



St. Sgt. Alexander Mashevitzky



January 6, 2009 – St. Sgt. Alexander Mashevitzky, 21, of Beer Sheva, was killed when an IDF patrol in northern Gaza was attacked by gunfire.

Alexander was the fifth soldier killed in the past 24 hours and the sixth dead since the start of the ground operation in Gaza.

The incident took place shortly after 10 am. A combined force of Golani and Combat Engineering fighters was patrolling the northern part of Gaza City when a terrorist cell hiding nearby opened fire at them. The force fired back and hit some of the gunmen.

Alexander Mashevitzky was killed in the incident and four others were injured.

"He was a man of stature, a real friend," said Dana Karkoz, a friend of Mashevitzky's. "He loved the country. I remember his laughter and still can't believe he's been killed. This is a great loss to this country and to us. We miss him and we're in shock."

"If I say he was the salt of the earth I would be hurting him," said Gal Sasportas. "He was an outstanding student and decided to be the highest combatant."

"He viewed everything with humor," said another friend. "He was extremely motivated about the army and was not afraid."

The Mashevitzky family immigrated to Israel from the former USSR in 1991. Alexander's mother, Ludmila, is a high school teacher in Yerucham, and his father is a professor at Ben-Gurion University.

St. Sgt. Alexander Mashevitzky was laid to rest in the Beer Sheva military cemetery. He is survived by his parents and two siblings – a 22-year-old brother and a 10-year-old sister.

