

The Ninth Annual Herzliya Conference - Strategies and Leadership for Times of Crisis

“Risk Reduction and the Role of Passive and Active Defenses”

15:00 – 16:30

Overview:

The Second Lebanon War and the recent Operation Cast Lead in Gaza highlight a fundamental shift in Israel's strategic position. Israel's powerful armed forces and weapon systems were built to provide decisive superiority against the tactics used by its enemies over the past six decades. However, in recent years our enemies have begun a new arms race, aggressively stockpiling rockets and missiles, threats against which Israel has a much more limited capability. This new arms race is transforming the balance of power in the Middle East and bringing Israel's home front onto the battleground.

The evolution of this new balance – and Israel's future security – will depend on the speed with which Israel can change course and implement comprehensive new offensive and defensive strategies.

“Risk Reduction and the Role of Passive and Active Defenses”, co-sponsored by the Israel Missile Defense Association, will focus on this new reality, examining the options for a comprehensive strategic doctrine to address this complex new threat that could help assure Israel's security in an era of missile war. Session speakers present unique perspectives on key elements of this new reality.

Session Chair: Maj. Gen. (res.) Herzle Bodinger, Commander of Israeli Air Force (1992-1996) and Chair of the Board of Directors of IMDA – Israel Missile Defense Association

Panelists:

Maj. Gen. (res.) Matan Vilnai, Deputy Minister of Defense, Member of Knesset

Brig. Gen. (res.) Yair Dori, Commander of Israel Air Defense Forces (2000-2003)

Mr. Uzi Rubin, Program Manager of Arrow Missile Defense system and first Director of Israel Missile Defense Organization (HOMA)

Mr. Michael D. Brown, former U.S. Under-Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response

Dr. Avi Bitzur, specialist in home-front defense, Bar-Ilan University

Dr. Max Singer, Senior Research Fellow, BESA Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University