



Do you want to receive notifications from www.defensa.com?
Yes, activate them.

Innovation
where it matters

Monday, May 11, 2026

SUBSCRIBE LOGIN



defensa.com



START [SPAIN](#) [LATIN AMERICA](#) [INTERNATIONAL](#) [INDUSTRY](#) [CYBERSECURITY](#) [APPROACH](#) [DOCUMENTARY COLLECTION](#) [OPINION](#) [PUBLICATIONS](#)

aselsan

BORDERGUARD

Seguridad Fronteriza
protección más allá de las fronteras.
Siempre vigilantes, siempre listos.



PRINT

TWITTER

FACEBOOK

LINKEDIN

WHATSAPP

PINTEREST

Defense [Spain](#)

LEONARDO

AW139M

El Referente para Operaciones Multifunción Modernas

DESCUBRA MÁS

ANSYS
part of SYNOPSYS

SIMULATION WORLD
vuelve a Madrid 28 MAYO 2026

CONSULTA LA AGENDA

The Trophy active protection system, unique in service on an 8x8

José Mª Navarro García, June 9, 2023



US Army Stryker equipped with Trophy, a real-world configuration that has undergone multiple tests (Rafael)

We recently reported on the first deliveries of the **Eitan 8x8** armored vehicles to the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)**. However, these were delivered without the **Iron Fist active protection system**, as originally planned.

As a reminder, within the framework of its industrial policy, the Israeli Ministry of Defense decided years ago to study the adoption of a second active protection system alongside the **Trophy system**, which had already been deployed and tested in combat. This led to the decision to install the **Elbit Systems Iron Fist** system on the 8x8 Eitan, as we announced in **2019**.

The Iron Fist was advertised as lighter than the Trophy, which in theory would facilitate its integration into a wheeled vehicle like the Eitan, which is lighter and has less space than the Merkava. However, tests by recent Trophy customers have shown that it is just as light, or even lighter, than the Iron Fist.



The Canadian LAV III also equipped with an operational Trophy facility (Rafael)

In any case, the first Eitans delivered, in the armored personnel carrier (APC) version, do not have the Iron Fist active protection system as planned. Although this system was developed years ago by **Israel Military Industries (IMI)** before its acquisition by **Elbit Systems**, it has not yet reached sufficient maturity for integration into production vehicles, which lack any pre-installation for it. Therefore, if it is ultimately installed, it would require a complete retrofit.

Given this situation, the Israeli Ministry of Defense is reportedly considering the possibility of finally installing the Trophy system, with obvious advantages in terms of communality and maintenance by having a single system of this type.

Tests of the Iron Fist missile system were announced on other platforms, such as the American



MOST VIEWED

35 European naval chiefs strengthen their cooperation in Spain in the face of an increasingly crucial maritime scenario for...

Former Chilean Defense Minister Burgos Varela warns of Peru's purchase of F-16 Block 70s and the delays in funding...

The Argentine Air Force will be equipped with Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft

The Navy's Tenth Squadron will cease operating the SH-60B helicopter and will be reinforced with more SH-60Fs.

The United States Air Force camouflages one of its F-15Es as an F-111



Privacy

Privacy

Privacy

Bradley armored vehicle , but these tests either were not carried out or did not yield the expected results. That same year , it was confirmed that the Israeli Namer heavy personnel carrier would not be equipped with the Iron Fist system as planned, but rather with the Trophy system.



Appearance of a variant of the 30mm Samson turret with the twin Spike missile launcher and the Trophy effectors. In this case, the radars would be mounted on the (Rafael) barge.

Trophy for 8x8 vehicles

In contrast, the Trophy from the also Israeli Rafael Advanced Defense Systems has been integrated into several 8x8 platforms, and is in service on one of them for an international client.

In recent years, the manufacturer has integrated it into two of the most modern 8x8 vehicles: the LAV III for a Canadian Army program and an American Stryker , a program funded by the Pentagon, in which Trophy is on the shortlist of suppliers, the final stage in which its Israeli competitor is not included.

For its integration into this type of vehicle, which has become so popular in recent years, the manufacturer offers two alternatives: installation on the vehicle's hull or on the turret , if it has one, which increases the possibilities, being the only active protection system that offers both options.

Rafael has exported one of its Samson 30 turrets equipped not only with the 30mm ATK cannon and a twin Spike LR missile launcher, but also with all the elements of the Trophy system (sensors and effectors). This " all-in-one " option allows Trophy to be deployed on new, non-adapted platforms or on modernized platforms.



General Dynamics European Land Systems demonstrator displayed at FEINDEF and awarded a Trophy (author)

Proposal for the Dragon

We have previously analyzed the Spanish Army 's interest in incorporating the Trophy active protection system into the 8x8 "Dragon" Wheeled Combat Vehicle (VCR). Back in 2018 , we reported on the Ministry of Defense's interest in equipping the Dragon with an active protection system, and that same year a Spanish Army delegation attended a demonstration of a variant mounted on a US Bradley. This interest intensified following the debacle of the Turkish Leopard 2 tanks and their concerning lack of protection during their deployment in the Syrian conflict.

After offering two versions of the Trophy, one designed for tanks and heavy vehicles (HV for Heavy Vehicles) and one for medium and light vehicles (VPS or MV for Medium Vehicles), Rafael now offers the Trophy with a weight reduction of no less than 40% compared to the initial designs . In addition to the significant weight reduction, the system's volume has also been reduced following the redesign of the launchers and electronic components.

This redesign has allowed it to be integrated into lighter vehicles such as the US Bradley infantry/cavalry fighting vehicle, or the aforementioned Eitan. In 2019 , Rafael updated its 8x8 proposal, which included the Trophy.

An interesting option for the Dragon program would be to define and incorporate a pre-installation system in all vehicles, allowing the main components to be integrated into vehicles deployed on overseas missions. This way, all vehicles would be ready to use the system, which would already be integrated. The sensors and effectors responsible for detecting and neutralizing threats, respectively, would be installed before deployment. These tasks would not require equipment calibration and would be carried out by the Army itself at its facilities and with its own personnel. (José Mª Navarro García)



DEFENSE INNOVATION & COLLABORATION

FIND OUT MORE

AIR | LAND | MARITIME | SPACE | CYBER

OPINION



Defense in Spain: the forgotten human factor in a professional military model based on...

On April 26, defensa.com published an article entitled "Defense in Spain: More Than Just Weapons, Industry, and the Armed Forces," written by Retired Marine Corps Colonel Juan A. López Díaz, which emphasized a reality so often ignored: Defense cannot...

OPINION



China in Latin America: Support for countries of the Global South and a challenge to the United States

China's economic boom has enabled the country to compete highly effectively in international markets, confirming its rise to superpower status on the international geopolitical stage. Among the geographical areas where its relations have grown exponentially are...

Sections

- Spain
- Latin America
- International
- Industry
- Approach
- Documentary
- Collection
- Opinion
- Appointments
- The interview

Services

- Advertising
- Defense.com
- Newsletter
- Kiosk
- Event Coverage
- COOKIES POLICY
- Subscribe
- Legal Notice and
- Privacy Policy

Tweets by @DefensaCom.



Escribano's RWS Guardian 30 with scale models of the Iron Fist sensors and effectors, exhibited at the recent FEINDEF exhibition (author)

Copyright © Grupo Edefa SA defensa.com ISSN: 3045-5170. Total or partial reproduction of this article is prohibited without the prior permission and authorization of the publishing company.

