

STABILIZED PAYLOAD SENDS CLEAR IMAGES

A new stabilized electro-optical (EO) payload for aerostats, recently deployed with IDF units along the Gaza border, provides clear imaging even in adverse weather. The system, "Speed-A," facilitates advanced, automated image processing for security and force protection. The EO system detects and identifies terrorist activity well before it reaches the border. Image clarity also means the army can recognize civilian activity in surveillance areas. The payload uses a multi-axis stabilization device to compensate for the motion of an aerostat. Visibility exceeds 10 km. (6 mi.). The payload includes daylight color and thermal-imaging sensors with zoom, laser rangefinder and laser target marker. The stability of the Speed-A permits functions like geolocation, automatic movement detection and panoramic scan. The payload is lifted to 1,000 ft. on Skystar 300 tactical aerostats (see photo) from Aeronautics Defense Systems to facilitate rapid forward deployment of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets. The EO system supported troops fighting in Gaza by transmitting real-time intelligence on Hamas movements. ■

