

# A preemptive strike on Hezbollah could change the battlefield

By Phyllis Chesler

Brigadier General (res.) Amir Avivi writes in [Ynet news](#)

“In war, there is but one favorable moment, the great art is to seize it.” This quote by Napoleon remains one of the most fundamental principles of warfare to this day. Our adversary in the north had such a moment on the morning of October 7 but failed to seize it.

When I heard reports of the outbreak of war in Gaza, I waited with great vigilance for similar news from the north. When none came, I felt a slight relief, despite the terrible news from the south. That Saturday morning was the perfect moment for the enemy, a moment when we were caught by strategic surprise.



Defense Minister Yoav Gallant with troops in the north (Photo: Defense Ministry)

An attack from another front, especially the northern one, would have led to outcomes I don't even want to imagine.

“There is one who acquires his share in the World-to-Come in one

moment,” our sages of blessed memory said. Fortunately, our enemy did not acquire his share with a strategic surprise.

Is this our moment? A strategic surprise like Pearl Harbor or

the Six-Day War seems unattainable for either side at the moment. Both sides are already engaged in mutual hostilities; one might even call it war. Either way, both sides are alert and on guard. However, there is an additional advantage in taking the initiative with a preemptive strike, even in the absence of strategic surprise.

Taking the initiative, as opposed to waiting, which results in absorption or containment, derives from the principle known as the OODA loop (Observe, Orient, Decide, Act) – a decision-making model developed by military strategist and United States Air Force Colonel John Boyd.

The third component of the model refers to deciding on taking action and is based on the processes that precede it. These, in turn, are based on the given situation at that moment in the battlefield. However, an attack initiative by one side completely changes the data upon which the other side's plans are based.

Taking the initiative has immense value in every field, especially when it comes to maneuvering armies during wartime. It is not merely semantics. "Who dares, wins," said Colonel David Stirling, who founded the Special Air Service (SAS). This is true not only for military purposes

...in war, one cannot buy insurance policies. There is no certainty on the battlefield in any case. Therefore, even choosing a passive method of operation is a high-risk choice that provides no certainty. Accordingly, I see only one good course of action on the northern border: Act first. As General George Patton is reputed to have said: "In case of doubt, attack!"

*Read it all [here](#).*