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Glossary of Terms

Anti-Ballistic Missiles (ABM): missiles that are designed to intercept and destroy surface-to-surface ballistic missiles.

Armored Personal Carrier (APC): armored fighting vehicles developed to transport infantry on the battlefield; such as the American M-113 and the Russian BTR-60.

Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM): a guided missile primarily designed to hit and destroy heavily-armored tanks and other armored fighting vehicles; such as the Russian 9K115-2 Metis-M (NATO codename AT-13) and 9M133 Kornet-E (NATO codename AT-14).

Ballistic Missile: a missile that follows a sub-orbital ballistic flight path with the objective of delivering a warhead to a predetermined target.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA): the principle organ in the American intelligence community dealing mandated to collect and analyze information about other states.

Circular Error Probable (CEP): is an intuitive measure of a weapon system's accuracy. It is defined as a circle, centered about the mean, whose boundary is expected to include 50% of the population within it.

Counter-Insurgency Operations (COIN): military operations executed against a rebellion, or movement of resistance.

First Strike Capability: a first strike is a preemptive surprise attack employing overwhelming force. First strike capability is a country's ability to defeat another nuclear power by destroying its arsenal to the point where the attacking country can survive the weakened retaliation while the opposing side is left unable to continue war.
Means of Delivery: the various means by which a nuclear warhead (or any type of warhead in general) could be delivered to its assigned target. These means include fighters, surface-to-surface missiles, artillery shells and even land mines.

Nuclear (Atomic) Weapon: A nuclear (atomic) weapon is an explosive device that derives its destructive force from nuclear reactions, either fission or a combination of fission and fusion.

Preemptive Strike: is a strike that is waged in an attempt to repel or defeat a perceived inevitable offensive or invasion, or to gain a strategic advantage in an impending (allegedly unavoidable) war before that threat materializes.

Second Strike Capability: is a country's assured ability to respond to a nuclear attack with powerful nuclear retaliation against the attacker.

Search for Enemy Air Defense and Destroy Enemy Air Defense (SEAD/DEAD): aerial operations conducted by an air force to wipe out and neutralize the air defense forces of an enemy. Israel is known to have a great experience in such operations and it has conducted, what could be described as, a model operation in 1982 to destroy the Syrian air defense network in the Bekaa valley in Lebanon.

Submarine-Launched Cruise Missiles (SLCM): cruise missiles that deliver conventional (non-nuclear) payloads and are launched from submarines.

Surface-to-Surface Missile SSM: is a guided projectile launched from a hand-held, vehicle mounted, trailer mounted or fixed installation or from a ship. They are often powered by a rocket motor or sometimes fired by an explosive charge, since the launching platform is typically stationary or moving slowly. The most famous example is the Soviet/Russian Scud missiles and their various derivatives.

Warhead: is the explosive material and detonator that is delivered by a missile, rocket, or torpedo.
Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD): the term is used to refer to chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Yet, it should be noted that this research will focus on nuclear weapons only.