

# Largest ever U.S.-Israel war games send warning signal to Iran

**‘When someone attacks you, the best defense is to attack him back’**

The U.S. and Israel concluded their largest ever set of war games Thursday, sending a message that the U.S. stands with its allies against Iran’s aggression, according to The Wall Street Journal.

The exercises, dubbed Juniper Oak 23.2, spanned four days and involved roughly 6,400 American personnel, 1,100 Israeli personnel, 140 aircraft and sea vessels all together firing more than 180,000 pounds of live ammunition, the WSJ reported. While U.S. and Israeli officials reiterated that Iran was not the sole focus of the drills, combined military exercises could serve as a signal of the two countries’ cooperation in countering the threat Tehran and its proxy militias pose to regional stability.

“We know how to defend,” Gen. Herzi Halevi, Israel’s new military chief of staff while observing the exercises aboard a U.S. aircraft carrier, according to the WSJ. “But when someone attacks you, the best defense is to attack him back, so it is offensive capabilities, and we shape it in order to bring a very clear message to Iran: if Iran makes mistakes, offense capabilities are getting ready.”

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