant of an additional \$225 million for the acceleration of Iron Dome production, besides another \$351 million that was already under discussion for fiscal year 2015, which begins in October of this year. ■



President Obama and Prime Minister Netanyahu visiting an Iron Dome battery in Israel.

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The realities of modern warfare—especially the proliferation of terrorist groups using guerilla warfare tactics—has necessitated the development of modern weapons and new counter-tactics, some of which border on that which was thought

to be science fiction not long ago. The State of Israel, due to the ongoing aggression of its many enemies since its creation, has of necessity been at the forefront of many of these technological feats. Iron Dome (see main article) is only one of numerous