



The OLAR that cuts the time of arrival to the destination:

How do soldiers navigate inside Gaza? We got a glimpse of the intelligence' WAZE

It can last for days without a battery, present the most up-to-date terrain image in 3D, take pictures, project, and communicate. The 'OLAR' of the IDF's Intelligence unit brings together various capabilities—and all of them are right in the palms of the commanders currently fighting in the Gaza Strip.

Aya Chaimovich, IDF's official website

Most commanders had to leave their personal mobile phones behind when they crossed the border and went to fight in the Gaza Strip. But in one of the pockets of their vests, perfectly sized for the palm of their hand, a real smartphone awaits them—one that helps them navigate, plan the continuation of the fighting, and communicate with other forces.

This is the 'OLAR' ("pocket knife") system, a battle management system for tactical missions. It is a small technological device produced by Asio Technologies, which contains diverse tools and capabilities for commanders to use in real-time—just like the familiar metal tool.

The main application in the system is 'Amod', a kind of "WAZE" navigation app. for the fighters in the field. It contains all the maps, aids, and information that the intelligence unit produces, as well as tools that allow each commander to understand and analyze the terrain. Accordingly, he will be able to plan the continuation of the mission on the best side and pass on the details and insights to other commanders.

Thus, everything that the commander used to do on a large, dusty paper map with the help of a few pencils can now be done on a small screen that is updated in real time. Lines of sight, distance measurement, axis analysis, navigation, and drawing are just some of the functions made possible by the new technological device, and this is only the tip of the iceberg.

"Most of the system is indeed two-dimensional, just like looking at a map on a mobile phone or computer, but there is also a three-dimensional component," notes Major (res.) S. "The 9900 unit built a photorealistic environment which is constantly updated, and it allows field commanders to continue their work even in the constantly changing battle areas".

Simply put, the commanders can walk around Gaza in a sort of Street View, just like on Google Maps. To make this possible, as explained by Maj. (res.) S., 9900 unit, in a joint and integrated effort with the ground force and the C4I force, took recent photos, heights, and distances and "pasted" them inside the environment they built.

Every time the environment changes, the images and sizes are adjusted accordingly in the digital space, and the commanders can recalculate the route and the possible threats.

To update this image on the device, which is not connected to the internet, an entire team produces thousands of memory cards with up-to-date mapping, and supplies them to the various units and commanders in the Gaza Strip. The 'OLAR battery can last for whole days without recharging.

Another component of the gadget is the 'moonlight' table, which provides a better understanding of the lighting situation at night in each specific area. There is also a system that helps in the orientation of the forces in the field, an application that contains all the theoretical and professional literature for reservists, a camera, a projector, and the possibility to plan and conduct a mission in real time.

As mentioned, this innovative "smartphone" was given to the commands in the field. Since the beginning of the maneuver, thousands of 'OLAR' systems have been distributed. And if you are wondering about the needed training, Major (in reserve) S. explains that it is not as complicated as it may sound: "When you download WAZE, no one gives you special training on it... and the same is true in this case. The 'OLAR' and the 'Amod' app inside it were designed intuitively and combined with short training videos. The commanders easily know how to use it".

In the future, Major (res.) S.'s team plans to develop an even better version of the OLAR and AMOD, introduce further applications to the device, and distribute it to more combatant commanders in the field.

"We are already getting amazing responses from the deployed force," he concludes, "the 'OLAR' provides a clear answer to a real need in the field and successfully supports the maneuvering force. It changes the reality for the commanding force in the field".