

## Gaza Crisis: Israel Outflanks the White House on Strategy

By **Adam Entous**

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Benjamin Netanyahu, left, looks on as President Barack Obama speaks at the White House in March. Bloomberg News

JERUSALEM—White House and State Department officials who were leading U.S. efforts to rein in Israel's military campaign in the Gaza Strip were caught off guard last month when they learned that the Israeli military had been quietly securing supplies of ammunition from the Pentagon without their approval.

Since then the Obama administration has tightened its control on arms transfers to Israel. But Israeli and U.S. officials say that the adroit bureaucratic maneuvering made it plain how little influence the White House and State Department have with the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu —and that both sides know it.

The munitions surprise and previously unreported U.S. response added to a string of slights and arguments that have bubbled behind the scenes during the Gaza conflict, according to events related by senior American, Palestinian and Israeli officials involved. ([See photos and maps surveying the destruction in Gaza.](#))

In addition, current and former American officials say, U.S.-Israel ties have been hurt by leaks that they believe were meant to undercut the administration's standing by mischaracterizing its position and delay a cease-fire. The battles have driven U.S.-Israeli relations to the lowest point since President [Barack Obama](#) took office.

# White House Now Scrutinizing Israeli Requests for Ammunition

Written by Joan Russow  
Friday, 15 August 2014 08:15 -



## Gaza Cease Fire Holds After Extension



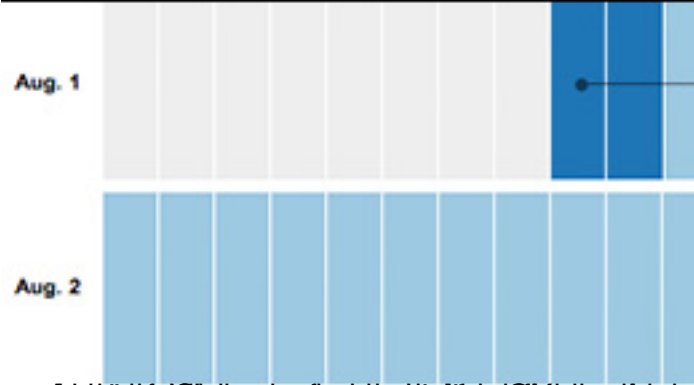
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## Cease-Fires in Gaza



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