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ALERT:

TROJAN MODEL UAV DELIVERED BY BALLOONS LIKELY
DETONATED REMOTELY

JANUARY 6, 2019

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SUMMARY

- Source: Twitter @InstaNewsAlerts, Times of Israel, various mass media

- Date: January 6, 2019

- Location: Gaza Strip / Southern District, Israel

- Times of Israel
  - "Security forces had been sent to the carrot field in the Sdot Negev region where the object landed"
  - "The object was shaped like an unmanned aerial vehicle [Iranian Ababil-2], with a wingspan of over 1.2 meters (4 feet), and was carried into Israel by dozens of colorful helium balloons. Though similar to a drone in appearance, the device was apparently not capable of flight."
  - "Police said the device exploded as a bomb disposal robot examined it. The drone lookalike was then carried away."

PICTURES

"Model" meant to look similar to Iranian Ababil-2 / Qasef-1 UAV

'real' diversity communications antennas similar to those used on many UAVs

"fake" GPS antenna? at location of real GPS antenna on Ababil-2 / Qasef-1

KEY POINTS / UNKNOWNS

- Reportedly the 'fake' UAV detonated just as Israeli 'sappers' were about to start examining it and after it was retrieved from a field by an EOD robot.

- Based on the 'fake' UAV handling sequence and an unknown timeline for time-based detonation it seems that it was detonated remotely.

- Unknowns
  - Communications with device – It is unknown if the 2 seemingly real antennas were used for communications to or from the device.
  - Trigger mechanism – If the device was remotely triggered, it is unknown if the trigger was a channel on the possible UAV communications system or if there was another dedicated trigger link.

- Similar Incidents:
  - There has been an extended campaign by elements in the Gaza Strip to launch balloons and kites carrying incendiary devices and nuisance explosives into Israel.
  - Occasionally the balloons have been used to carrying other items that in-turn had incendiary or small explosive devices on them.
  - In at least one case each, an electronic time-delayed incendiary device and mobile phone triggered IED was used from a kite.
  - See next slide

PREVIOUS SIMILAR INCIDENTS

◉ The pictures below show other 'fake' UAVs carried by balloons into Israel.

◉ The small number of 'fake' UAVs carried by balloons previously have been extremely rudimentary and have not visually or reportedly carried electronics (except LEDs).