



Public Service Day

Did you know that every year, we have a special day to thank those who dedicate their lives to serving us all? It's **Public Service Day**. This day is like a big 'thank you' card, spread across the globe for everyone working in public service. Imagine giving a high-five to firefighters, teachers, healthcare workers, and all those amazing folks who work behind the scenes to make our lives better. **Public Service Day** highlights the value and virtue of serving the community. It recognizes the hard work of public servants and reminds us that these people make a huge difference in our lives.

#EDUCATION

Myth Of The Fast Learner

Achievement gaps come from differences in learning opportunities



In the right conditions, people learn at a remarkably similar rate, researchers report. The researchers wanted to know why some students learn faster than others. They hoped to identify fast learners, study them, and develop techniques that could help students understand new concepts quickly.

What they found surprised them. Ken Koedinger, professor of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University's Human Computer Interaction Institute (HCII), led the research published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

He and his team examined data from 1.3 million student interactions from different kinds of educational technologies, including intelligent tutors, online courses, and educational games. The data, gleaned from learning science repository DataShop, indicated that learners master new concepts by having opportunities to practice them.

"The data showed that achievement gaps come from differences in learning opportunities and that better access to such opportunities can help close those gaps," Koedinger says. "This is further confirmation that these educational technologies can provide favourable learning conditions that make it easier to learn something new, like a second language, or a scientific or math concept."

If educators understand where their students are, starting from, they can help students catch up to their peers by giving them more opportunities to practice the material. For example, they could incorporate a cognitive tutor who can give students instant feedback on homework problems. "We have all seen cases where somebody gets to a learning outcome sooner than a peer, one student gets an A in algebra and



another gets a C. But what we don't usually track is where they started. Our results are not contradicting that people end up in different places, but accounting for where students are starting from can tell us a lot about where they will end up," Koedinger says.

Paulo Carvalho, a systems scientist and special faculty at HCII and co-author, says that the paper supports the idea that information sticks with students longer if they are actively engaged while learning, an experience supported by the kinds of educational technology used in this study.

"We have several studies that show that when a student is actively working, they tend to do better than if they are just passively reading the materials," Carvalho says.

"The datasets, that we use for the PNAS paper, all use systems that create favourable conditions for learning. The students are actively engaged, answering questions, and getting immediate feedback, for example." The data, used in this study, was from students from elementary to college courses in math, science, and language. Koedinger says that for all students, a growth mind-set is important.

"No matter who you are, you can do it. You might have had fewer prior opportunities in your life, so it may be harder at first than it is for other people, but you will make just as much progress as anyone else as long as you stick to it," he says. Additional co-authors of the paper are Elizabeth A. McLaughlin, a Scientific Technological Specialist at HCII and Ran Liu, Chief AI Scientist at Amira Learning.

Israel Out Thought...



Current Conflict

We can take a stand on the conflict from two sides. One is based on the current episode and the other based on the continuum of events that took place nearly 75 years ago and the events that have followed with alarming regularity. While bids have been made for peaceful resolutions unfortunately as the ground beneath the feet is not firm these have only led to an uneasy peace and not to an enduring and lasting peace.

While both sides have resorted to force and violence over the decades as a means to settling the issue of a Palestinian homeland within or without the state of modern-day Israel what also stands out is the psyche of both their populations in conditioning themselves to live within this overhang and be ready to resort to brutal means in their bids to attack each other. The reasons for Palestinian anger and Israeli aggression can be debated endlessly with both sides having strong arguments to support their cause and case.

Can one draw parallels with the drawn-out conflict in Ukraine, the issue remains the extent of the Hamas arsenal in terms of rockets and the ability to replenish them. Firing four thousand rockets in a matter of hours will be difficult to sustain in the long run and building up a coalition of open support as is being done by NATO is not feasible or likely in the current geo-political context.

On 07 October, a shocking multi-dimensional attack in South Israel by the Hamas who are reportedly funded by Iran has churned the region once again, shattering the fragile peace that existed by launching Operation Al-Aqsa Flood.

Though war has been a perpetual concern in Israel, but it has been decades since Israelis have had to wonder whether this would be the day that their borders would be overrun and their enemies would roam the streets with slaughter as their aim. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned his citizens that 'they are at war'; civil reservists have been called up and videos are showing hand battles on the streets. The country was soon at stand to with the potential for future strikes in the South by Hamas and new ones by Hezbollah in the north. The country has been torn apart by domestic divisions. Death and destruction are following as Israel has its artillery and precision guided weapons on the Gaza Strip.



The IDF comprises mainly of reservists. Military service is compulsory for all Jewish males and females of certain ethnicities for up to three years after which they are absorbed as reservists. They form a critical pool of manpower and report every year for training in order to maintain the operational readiness of the IDF. However, a large number of them refused to serve or be mobilised in wake of the nationwide protests against the judicial reforms initiated by Prime Minister Netanyahu. Some of them even participated in street demonstrations.



Reasons That Led to the Counter Terrorism Failure

#POLITICKING

Not Just an Intelligence Failure

Intelligence failure on part of the Israeli state and the famed Mossad is being attributed as one of the main reasons for the Hamas to have been able to unleash themselves fifty years after Israel was caught by surprise during the Yom Kippur War when on 6 October 1973 a Joint Arab Coalition launched the attack on them. How were the Hamas able to get the weapons, train, prepare and organise themselves and more over carry out this attack which is being live streamed with gruesome images all over the world speaks of an intent.

Capability, the ability to use that capability and the will and resolve to execute this attack would not have been developed overnight and being able to discern the intent is what intelligence is all about, eliminating the threat from the base from where it originates comes next.

It cannot just be seen as an intelligence failure, but is a monumental failure of a system. How were the Hamas able to accumulate and fire five thousand rockets in less than an hour without triggering alarms? The Gaza border reportedly has sensors, cameras and thermal imaging to detect movement and is patrolled regularly and this is backed by quick reaction teams who can then arrive at the point

within minutes. Was there some sort of cyber-attack that preceded the attack resulting in immobilizing these assets and rendering the surveillance grade virtually ineffective. What about space-based surveillance systems? There is always redundancy built in as far as these networked systems and other monitoring mechanisms are concerned.

Images show tank crews being pulled out of cupola's, women being trampled upon and innocent civilians being shot in their cars. The path the returning pickup trucks could have been tracked and targeted to prevent footprints being taken. The murderous spree continued for over four hours and military garrisons were overrun but there seemed to be no response.

Thousands of rockets, which must have been obtained and hidden, were launched by Hamas. Hamas used drones to strike at Israeli targets. It sent its fighters on foot, by boat, and by air on motorised paragliders on the streets of Israeli towns unleashing barbaric acts against innocent citizens. As much as a physical attack as a per formative one delivering a sinister message.

Though images may suggest a spontaneous action on the part of Hamas it was without doubt,

a pre-planned and well-coordinated and executed operation. The Israelis were confident they knew exactly what the Palestinians were doing by their sophisticated means of spying. They built a wall between Gaza and the communities on the Israeli side of the border. They refused to serve or be mobilised in wake of the nationwide protests against the judicial reforms initiated by Prime Minister Netanyahu. Some of them even participated in

What is more important is the reasons that have led to this counter terrorism failure. Internal bitterness, political instability and acrimony within Israel. In July this year serious cracks were visible in the IDF. The IDF comprises mainly of reservists. Military service is compulsory for all Jewish males and females of certain ethnicities for up to three years after which they are absorbed as reservists. They form a critical pool of manpower and report every year for training in order to maintain the operational readiness of the IDF. However, a large number of them refused to serve or be mobilised in wake of the nationwide protests against the judicial reforms initiated by Prime Minister Netanyahu. Some of them even participated in

Conclusion

Israel's response maybe disproportionate in a bit to divert attention away from their failure to gauge such an attack. But an uncalibrated retaliation also has its pitfalls as it may lead to becoming a rallying point for trans nationalist jihadis creating turmoil and aggravating security challenges in the years ahead.

While they do hold the moral high ground this time given the brutality of attacks on innocents. Resolving a centuries old issue is challenging but this escalation in violence will have far reaching regional and global implications. While the immediate priority is to counter the attack but, Israel will have to answer its citizens as to how, in the modern era, it has suffered a massive security failure. Finding the answer is essential to its future security.

The parties led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu,

street demonstrations. Israel's counterterrorism efforts are extensive, they infiltrate terrorist groups and pay off members for intelligence. They destroy infrastructure as a deterrence. Israel has long utilised assassination against its enemies in Iran and elsewhere. Their Signal intelligence and technology in gathering is renowned. Bombing raids and military excursions against Hamas are part of Israel's counterterrorism mission. However, there is no doubt that the tools at their disposal failed them. Israel regularly tests its response and evacuation systems. It recently built an extensive technology wall - including radar, cameras and sensors - on 65 kilometres of the Gaza barrier. Its emergency-management capabilities are mature. Still, Hamas seems to have control over several populated areas in Southern Israel. Hamas's drones seem to have penetrated parts of Israel without reports of counter-drone efforts. Iron Dome, Israel's famous counter-weapon system, seems to have been no match for this multifaceted attack. There is no doubt that the current political gridlock has resulted in damaging Israel's security. It has to introspect and place national security above its internal political bickering.

There are many analysts who are saying that one of the reasons for the Hamas to carry out this attack was the Abraham Accord they felt abandoned by the fact that Saudi Arabia and Israel were improving ties and thereby abandoning their cause while a rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia would have led to stability in West Asia leading to greater irrelevance as far as the Palestinian cause was concerned. The Arab world coming to terms with Israel, the US was also pressing Israel to make concessions to the Palestinian Authority. Hamas's enemy. So this was an opportunity for Hamas to disrupt the whole process. Hamas also has its backers' Iran and Syria being foremost among them and they would have had plenty of time to think through how the war will unfold. It's unlikely that Hamas would have jeopardised its sponsorship by launching the attack without consultation.

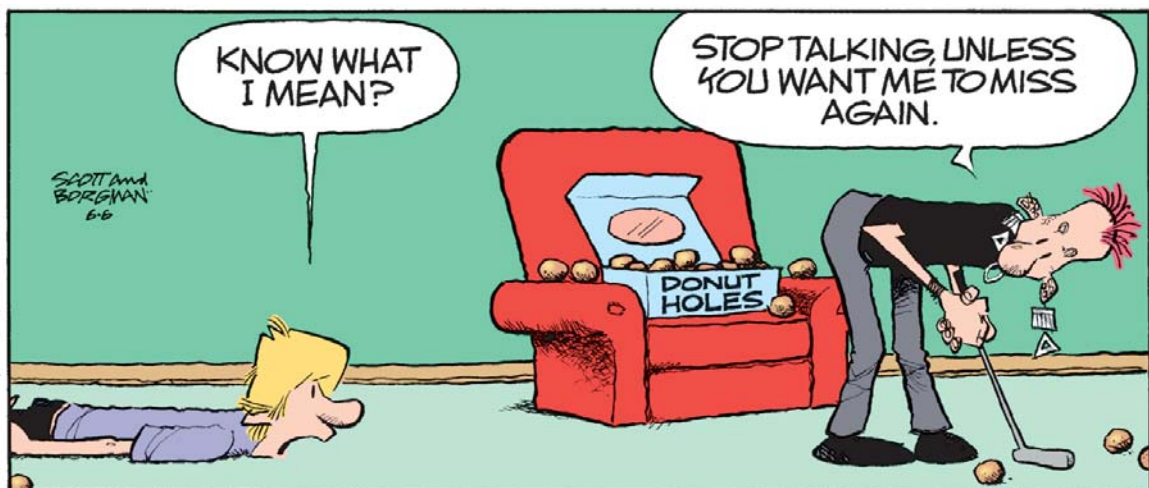
have long argued that they were responsible for the relative peace that has prevailed for the past decade or so. That peace now seems to be over. They thought the problem was under control. But now all their assumptions have cast aside, and they have going to have to come to terms with that. While one of the reasons that emerged from the Ukrainian war is the need to build deterrence in the form of hard power and that violence still remains the currency for settling disputes, the current conflict in Israel not only reinforces that but also shows the impact on a country where its internal issues have been all consuming as far as its people and polity are concerned resulting in their inability to prepare adequately against external challenges.

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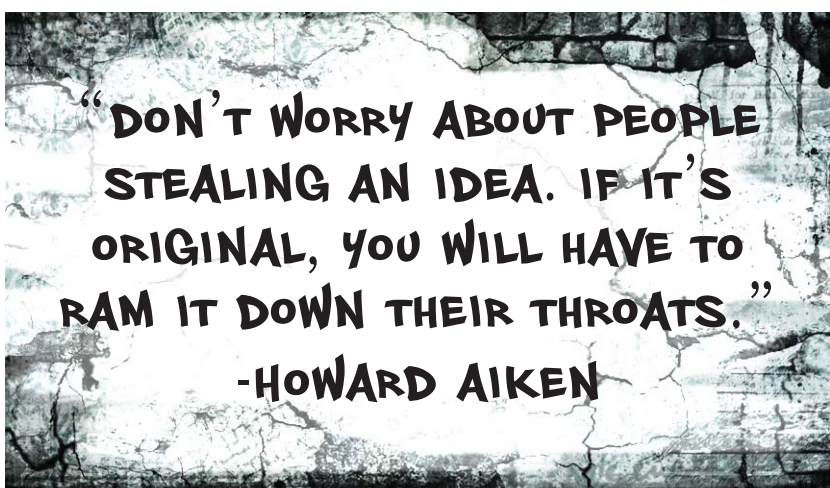
By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

THE WALL



BABY BLUES

