

Developing its Advanced Weapons Arsenal: Israel Takes Delivery of 2 German-Built U212 Subs

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

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JERUSALEM — Israel has taken delivery of two German-built submarines, a military spokesman said Sept. 29.

“We have received two Dolphin-class submarines,” he said on condition of anonymity.

The submarines, called U212s, can launch cruise missiles carrying nuclear warheads, although when it confirmed the sale in 2006 the German government said the two vessels were not equipped to carry nuclear weapons.

Delivery was initially expected in 2010.

Including the new subs, Israel has five German submarines – the most expensive weapon platforms in Israel’s arsenal.

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According to Jane’s Defence Weekly, the U212s are designed for a crew of 35, have a range of 2,810 miles and can launch cruise missiles carrying nuclear warheads.

Israeli media have written that the Dolphin submarine could be key in any attack on Iran’s controversial nuclear sites.

An Israeli submarine recently used the Suez Canal for the first time in June, escorted by Egyptian navy vessels, in what Israeli media said was intended as a message to Iran.

Widely considered the Middle East’s sole, if undeclared, nuclear power, Israel suspects Iran of trying to develop atomic weapons under the guise of a civilian nuclear program, a charge Tehran denies.

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