RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp
RECEIVED
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PUBLIC RECORDS
2025 SEP 15 PM 2:53

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

Certification: *In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

Private Sponsor(s):

Atlantic Council

Travel Dates:

8/16/2025 - 8/22/2025

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

n/a

Relationship to Traveler:

Self

Total Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$4,790.57	$1,698.00	$475.37	$803.68

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- **The final Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

9/15/25 — Date

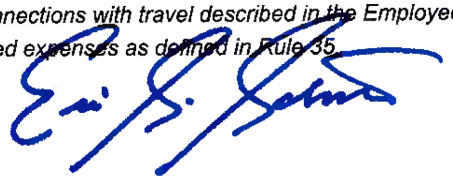
Luis Reyes — Printed Name of Traveler



Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.



9/15/25

Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

(●) Yes ( ) No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
$4,790.57	$2,810.95	Transportation (Airfare + Ground)
$1,698.00	$1,611.78	Logding
$475.37	$734.00	Meals
$803.68	$961.29	Other expenses to include coordinators & mtg spaces

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

(●) Yes ( ) No

Explanation:

Flights: Aug 16 EY6/EY645 IAD-AUH-BAH; Aug 19 EY642 BAH-AUH; Aug 20 EY593 AUH-TLV; Aug 22 UA85/UA4432 TLV-EWR-DCA
Bahrain (Aug 18): NAVCENT briefing, Vice Admiral George Wikoff; Ministry of Industry & Commerce, Shaikh Hamad bin Salman Al Khalifa and Dr. Khaled Al Alawi; Economic Development Board, Aurelio Castilla; Ministry of Sustainable Development, Dana Hamza; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Khaled Yousef Al-Jalahma; Prime Minister's Office, Yara Faraj; U.S. Embassy briefing, Ambassador Steven Bondy and DCM Elizabeth Litchfield

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

(●) Yes ( ) No

Explanation:

UAE (Aug 19): Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Alsaghira Alahbab, Mohamed Almiddfa, and Afra Alhameli; Embassy briefing, U.S. Charge Eric Gaudiousi; Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque; dinner, former MK Ghaida Rinawie Zoabi
Israel (Aug 20-22): MFA, Ohad Zemet, Nevo Barchad, and Dor Shapira; National Security Council, Uri Resnik; Rachel Goldberg-Polin and Jon Polin; IDF Gaza Envlope tour; MK Shelly Tal Meron; dinner with DCM Stephanie Hallet.

0000000006517 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: September 15, 2025

N7 Initiative

Atlantic Council

JEFFREY M. TALPINS FOUNDATION

The Office of the Honorable Eric Schmitt
Luis Reyes, Military Legislative Assistant
United States Senate
Washington, District of Columbia

July 3, 2025

Dear Mr. Luis Reyes,

On behalf of the N7 Initiative, I am delighted to invite you to participate in the upcoming N7 Abraham Accords Congressional Education Mission.

The education mission will take place between **August 16th and August 23rd**, with expected travel to Bahrain, followed by the United Arab Emirates, and then Israel.

The purpose of the trip is to engage with strategic foreign leaders to demonstrate continued U.S. and Congressional interest in the Middle East, Middle East integration, and Arab-Israeli normalization. The mission will explore the potential for expanding the Abraham Accords, efforts by existing Abraham Accords partners to deepen the accords, and the obstacles countries face in developing regional ties with Israel. Through meetings with government leaders, military leaders, business leaders, and faith leaders, participants will gain valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for regional integration. Further information on this Congressional Education mission, including a tentative itinerary, is forthcoming.

The N7 Initiative will cover all costs and expenses associated with the trip for you. Our team will follow up with you to share further details. Should you have questions in the interim, please reach out to Allison Minor, N7 Director, at +1-573-268-3177 or at aminor@atlanticcouncil.org . We greatly value your participation and hope that you can join us for this important trip.

William F. Wechsler
Senior Director, N7 Initiative, Atlantic Council

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220.** Incomplete and late travel submissions will not be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:
Luis Reyes

Employing Office/Committee:
SCHMITT, ERIC

Private Sponsor(s):
Atlantic Council N7 Initiative

Destination(s):
Manama, Bahrain Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates Jerusalem, Israel

Travel Dates:
08/17/2025 to 08/23/2025
NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

My boss is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and he sits on the subcommittees on Emerging Threats and Capabilities and Air Land. The trip will provide the opportunity to hear from the U.S. Fifth Fleet, the Foreign Ministries of Bahrain, UAE, and Israel, and the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?
No

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
N/A

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Wednesday, July 16, 2025
Date

Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER
(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

I Eric Schmitt hereby authorize Luis Reyes
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

Wednesday, July 16, 2025
Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

0000000006519 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: September 15, 2025

JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA, CHAIRMAN
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE, VICE CHAIRMAN

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SHANNON HAMILTON KOPPLIN, CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR
WILLIAM B. CABLE, CHIEF CLERK

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 220
SECOND AND CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6425

TELEPHONE: (202) 224-2981
FACSIMILE: (202) 224-7416

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

August 13, 2025

Luis Reyes
Office of Senator Eric Schmitt
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Reyes:

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting approval from the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) to accept an invitation you received to travel to the *N7 Initiative Congressional Education Mission*, on August 16-22, 2025, sponsored by the Atlantic Council. Provided that you adhere to the guidance set forth below, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from the Atlantic Council in connection with this trip.

Background

Based on your communication with the Committee, the background in this matter is as follows.[1] You are employed as a Military Legislative Assistant in the Office of Senator Eric Schmitt. The Atlantic Council invited you to travel to the *N7 Initiative Congressional Education Mission*, on August 16-22, 2025. The Atlantic Council certified to the Committee that it will pay the necessary expenses[2] related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, lobbying firm, agent of a foreign principal, or otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. The Atlantic Council has also certified that it does not retain or employ a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal and that no registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal will accompany you at any point throughout your trip.[3]

Discussion

Privately sponsored travel includes any gift of travel and travel-related expenses for travel outside the Senate duty station, including transportation, lodging, food and refreshments, and conference fees and materials, whether paid for directly, reimbursed, or provided directly, from a private individual or entity, in connection with a Member's, officer's, or employee's official Senate duties. Incorporating reforms from the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (HLOGA), Pub. L. 110–81 (2007), Senate Rule 35.2 permits Members, officers, and

[1] If this letter does not correctly recite the facts, contact the Committee immediately.

[2] The term "necessary expenses" has a specific definition. *See Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 10-13.

[3] The term "any point throughout your trip" has a specific definition. *See Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 15.

employees to accept privately sponsored travel only with the prior written approval of the Committee.

The Committee's approval process is governed by the *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* (*Travel Regulations*). The *Travel Regulations* contain detailed requirements regarding who may sponsor travel; time limits for trips; and the type and amount of expenses that can be reimbursed.

Entities that do not retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent and all non-profit organizations designated as tax-exempt organizations under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, regardless of whether they retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent, may sponsor foreign trips for up to seven days. The seven-day limitation means seven 24-hour periods, calculated from the time of arrival in the trip location to the time of departure from the trip location. For such trips, neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany a Senate invitee at any point throughout the trip, other than in a *de minimis* way.[4] This means that neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany Senate invitees at any point to and from the event, at the event itself, or at the location being visited.[5]

The Committee has determined that § 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that are classified as private foundations, as opposed to public charities, may not pay for transportation from the United States to a foreign country.[6] However, the Atlantic Council represented to the Committee that it is a § 501(c)(3) public charity, as opposed to a private foundation, pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.[7]

Under Senate Rule 35, Senate staff must receive advance authorization signed by the Member or officer under whose direct supervision the individual works in order to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to fact-finding travel. Further, such authorization and expenses must be disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate by filing the completed *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* and the *Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses* (Form RE-1 and Form RE-2), along with a copy of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form,* and all relevant attachments (e.g., the private sponsor's invitation and itinerary) **within 30 days of the conclusion of Privately Sponsored Travel**.

Consistent with these standards, Committee precedent, and the Atlantic Council's factual representations, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from the Atlantic Council in connection with this trip, provided that the actual travel and travel-related expenses conform to the information and materials you provided, and the travel and all required

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[4] The term "*de minimis*" has a specific definition. *See Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 6-8.

[5] *See Select Committee on Ethics Regulations and Guidelines for Privately Sponsored Travel* at 6-10.

[6] *See* 26 U.S.C. § 4941 et seq. Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code broadly defines non-profit, charitable, tax-exempt organizations. These § 501(c)(3) organizations are then further defined or designated as "public charities" and "private foundations."

[7] 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

documents are disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate (Office of Public Records

Please be advised that the United States Constitution prohibits the acceptance of any gift, including a meal, from a foreign government without the consent of Congress. In the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), Congress consented to the acceptance by federal government officials of: (1) gifts of minimal value and (2) travel or the expenses for travel taking place entirely outside the United States, from a foreign government (which includes those acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government).[8] The Senate has defined minimal value as $100 or less. Further, pursuant to FGDA, there are certain reporting and procedural requirements that are imposed upon Members, officers, and employees who accept gifts from a foreign government. Please review the Committee's "Dear Colleague" letter of January 11, 2019, setting forth the items to be included in filing that report.

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a reporting individual[9] on their financial disclosure report, to make an annual disclosure of the receipt of payments or reimbursements under Senate Rule 35 from a private sponsor for officially-related travel expenses where, in the aggregate, travel expenses exceed $480 from that sponsor during a calendar year. However, if a Member, officer, or employee properly reports the receipt of necessary expenses for such travel to the Secretary of the Senate within 30 days of the travel, as discussed above, the travel expenses need not be disclosed a second time on their financial disclosure report.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee.

Sincerely,

Shannon Hamilton Kopplin
Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Enclosure: Employee Privately Sponsored Travel Checklist

[8] 5 U.S.C. § 7342.

[9] A reporting individual is someone whose salary equals or exceeds 120% of the basic rate of pay for GS-15 ($150,160 for CY 2025) or is a political fund designee and is required to file financial disclosure reports.

0000000006522 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: September 15, 2025

N7 Initiative Atlantic Council JEFFREY M. TALPINS FOUNDATION

N7 Initiative Congressional Education Mission

Hosted by the Atlantic Council

August 16-22, 2025

Mission goals: The goal of this trip is to educate and inform Congressional Staff with portfolios covering national security and the Abraham Accords on emerging developments within the Abraham Accords and how they relate to U.S. foreign policy, trade, and defense goals. The trip includes stops to meet with the senior officials in current Abraham Accords countries who can discuss the status of the Abraham Accords, the prospects for expanding and strengthening the Abraham Accords, and the impacts of current dynamics in the Middle East on U.S. and partner cooperation related to the Abraham Accords. The Atlantic Council will demonstrate through engagements with both U.S. officials based in the region and foreign government officials how the expansion and deepening of the Abraham Accords will transform U.S. policy and opportunities within the Middle East in the near future.

Relevance to official duties: The subject matter of the trip is important to Staffers supporting Members of Congress on the Armed Services, Homeland Security, Intelligence, Foreign Affairs, Ways and Means, Appropriations, and Financial Services Committees as they are likely to encounter future legislation concerning the expansion and deepening of the Abraham Accords.

Location: The purpose of travel to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel is to meet with regional leaders and U.S. officials who are working to strengthen the Abraham Accords.

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Itinerary

Saturday, August 16, 2025: Travel

22:05 *Primary Delegation flight departs from United States*

Etihad Airways (EY 645)
Departure: Saturday, August 16 at 22:05 (IAD)
Layover: 1 h 50 min (AUH)
Arrival: Sunday, August 17 at 21:05 (BAH)

Travelers: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Jesse von Stein, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Sunday, August 17, 2025: Travel

14:50 *Gitter Etihad flight departs from Tel Aviv*

Etihad (EY594/EY645)
Departure: Sunday, August 17 at 14:50 (TLV)
Layover: 1 h 45 min (AUH)
Arrival: Sunday, August 17 at 21:05 (BAH)

Traveler: Manya-Jean Gitter

20:15 *Dagul Turkish Airways flight departs from Istanbul*

Turkish Airways (TK 778)
Departure: Sunday, August 17 at 20:15 (IST)
Arrival: Monday, August 18 at 0:15 (BAH)

Traveler: Reid Dagul

21:05 *Primary Delegation and Gitter Etihad flight arrives at Bahrain International Airport (BAH)*

21:46 *Transport to InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel*

Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

22:12 *Check-in at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel*

Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

22:15 *End of Day*

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Monday, August 18, 2025: Bahrain

0:15	***Dagul Turkish Airways flight arrives at Bahrain International Airport (BAH)***
1:04	***Dagul transport to InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel***
	Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain
1:36	***Dagul check-in at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel***
	Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain
7:45 – 8:30	***Breakfast at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel***
	Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain
8:30 – 9:10	***Transportation by bus to NAVCENT, U.S. Fifth Fleet Headquarters***
9:10 – 10:10	**Briefing with VADM George Wikoff from NAVCENT and U.S. Fifth Fleet**
	Rationale: Senior NAVCENT Leadership for U.S. Fifth Fleet and CENTCOM Naval Command briefed the congressional staff on the U.S.'s military activities and posture in the region. The delegation engaged with the NAVCENT team on the U.S.'s military relationships with the kingdom and ongoing activities to support regional integration. It was relevant to the trip's mission as the Staff are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Bahrain ties as well as legislation related to regional military stability.
	Participants: VADM George Wikoff, CENTCOM Naval Command Officials, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick
	Location: U.S. Fifth Fleet Headquarters, Manama
10:10 – 10:28	***Transportation by bus to Bahrain Financial Harbour***
10:28 – 11:32	**Meeting with officials from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce**
	Rationale: The Ministry of Industry and Commerce provided a briefing to congressional staff on Bahrain's trade policies, industrial development priorities, and regulatory frameworks shaping commerce with the U.S., Israel, and the wider region. The briefing also addressed elements of trade friction, such as aluminum tariffs, and outlined the ministry's role in shaping financial and legal tools to support Bahrain's economic growth. This was relevant to the trip's mission, as the Members were likely to

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encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Bahrain trade relations, regional commerce, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: Shaikh Hamad bin Salman al Khalifa (Assistant Undersecretary of Domestic and Foreign Trade), Dr. Khaled Al Alawi (Assistant Undersecretary of Industrial Development), Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Bahrain Financial Harbour, King Faisal Hwy, Manama

11:32 – 11:48 ***Transportation by bus to Arcapita Building***

11:48 – 12:20 **Meeting with the Bahrain Economic Development Board**

Rationale: The Bahrain Economic Development Board provided a briefing to congressional staff on Bahrain's efforts to attract foreign direct investment and diversify its economy beyond hydrocarbons. The EDB highlighted opportunities in sectors such as financial services, technology, logistics, and manufacturing, and discussed incentives available to international companies, including support programs like Tamkeen. The briefing also addressed Bahrain's role in fostering regional integration and partnerships with the U.S., Israel, and other Abraham Accords countries. This was relevant to the trip's mission, as Members were likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S. investment in the Gulf, bilateral economic ties, and regional trade and investment frameworks.

Participants: Aurelio Castilla (Head of International Offices), Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Arcapita Building, Bahrain Bay

12:20 – 13:05 **Meeting with Ministry of Sustainable Development**

Rationale: The Ministry of Sustainable Development provided a briefing to congressional staff on Bahrain's national development strategies and efforts to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ministry highlighted initiatives to promote inclusive economic growth, social welfare, and environmental sustainability, as well as challenges in balancing development goals with fiscal and regional constraints. This was relevant to the trip's mission, as Members were likely to encounter legislation and policy discussions relating to sustainable development, foreign assistance, and international cooperation with partners advancing the Abraham Accords.

Participants: Dana Hamza (Assistant Undersecretary for Sustainable Development), Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Arcapita Building, Bahrain Bay

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13:05 – 13:30	***Transportation by bus to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, lunch en route***
13:30 – 14:30	**Meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
	Rationale: H.E. Ambassador Khaled Yousef Al-Jalahma, Undersecretary for Political Affairs from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provided a briefing to the staffers on the Kingdom's current diplomatic relations with the United States and developments on supporting the expansion of regional relations with Israel. The delegation engaged on diplomatic topics such as intra-gulf relations, updates to the Bahrain-Israel Free Trade Agreement negotiations, and the status of the Abraham Accords. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Bahrain ties, regional trade and investment developments, and the Abraham Accords.
	Participants: H.E. Ambassador Khaled Yousef Al-Jalahma (Undersecretary for Political Affairs), Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick
	Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
14:30 – 14:50	***Transportation by bus to Quadaibiya Palace***
14:50 – 16:10	**Meeting with the Office of the Prime Minister**
	Rationale: Yara Faraj, Head of the Prime Minister's Office, shared the policies of the Kingdom of Bahrain across diplomatic, defense, trade, and investment nexuses. Members and staff will engage with H.R.H.'s team on the importance of the Abraham Accords across multiple nexuses and on the hostilities between Iran and Israel and how it affects regional normalization. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.- Bahrain ties and regional developments. The Office of the Prime Minister, Crown Price, H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, can authoritatively speak to Bahraini positions on the Bahrain-U.S. relationship.
	Participants: Yara Faraj (Head of the Prime Minister's Office), Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick
	Location: Qudaibiya Palace
16:10 – 16:30	***Transportation by bus to U.S. Embassy Manama***

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16:30 – 18:06	**Modified Country Team Briefing with the U.S. Embassy** Rationale: Ambassador Steve Bondy and DCM Elizabeth Litchfield, alongside additional representatives from the U.S. Country Team, provided a briefing to staffers on the U.S.'s current diplomatic relationship with Bahrain. The delegation engaged with the Ambassador on the U.S.'s political and military relationships with the kingdom as well as gain important insights on the upcoming meetings throughout the day. It was relevant to the trip's mission as the staff are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Bahrain ties as well as legislation related to regional military, political, and economic stability. Participants: Ambassador Steven C. Bondy, DCM Elizabeth Litchfield, U.S. Country Team, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick Location: U.S. Embassy Manama
18:06 – 18:17	***Transportation to the Manama Souq***
18:17– 19:00	**Guided Tour of Manama Souq** Rationale: The delegation began its tour of the Manama Souq at the House of the Ten Commandments, the only functioning synagogue in Bahrain and a symbol of the country's longstanding Jewish heritage and commitment to religious pluralism. They then visited the Shrinathji Temple, a Hindu temple in Manama established in 1817. The visits highlighted Bahrain's tradition of religious tolerance and coexistence. The delegation also walked through the market, where they interacted with locals and viewed local artwork. Participants: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Gil Thompson, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick Location: Al Mutanabi Ave, Manama, Bahrain
19:00 – 21:00	***Free time for dinner***
21:00	***End of Meetings/Day***

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

7:00 – 8:00	***Breakfast at the hotel restaurant***

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8:00 *Transportation to the airport by bus*

10:40 *Primary Delegation flight to Abu Dhabi*

Etihad (EY 642)
Departure: Tuesday, August 19 at 10:40 (BAH)
Arrival: Tuesday, August 19 at 12:50 (AUH)

Travelers: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

10:50 *Jose Juan Villalvazo arrives at Zayed International Airport*

Qatar Airways (QR 710/QR1044)
Departure: Monday, August 18 at 11:00 (IAD)
Arrival: Tuesday, August 19 at 10:50 (AUH)

Traveler: Jose Juan Villalvazo

12:50 – 14:05 *Wait for baggage – delay at baggage claim*

14:05 – 14:58 *Transportation by bus to Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

14:58 – 16:15 **Meeting with Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Rationale: Senior officials from the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including H.E. Dr. Alsaghira Alahbab (Head of the Americas Department), Mr. Mohamed Almiddfa (Deputy of the Policy Planning Department), and Mrs. Afra Alhameli (Director of the Strategic Communication Department), provided a briefing to congressional staff on the UAE's diplomatic priorities and regional engagements. The discussion covered a wide range of issues, including Sudan, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Israel-Gaza war, and Syria, as well as the UAE's support for the expansion of the Abraham Accords and its broader interfaith and diplomatic efforts. This was relevant to the trip's mission, as Members were likely to encounter legislation and policy debates relating to U.S.-UAE relations, regional conflicts, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: HE Dr. Alsaghira Alahbab (Head of the Americas Department), Mr. Mohamed Almiddfa (Deputy of Policy Planning Department), Mrs. Afra Alhameli (Director of Strategic Communication Department), Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Jose Juan Villalvazo, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

16:15 – 16:28 *Transportation by bus to St. Regis Abu Dhabi*

16:28 – 18:05 **Meeting with Eric Gaudiosi, Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Mission to the UAE**

Rationale: Senior officials from the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including H.E. Dr. Alsaghira Alahbab (Head of the Americas Department), Mr. Mohamed Almiddfa (Deputy of the Policy Planning Department), and Mrs. Afra Alhameli (Director of the Strategic Communication Department), provided a briefing to congressional staff on the UAE's diplomatic priorities and regional engagements. The discussion covered a wide range of issues, including Sudan, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the Israel-Gaza war, and Syria, as well as the UAE's support for the expansion of the Abraham Accords and its broader interfaith and diplomatic efforts. This was relevant to the trip's mission, as Members were likely to encounter legislation and policy debates relating to U.S.-UAE relations, regional conflicts, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: Chargé Eric Gaudiosi, Callahan Stoub, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Jose Juan Villalvazo, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: St. Regis, Abu Dhabi

18:05 – 18:20 ***Check-in to hotel rooms/change into modest clothing***

18:20 – 18:45 ***Transportation by bus to Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque***

18:45 – 20:35 **Guided Tour of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque**

Rationale: The delegation visited the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, one of the world's largest mosques and a landmark of the United Arab Emirates' cultural and religious identity. Beyond its architectural significance, the mosque embodies the UAE's emphasis on interfaith dialogue, tolerance, and coexistence, values that underpin its support for the Abraham Accords and broader regional diplomacy. The visit offered congressional staff an opportunity to better understand how the UAE presents its commitment to religious pluralism and cultural heritage, both domestically and in its international engagement.

Participants: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Jose Juan Villalvazo, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Al Rawdah - W54 - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates

20:35– 21:00 ***Transportation by bus to Flamingo Room***

21:00 – 23:20 **Dinner and debrief with N7 Staff and with Ghaida Rinawie Zoabi**

Rationale: The delegation joined N7 staff and Ghaida Rinawie Zoabi, former Member of the Knesset and a leading advocate for Arab-Israeli integration and coexistence, for dinner and discussion. The conversation helped set the scene for the next stop in Israel by providing valuable context on Arab citizens' role in Israeli society, Zoabi's perspective on the Abraham Accords, and the broader opportunities and challenges of advancing regional integration. This was relevant to the trip's mission, as

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it offered both strategic framing for the delegation's time in Israel and insights from a local leader with deep experience in politics and civil society.

Participants: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Jose Juan Villalvazo, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Flamingo Room, Global Market Street - The Galleria - Al Maryah Island

23:20– 23:47 ***Transportation by bus to St. Regis Abu Dhabi***

23:47 ***End of Meetings/Day***

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

6:00 ***Transportation to the airport by bus, breakfast boxes en route***

8:35 ***Delegation Flight to Tel Aviv***

Etihad (EY 593)
Departure: Wednesday, August 20 at 8:35 (AUH)
Arrival: Wednesday, August 20 at 11:00 (TLV)

Travelers: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Jose Juan Villalvazo, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

11:45 – 13:15 ***Transportation by bus to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem***

13:15 – 13:30 ***Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs***

13:30 – 15:45 **Meeting with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Rationale: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will brief the staff on Israel's current international developments from a diplomatic perspective. Staff will have the chance to engage with the Ministry on any issue touching U.S. – Israel relations with a focus on diplomatic engagements. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.- Israel ties, regional developments, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: Ohad Zemet (Director of the Department for Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon Affairs), Nevo Barchad (Director of the Regional Security Department, Strategic Division), Dor Shapira (Head of the North American Bureau), Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Jose Juan Villalvazo, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

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Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem

15:45 – 16:15 ***Transportation to National Security Council***

16:15 – 16:25 ***Security at the National Security Council***

16:25 – 17:45 **Meeting with Officials from National Security Council**

Rationale: Uri Resnik, Senior Director for Foreign Policy at Israel's National Security Council, provided a briefing to Congressional staff on Israel's diplomatic and security priorities in the aftermath of October 7. The discussion covered regional dynamics, including Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, Iran, and Yemen, and how Israel is approaching both immediate threats and long-term strategic objectives. The delegation had the opportunity to engage on broader U.S.-Israel coordination as well as the implications for advancing the Abraham Accords. This meeting was directly relevant to the trip's mission, as Members are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Israel ties, regional security, and Middle East diplomacy.

Participants: Uri Resnik (Senior Director for Foreign Policy, NSC, Prime Minister's Office), Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: National Security Council, Jerusalem

17:45 – 18:15 ***Transportation by bus to David Citadel Hotel***

18:15 – 18:30 ***Check-in to hotel rooms***

18:30 – 19:45 **Meeting with deceased hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin's parents**

Rationale: The delegation met with the parents of Hersh Goldberg-Polin, a U.S. citizen who died while hostage in Gaza following the October 7 attacks. The discussion provided a deeply personal perspective on the ongoing hostage crisis and underscored the urgent humanitarian, diplomatic, and security challenges it presents. Hearing directly from the family highlighted the stakes of U.S. engagement on hostage recovery, support for American citizens abroad, and broader efforts to address the conflict with Hamas. This meeting was directly relevant to the trip's mission, as Members are likely to encounter legislation concerning U.S. citizens held abroad, humanitarian assistance, and U.S. policy toward Israel and the region.

Participants: Rachel Goldberg-Polin, Jon Polin, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

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Location: Jaffa Gate Room, David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

19:45 – 20:15 ***Free time to change/decompress before dinner***

20:15 – 20:20 ***Walk to dinner***

20:20 – 23:00 **Working Dinner with Atlantic Council Staff**

Rationale: The Atlantic Council staff led a working dinner to reflect on the trip and prepare for the engagements ahead. The conversation provided space to situate Israel within the broader regional dynamics discussed earlier in the trip, share lessons from N7's past work with Israeli counterparts, and outline current lines of effort such as advancing IMEC and the expansion of C-SIPA.

Presenters: Emily Milliken and Cassidy McGoldrick

Participants: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Jose Juan Villalvazo

Location: Joy Restaurant, Mamilla Rd 13, Jerusalem, Israel

23:00 ***End of Meetings/Day***

Thursday, August 21, 2025

7:00 – 9:00 ***Transportation by bus to Gaza Envelope with bathroom/coffee break en route***

9:00 – 12:41 **Guided Tour of Kfar Azza and Nova Festival Site with IDF Diplomacy**

Rationale: IDF Diplomacy officials led a tour and briefing at Kfar Azza and the Nova Festival Site, both of which were targeted during the October 7 attacks and where community members remain hostage. The visit gave congressional staff a deeper understanding of how Israel commemorates national trauma, the societal impact of the conflict with Hamas, and the country's evolving security posture. This experience provided critical context for understanding regional dynamics and was directly relevant to the trip's mission, as staff are likely to engage in legislation related to U.S.-Israel relations and the advancement of the Abraham Accords.

Participants: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Jose Juan Villalvazo, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Kfar Azza, Kibbutz Re'im, Gaza Envelope

12:41 – 14:38 ***Transportation by bus to David Citadel Hotel, with bathroom/coffee break en route***

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14:38 – 16:50	***Time to explore the Old City, Jerusalem***
16:50 – 18:05	**Meeting with representative of the Yesh Atid Party**
	Rationale: The delegation met with Shelly Tal Meron, a representative of the Israeli opposition party Yesh Atid, to discuss Israel's domestic political landscape and the implications for U.S.-Israel relations. The conversation provided insight into how the opposition views the government's handling of security challenges, the ongoing conflict with Hamas, and prospects for advancing regional integration under the Abraham Accords. Engaging with the opposition offered congressional staff a fuller picture of Israel's political dynamics and was directly relevant to the trip's mission, as Members are likely to encounter legislation related to U.S.-Israel ties, democratic governance, and regional security.
	Participants: MK Shelly Tal Meron (Member of Knesset, Yesh Atid Party), Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Jose Juan Villalvazo, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick
	Location: Jaffa Gate Room, David Citadel, Jerusalem
18:05 – 19:30	***Free time before dinner***
19:30 – 21:55	**Working Dinner with Stephanie Hallett, Deputy Chief of Mission of the United States to Israel**
	Rationale: DCM Hallett will brief the Congressional staff on U.S.-Israel relations, the ongoing security situation in Israel and the region, and U.S. diplomatic efforts to advance the Abraham Accords. Staff will have the chance to engage the Ambassador on any issue related to U.S.-Israel relationship including political, military, economic, and investment efforts. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation related to U.S.- Israel ties and regional developments.
	Participants: DCM Stephanie Hallett, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick
	Location: Private Room, David Citadel Restaurant
21:30	***Valerie Foy transportation to Ben Gurion Airport by SUV***
22:00	***End of Meetings/Day***

Friday, August 22, 2025

00:30	***Valerie Foy departs to Vietnam (sponsored by CARE)***

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El Al/THAI (EY 85 / TG 564)
Departure: Friday, August 22 at 00:30
Layover: 2 h 55 min (BKK)
Arrival: Friday, August 22 at 19:40

Traveler: Valerie Foy

7:00 – 7:45 ***Breakfast at the hotel***

7:45 ***Transportation by bus to Ben Gurion Airport***

11:00 ***Delegation Flight Departs to Washington, DC***

United (UA 85/UA 4432)
Departure: Friday, August 22 at 11:00 (TLV)
Layover: 2 h 5 min (EWR)
Arrival: Friday, August 22 at 19:26 (DCA)

Travelers: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Jose Juan Villalvazo

Saturday, August 23, 2025

19:00 ***Gitter Flight Departs to Washington, DC***

United (UA 85/UA 4434)
Departure: Saturday, August 23 at 19:00 (TLV)
Layover: 7 h 23 min (EWR)
Arrival: Sunday, August 24 at 8:21 (DCA)

Traveler: Manya-Jean Gitter

UA 85 was delayed by eight hours, resulting in a missed connection and complimentary rebooking to UA 4434. Gitter did not take the rebooked flight and instead purchased a train ticket back to Washington, DC.

End of trip

0000000006535 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: September 15, 2025

N7 Initiative

Atlantic Council

JEFFREY M. TALPINS FOUNDATION

The Office of the Honorable Eric Schmitt
Luis Reyes, Military Legislative Assistant
United States Senate
Washington, District of Columbia

July 3, 2025

Dear Mr. Luis Reyes,

On behalf of the N7 Initiative, I am delighted to invite you to participate in the upcoming N7 Abraham Accords Congressional Education Mission.

The education mission will take place between **August 16th and August 23rd**, with expected travel to Bahrain, followed by the United Arab Emirates, and then Israel.

The purpose of the trip is to engage with strategic foreign leaders to demonstrate continued U.S. and Congressional interest in the Middle East, Middle East integration, and Arab-Israeli normalization. The mission will explore the potential for expanding the Abraham Accords, efforts by existing Abraham Accords partners to deepen the accords, and the obstacles countries face in developing regional ties with Israel. Through meetings with government leaders, military leaders, business leaders, and faith leaders, participants will gain valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for regional integration. Further information on this Congressional Education mission, including a tentative itinerary, is forthcoming.

The N7 Initiative will cover all costs and expenses associated with the trip for you. Our team will follow up with you to share further details. Should you have questions in the interim, please reach out to Allison Minor, N7 Director, at +1-573-268-3177 or at aminor@atlanticcouncil.org . We greatly value your participation and hope that you can join us for this important trip.

William F. Wechsler
Senior Director, N7 Initiative, Atlantic Council

Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc: N7 Middle East Educational Mission Aug 2025

Luis Reyes

Title:
Military Legislative Assistant

Employing Office/Committee:
SCHMITT, ERIC

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):
Manama, Bahrain
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Jerusalem, Israel

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

My boss is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and he sits on the subcommittees on Emerging Threats and Capabilities and Air Land. The trip will provide the opportunity to hear from the U.S. Fifth Fleet, the Foreign Ministries of Bahrain, UAE, and Israel, and the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):
Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
Public Charity

Address 2 (Optional)
None

Phone Number
573-268-3177

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
Yes No

Address
1400 L Street NW

City, State Zip
Washington, District Of Columbia 20005 United States

Organization URL
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/

History of Congressional Travel

The Atlantic Council has previously sponsored several Congressional trips, including staff trips in 2018, 2019, 2022, and 2023 and a trip with members of the House of Representatives and staff in June 2025.

Educational Activities

The Atlantic Council regularly hosts events for the general public and publishes reports that are freely available to the public. The Atlantic Council's Middle East Programs regularly publishes reports and holds events for the general public focused on the Middle East.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and do not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.

I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.

I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

None Entered

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

The purpose of the trip is to engage with strategic foreign leaders to demonstrate continued U.S. and Congressional interest in the Middle East, Middle East integration, and Arab-Israeli normalization. The mission will explore the potential for expanding the Abraham Accords, efforts by existing Abraham Accords partners to deepen the accords, and the obstacles countries face in developing regional ties with Israel. Through meetings with government leaders, military leaders, business leaders, and faith leaders, participants will gain valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for regional integration.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

The Atlantic Council promotes constructive leadership and engagement in international affairs through publications, convening meetings, engaging global leaders and experts, and building communities. The Council has a program - the N7 Initiative - that is specifically focused on promoting regional integration in the Middle East with the goal of supporting a more secure and prosperous region. This educational mission will directly support that goal.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

Yes No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.

Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
08/16/2025 @ 10:05 PM

Trip End Date/Time:
08/22/2025 @ 08:41 PM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

Yes No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $2,810.95 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$2,399.00

Note
Includes airfare from United States to Bahrain, from Bahrain to UAE, from UAE to Israel, and from Israel to the United States

Ground Transportation	N/A	$411.95

Note
Estimated cost for private bus transportation between meetings and to/from airport in each location

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $1,611.78)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/17/2025	08/19/2025	Intercontinental Bahrain	Manama	None	Bahrain	2	$223.39	No
08/19/2025	08/20/2025	St. Regis Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi	None	United Arab Emirates	1	$285.00	No
08/20/2025	08/22/2025	David Citadel	Jerusalem	None	Israel	2	$440.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $734.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
08/17/2025	$0.00	$0.00	$80.00	$-20.00	**$60.00**	Manama	None	Bahrain	No
08/18/2025	$13.00	$13.00	$80.00	$20.00	**$126.00**	Manama	None	Bahrain	No
08/19/2025	$24.00	$24.00	$80.00	$20.00	**$148.00**	Abu Dhabi	None	United Arab Emirates	No
08/20/2025	$40.00	$40.00	$80.00	$20.00	**$180.00**	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
08/21/2025	$40.00	$40.00	$80.00	$20.00	**$180.00**	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
08/22/2025	$20.00	$0.00	$0.00	$20.00	**$40.00**	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $961.29)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Other (Logistical fees)	$953.79	This includes the cost for a local coordinator who will oversee transportation, hotels, and manage any logistical issues that may arise as well as the cost of private meeting rooms at the hotel for meetings/briefings
Visa Fees	$7.50	This will cover the cost of an Israel visa

Additional Attachments

Document Name
There are no additional attachments.

US Senate
Committee on Ethics

Primary Trip Sponsor Form supplemental documentation

Atlantic Council of the US, Inc.

Senate employees invited and attending:

1. Samantha Schifrin
   a. Foreign Policy and Defense Advisor, Office of Senator Cory Booker
   b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the Senate.

2. Marcos Ibarra
   a. Senior Policy Advisor and National Security Advisor, Office of Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
   b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the Senate.
3. Luis Reyes
   a. Military Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Eric Schmitt
   b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the Senate.

4. Callahan Stoub
   a. Senior Policy Analyst, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
   b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the Senate.

5. Jose Villalvazo
   a. Defense and Foreign Policy Advisor, Office of Senator Alex Padilla
   b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the Senate.

6. Arden Hooper
   a. Foreign Policy Legislative Aide, Office of Senator Ted Cruz
   b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the Senate.

Invited and cannot attend:

7. Kendall Dehnel

a. Foreign Policy Legislative Assistant, Senator Ernst (R-IA)
b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the Senate.

0000000006542 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: September 15, 2025

N7 Initiative Atlantic Council JEFFREY M. TALPINS FOUNDATION

N7 Initiative Congressional Education Mission

Hosted by the Atlantic Council

August 16-22, 2025

Mission goals: The goal of this trip is to educate and inform Congressional Staff with portfolios covering national security and the Abraham Accords on emerging developments within the Abraham Accords and how they relate to U.S. foreign policy, trade, and defense goals. The trip includes stops to meet with the senior officials in current Abraham Accords countries who can discuss the status of the Abraham Accords, the prospects for expanding and strengthening the Abraham Accords, and the impacts of current dynamics in the Middle East on U.S. and partner cooperation related to the Abraham Accords. The Atlantic Council will demonstrate through engagements with both U.S. officials based in the region and foreign government officials how the expansion and deepening of the Abraham Accords will transform U.S. policy and opportunities within the Middle East in the near future.

Relevance to official duties: The subject matter of the trip is important to Staffers supporting Members of Congress on the Armed Services, Homeland Security, Intelligence, Foreign Affairs, Ways and Means, Appropriations, and Financial Services Committees as they are likely to encounter future legislation concerning the expansion and deepening of the Abraham Accords.

Location: The purpose of travel to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel is to meet with regional leaders and U.S. officials who are working to strengthen the Abraham Accords.

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Itinerary

Saturday, August 16, 2025: Travel

22:05 — ***Primary Delegation Flights depart from United States***

Etihad Airways (EY 645)
Departure: Saturday, August 16 at 22:05 (IAD)
Layover: 1 h 50 min (AUH)
Arrival: Sunday, August 17 at 21:05 (BAH)

Dress Code: Casual/Comfort

Travelers: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Jesse von Stein, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Sunday, August 17, 2025: Travel

12:45 — ***Hernandez Gulf Air flight departs from Manila***

Gulf Air (GF 155)
Departure: Sunday, August 17 at 12:45 (MNL)
Arrival: Sunday, August 17 at 17:05 (BAH)
Dress Code: Casual/Comfort

Traveler: Roland Hernandez

14:50 — ***Gitter Etihad flight departs from Tel Aviv***

Etihad (EY594/EY645)
Departure: Sunday, August 17 at 14:50 (TLV)
Layover: 1 h 45 min (AUH)
Arrival: Sunday, August 17 at 21:05 (BAH)

Traveler: Manya-Jean Gitter

N7 Initiative · Atlantic Council · Jeffrey M. Talpins Foundation

17:05	***Hernandez Gulf Air Flight arrives at Bahrain International Airport (BAH)***
17:30	***Hernandez transport to the InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel*** Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain
18:00	***Hernandez check-in at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel*** Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain
20:15	***Dagul Turkish Airways flight departs from Istanbul*** **Turkish Airways** (TK 778) Departure: Sunday, August 17 at 20:15 (IST) Arrival: Monday, August 18 at 0:15 (BAH) Dress Code: Casual/Comfort Traveler: Reid Dagul
21:05	***Primary Delegation and Gitter Eithad Flight arrives at Bahrain International Airport (BAH)***
21:35	***Transport to InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel*** Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain
22:10	***Check-in at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel*** Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

Monday, August 18, 2025: Bahrain

0:15	***Dagul Turkish Airways flight arrives***
1:00	***Dagul Transport to InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel*** Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain
1:30	***Dagul Check-in at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel***

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Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

8:30 – 9:30 ***Breakfast at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel***

Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

9:30 – 10:00 ***Transportation by bus to NAVCENT, U.S. Fifth Fleet Headquarters***

10:00 – 11:30 **Briefing with Leadership from NAVCENT and U.S. Fifth Fleet**

Rationale: Senior NAVCENT Leadership for U.S. Fifth Fleet and CENTCOM Naval Command will provide a briefing to congressional staff on the U.S.'s military activities and posture in the region. The delegation will engage with the NAVCENT team on the U.S.'s military relationships with the kingdom and ongoing activities to support regional integration. It was relevant to the trip's mission as the Staff are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Bahrain ties as well as legislation related to regional military stability.

Participants: CENTCOM Naval Command Officials, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: U.S. Fifth Fleet Headquarters, Manama

Dress Code: Business Professional

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11:30 – 11:45	***Transportation by bus to Qudaibiya Palace***
11:45 – 13:00	**Meeting with the office of the Prime Minister, H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa** Rationale: The Office of the Prime Minister, Crown Price, H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, is best positioned to share the policies of the Kingdom of Bahrain across diplomatic, defense, trade, and investment nexuses. Members and staff will engage with H.R.H.'s team on the importance of the Abraham Accords across multiple nexuses and on the hostilities between Iran and Israel and how it affects regional normalization. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.- Bahrain ties and regional developments. The Office of the Prime Minister, Crown Price, H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, can authoritatively speak to Bahraini positions on the Bahrain-U.S. relationship. Participants: Officials from the Office of H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick Location: Qudaibiya Palace Dress Code: Business Professional
13:00 – 13:15	***Transportation by bus to Nomad Urban Eatery***
13:15 – 14:00	***Lunch at Nomad Urban Eatery***
14:00 – 14:15	***Transportation by bus to meeting with The Ministry of Foreign Affairs***
14:30 – 15:30	**Meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** Rationale: Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will provide a briefing to the staffers on the Kingdom's current diplomatic relations with the United States and developments on supporting the expansion of regional relations with Israel. The delegation will engage on diplomatic topics such as intra-gulf relations, updates to the Bahrain-Israel Free Trade Agreement negotiations, and the status of the Abraham Accords. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Bahrain ties, regional trade and investment developments, and the Abraham Accords.

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Participants: Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 7th Floor

Dress Code: Business Professional

15:30 – 15:45 ***Transportation by bus to meeting with Bahrain Economic Development Board and Minister of Industry and Commerce***

15:45 – 16:20 **Meeting with Officials from the Ministry of Sustainable Development and the Bahrain Economic Development Board and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.**

Rationale: The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Bahrain Economic Development Board and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce will provide a briefing to congressional staff on Bahrain's investments in the U.S., Israel, and across the region. The briefing will also include elements of trade friction, such as aluminum tariffs, and investment and financial tools and positions. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Members are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Bahrain ties, regional trade and investment developments, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: Officials from the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Bahrain Economic Development Board, Officials from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: EDB, Arcapita Building

Dress Code: Business Professional

16:20 – 16:30 ***Transportation by bus to meeting with Minister of Finance and National Economy***

16:30 – 17:15 **Meeting with the Ministry of Finance and National Economy**

Rationale: Officials from the Ministry of Finance and National Economy will provide a briefing to Members and staff on Bahrain's investments and

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broader national development and integration strategy. The briefing will include elements of U.S.-Bahrain relations and mutual defense relations due to the Ministry's high standing within the government. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Members are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Bahrain ties, regional trade and investment developments, mutual defense ties, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, The Minister of Finance and National Economy, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Ministry of Finance and National Economy

Dress Code: Business Professional

17:15 – 17:30 **Transportation by bus to U.S. Embassy, Bahrain**

17:30 – 18:30 **Briefing with Ambassador Steve C. Bondy, United States Ambassador to Bahrain**

Rationale: Ambassador Steve Bondy will provide a briefing to staffers on the U.S.'s current diplomatic relationship with Bahrain. The delegation will be able to engage with the Ambassador on the U.S.'s political and military relationships with the kingdom as well as gain important insights on the upcoming meetings throughout the day. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the staff are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Bahrain ties as well as legislation related to regional military, political, and economic stability.

Participants: Ambassador Steve C. Bondy, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

18:30 – 18:45 ***Transportation by bus to House of Ten Commandments***

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18:45 – 19:45	**Guided Tour and Briefing of the House of Ten Commandments** Rationale: Congressional staff will receive a guided tour and briefing at the House of Ten Commandments, the only functioning synagogue in Bahrain and a symbol of the country's longstanding Jewish heritage and commitment to religious pluralism. Supported by the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this visit will offer insight into the country's evolving interfaith landscape and the role of Jewish life in Bahraini society. The discussion will also touch on how Bahrain's leadership views religious tolerance as a foundation for broader regional integration, particularly within the context of the Abraham Accords. The visit is relevant to the trip's mission as it underscores the cultural and societal dimensions of normalization and offers valuable context for U.S. policy discussions around interfaith engagement and regional cooperation. Participants: Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick Location: House of Ten Commandments, Manama Dress Code: Business Professional
19:45 – 20:00	***Transportation by bus to Mirai Restaurant***
20:00 – 21:00	***Dinner at Mirai Restaurant***
21:00 – 21:15	***Transportation by bus to InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel***
21:15	***End of Meetings/Day***

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

7:30 – 8:30	***Check-out of hotel and breakfast*** Location: Selections, InterContinental Bahrain
8:30 – 9:00	***Transportation by bus to Bahrain International Airport***
10:40	***Delegation Flight to Abu Dhabi*** Etihad (EY 642)

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Departure: Tuesday, August 18 at 10:40 (BAH)
Arrival: Tuesday, August 18 at 12:50 (AUH)

Travelers: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

10:50 ***Jose Juan Villalvazo arrives at Zayed International Airport***

Qatar Airways (QR 710/QR1044)

Departure: Monday, August 18 at 11:00 (IAD)

Arrival: Tuesday, August 19 at 10:50 (AUH)

Traveler: Jose Juan Villalvazo

13:10 – 14:00 ***Transportation by bus to Ministry of Foreign Affairs***

Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abu Dhabi

14:00 – 15:00 **Meeting with Moath Alwarai, Director of the Policy Planning Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Rationale: The Director of the Policy Planning Department, Moath Alwarai will provide a briefing to staff on the UAE's current diplomatic relations with the United States and developments on supporting the expansion of the Abraham Accords. The Director will also discuss the UAE's interfaith efforts to support the Abraham Accords and their position on the recent conflict between Israel and Iran. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Members are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-UAE ties and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: Moath Alwarai, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Jose Villalvazo, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

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Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dress Code: Business Professional

15:00 – 16:00 **Meeting with H.E. Reem Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Rationale: H.E. Reem Al Hashimy is one of the UAE's most prominent foreign policy leaders, known for her strategic role in shaping the country's international development agenda and its regional diplomacy. In this meeting, Minister Al Hashimy will offer congressional staff insight into the UAE's broader vision for cooperation with the United States, the advancement of the Abraham Accords, and the country's response to shifting regional dynamics, including recent tensions involving Iran and Israel. She is also expected to highlight the UAE's efforts to promote interfaith dialogue and regional economic integration as part of a long-term strategy for Middle East stability. The meeting will give staff an opportunity to better understand Emirati priorities and policy tools, directly informing U.S. legislative considerations related to regional partnerships, normalization, and U.S.-UAE bilateral relations.

Participants: Reem Al Hashimy, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Jose Villalvazo, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dress Code: Business Professional

16:00 – 16:15 ***Transportation by bus to the U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi***

16:15 – 18:00 **Meeting with Ambassador Martina Strong, Ambassador of the United States to the United Arab Emirates and Eric Gaudiosi, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission**

Rationale: U.S. Ambassador Martina Strong, military officials from Al Dhafra Air Base, and the State Department County Team will provide a briefing to Congressional Staff on the U.S.'s current diplomatic relationship with the UAE, security risks and an assessment of the conflict between Israel and Iran, and other developments. The delegation will with the Ambassador on the U.S.'s political, economic, and financial relationship with the UAE. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation related to U.S-UAE ties.

Participants: Ambassador Martina Strong, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Jose Villalvazo, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil

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Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: U.S. Embassy, Abu Dhabi

Dress Code: Business Professional

18:00 – 18:10 ***Transportation by bus to the Abrahamic Family House***

18:10 – 19:15 **Guided Tour and Briefing of the Abrahamic Family House**

Rationale: Guides supported by UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff, will provide a guided tour of the Abrahamic Family House, a first-of-its-kind multi-faith facility in the UAE and the broader gulf region. Congressional Staff will tour the facility, learned of the interfaith work being conducted on the site and engaged in discussion with the guides and staff on the impact of this work on the Abraham Accords. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Members are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-UAE ties as well as investment restrictions or incentives related to foreign sovereign wealth funds.

Participants: Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Jose Villalvazo, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Abrahamic Family House, Abu Dhabi

Dress Code: Business Professional

19:15 – 20:00 ***Transportation by bus for dinner***

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20:00 – 22:30

Working dinner with H.E. Dr. Ali Rashid al Nuami, Chairman of the UAE Federation National Council Defense Affairs, Interior & Foreign Affairs Committee

As one of the UAE's leading voices on interfaith dialogue, regional diplomacy, and national security, H.E. Dr. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi offers a valuable perspective on the strategic outlook of the United Arab Emirates, especially in the context of the Abraham Accords. In his capacity as Chairman of the Federal National Council's Defense, Interior & Foreign Affairs Committee, Dr. Al Nuaimi plays a central role in shaping the UAE's legislative approach to foreign policy and regional security cooperation. This meeting will allow congressional staff to engage directly on topics such as UAE-Israel normalization, regional integration efforts, countering extremism, and the future of U.S.-UAE collaboration. It is highly relevant to the delegation's focus on advancing U.S. policy related to the Abraham Accords and deepening understanding of Emirati priorities in a rapidly evolving Middle East.

Participants: H.E. Dr. Ali Rashid al Nuami, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Jose Villalvazo, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Palace Restaurant

The entirety of the allotted time for the working dinner will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

Dress Code: Business Professional

22:30 – 23:00

Transportation by bus to St. Regis Abu Dhabi

Location: The St. Regis Abu Dhabi, Nation Towers - Corniche St - Al Bateen - W44 - Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates

23:00

End of Meetings/Day

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

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6:00 – 6:30	***Breakfast***
6:30 – 7:00	***Transportation by bus to the airport***
8:35	***Delegation Flight to Tel Aviv***
	Etihad (EY 593) Departure: Wednesday, August 20 at 8:35 (AUH) Arrival: Wednesday, August 20 at 11:00 (TLV) Travelers: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick
12:00 – 13:00	***Transportation by bus to meeting at the Ministry of Defense***
12:00 – 13:00	**Working Lunch Briefing** Rationale: Atlantic Council staff will brief Congressional Staff on the regional and internal dynamics of Israeli policy and recent developments in retaliation to the Abraham Accords. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Israel ties, regional security developments, and the Abraham Accords. Participants: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Cassidy McGoldrick Presenter: Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken Location: Bus En-Route to Tel Aviv Dress Code: Business Professional *The entirety of the allotted time for the working lunch will be spent covering officially-connected activity.*
13:00 – 14:00	**Meeting with Ministry of Defense** Rationale: Officials from the Ministry of Defense will provide a briefing to Congressional staff on the IDF's recent and ongoing operations in Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, Iran, and Yemen and the military and political objectives of each operation. The delegation will have a chance to engage on the IDF's effort following October 7th as well as on broader U.S.-Israel defense cooperation. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the

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Members are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Israel ties, regional security developments, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: Officials from the Ministry of Defense, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Ministry of Defense

Dress Code: Business Professional

14:00 – 14:30 ***Depart for meeting to the Office of H.E. Yair Lapid***

14:30 – 15:30 **Meeting with the Office of H.E. Yair Lapid, Yesh Atid Party Leader and Leader of the Opposition in Israel's Knesset**

Rationale: The Office of the Leader of the Israeli Opposition and former Prime Minister of Israel, H.E. Yair Lapid will provide a briefing to congressional staff on the official opposition's view of the Israeli Government's ongoing military operations and actions following Hamas's October 7th attack. The delegation will have a chance to engage on the domestic political situation in Israel and its impact on Israel's policies towards the United States and regional partners. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Members are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Israel ties, regional security developments, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: Officials from the office of H.E. Yair Lapid, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Knesset, Eliezer Kaplan St 1, Jerusalem, 9195000, Israel

Dress Code: Business Professional

15:30 – 16:30 ***Transportation by bus to Jerusalem***

16:30 – 17:45 **Meeting with the Office of H.E. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel**

Rationale: Officials from the office of Prime Minister of Israel, H.E. Benjamin Netanyahu will share the position of the current Israeli government across diplomatic, defense, trade, and investment nexuses.

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Congressional Staff will have the chance to engage the Office of the Prime Minister on any issue touching U.S. – Israel relations with a focus on the four nexuses outlined. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Members are likely to encounter legislation related to U.S.- Israel ties, the ongoing war in Gaza, and regional developments. The Office of the Prime Minister of Israel, H.E. Benjamin Netanyahu, will be able to authoritatively speak to the current official Israeli position on Israel-U.S. ties.

Participants: Officials from the Office of the Prime Minister of Israel, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn. Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Office of the Prime Minister of Israel, Jerusalem

Dress Code: Business Professional

17:45 – 18:15 ***Transportation by bus to David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem***

Location: King David St 7, Jerusalem, 9410119, Israel

18:15 – 18:45 ***Check in to David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem***

18:45 – 21:00 **Working Dinner with Ambassador Mike Huckabee, Ambassador of the United States to Israel**

Rationale: The U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee will brief the Congressional staff on U.S.-Israel relations, the ongoing security situation in Israel and the region, and U.S. diplomatic efforts to advance the Abraham Accords. Staff will have the chance to engage the Ambassador on any issue related to U.S.-Israel relationship including political, military, economic, and investment efforts. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation related to U.S.- Israel ties and regional developments.

Participants: Ambassador Mike Huckabee, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn. Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: King David Citadel Restaurant

Dress Code: Business Professional

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The entirety of the allotted time for the working dinner will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

21:00 ***End of day***

Thursday, August 21, 2025

8:30 – 9:30 **Working Breakfast Briefing with Atlantic Council Experts**

Rationale: Atlantic Council Senior Non-Resident Fellows Ambassador Amir Hayek and Itai Melchoir will brief Congressional Staff on the regional and internal dynamics of Israeli policy and recent developments in retaliation to the Abraham Accords. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Israel ties, regional security developments, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Presenter: Amir Hayek, Itai Melchoir

Location: Private Room, David Citadel Hotel

Dress Code: Business Professional

The entirety of the allotted time for the working breakfast will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

9:30 – 9:45 ***Transportation by bus to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs***

9:45 – 11:00 **Meeting with the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gideon Sa'ar**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will brief the staff on Israel's current international developments from a diplomatic perspective. Staff will have the chance to engage with the Ministry on any issue touching U.S. – Israel relations with a focus on diplomatic engagements. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.- Israel ties, regional developments, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: The office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed,

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Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem

Dress Code: Business Professional

11:00 – 11:15 ***Transportation by bus for meeting to Israeli Ministerial Complex***

11:15 – 12:00 **Meeting with Ron Dermer, Minister of Strategic Affairs**

The Minister of Strategic Affairs, Ron Dermer, will brief the Congressional staff on Israel's current international and domestic situation. Staff will have the chance to engage the Minister on any issue touching U.S. – Israel relations with a focus on diplomatic, military, trade, and investment nexuses. Minister Dermer is tasked with leading the most sensitive and important topics for the government, including hostage negotiations, the Abraham Accords, and the U.S.-Israel relationship. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.- Israel ties, regional developments, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: Ron Dermer, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Locations: Israeli Ministerial Complex

Dress Code: Business Professional

12:00 – 12:15 **Transportation by bus to Israel National Library**

12:15 – 13:45 **Guided Tour and Briefing of the October 7 Memorial Wall and Swords of Iron Memorial Monument**

Guides will lead a tour and briefing at the October 7 Memorial Wall and the Swords of Iron Memorial Monument, both of which honor the victims of the October 7 attacks and those who served in the subsequent conflict. Congressional staff will gain a deeper understanding of how Israel commemorates national trauma, the societal impact of the conflict with Hamas, and the evolving Israeli security posture. This visit provides important context for understanding regional dynamics and is directly relevant to the trip's mission, as staff are likely to engage in legislation related to U.S.-Israel relations and the advancement of the Abraham Accords.

0000000006559 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: September 15, 2025

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Participants: Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Israel National Library, Jerusalem

Dress Code: Business Professional

13:45 – 15:00 **Lunch on your own in downtown Jerusalem ("The Shuk")**

15:00 – 15:15 **Transportation by bus for meeting to the President's Office**

15:15 – 16:15 **Meeting with the Office of H.E. Isaac Herzog, President of Israel**

The Office of the President of Israel, H.E. Isaac Herzog, will brief the Congressional staff on Israel's current international and domestic situation. Staff will have the chance to engage the Office of President Herzog on any issue touching U.S. – Israel relations with a focus on diplomatic, military, trade, and investment nexuses. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.- Israel ties, regional developments, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: The Office of the President of Israel, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Beit HaNassi

Dress Code: Business Professional

16:15 – 16:30 **Transportation by bus to the hotel**

16:30 – 18:30 ***Free time***

18:30 – 20:00 ***Working Dinner and debrief with Atlantic Council on the trip.***

Rationale: Atlantic Council Staff will debrief the trip and discuss key insights learned across the various countries. This capstone dinner will allow Atlantic Council experts to answer questions on statements and engagements throughout the trip and reflect on how the briefings, meetings, and engagements indicate the current status of the Abraham Accords.

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Participants: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Cassidy McGoldrick

Presenter: Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken

Location: Private room, The David Citadel Hotel

The entirety of the allotted time for the working dinner will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

Dress Code: Rugged Casual/Casual

20:00 ***End of day***

Friday, August 22, 2025

00:30 ***Valerie Foy departs to Vietnam (sponsored by CARE)***

El Al/THAI (EY 85 / TG 564)
Departure: Friday, August 22 at 00:30
Layover: 2 h 55 min (BKK)
Arrival: Friday, August 22 at 19:40

Traveler: Valerie Foy

8:00 – 9:00 ***Breakfast***

9:00 – 9:40 ***Transportation by bus to the airport***

11:00 ***Depart to Washington, DC***

United (UA 85/UA 4432)
Departure: Friday, August 22 at 11:00 (TLV)
Layover: 2 h 5 min (EWR)
Arrival: Friday, August 22 at 19:26 (DCA)

Travelers: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Jose Villalvazo, Arden Hooper, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

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Saturday, August 23, 2025

11:00 ***Gitter depart to Washington, DC***

United (UA 85/UA 4432)
Departure: Saturday, August 23 at 11:00 (TLV)
Layover: 1 h 44 min (EWR)
Arrival: Saturday, August 23 at 19:05 (DCA)

Traveler: Manya-Jean Gitter

End of Trip

Non-Congressional Meeting Participants

- Gershom Sacks, N7 Initiative Deputy Director
- Emily Milliken, N7 Initiative Associate Director
- Cassidy McGoldrick, N7 Initiative Assistant Director