

RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

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.

RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
2025 SEP -4 AM 11:18

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):
The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)

Travel Dates:
08/09/2025 to 08/17/2025

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$3,639.00	\$2,940.00	\$1,206.00	\$700.00

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

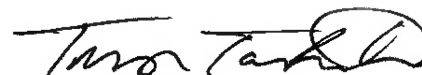
Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

8/29/2025

Date

Trevor Tackett

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.

8/29/25

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

There were no changes to pre-approved travel expenses.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☒ Yes

No

Explanation: Aug 10 briefing with IDF BG Ephraim "Effi" Defrin, IDF Spokesman cancelled and replaced by brief with LtC Roi Bloch, Head of the International Law Branch within the Israeli Military Advocate General (MAG). Topic: Organization of the MAG and how it operates within the IDF to ensure the laws of armed combat are adhered to and the mechanisms available to the MAG to enforce compliance. Aug 14 briefing with the National Security Advisor's office was cancelled due to ongoing diplomatic negotiations and replaced with by brief with Dr. Avner Golov, VP Research & Alliances with MIND Israel, Former Senior Director for Foreign Policy, at Israel's National Security Council. Topic: Options for Israel's grand strategy post 10/7: A people that dwells alone vs. a leading valued partner in the international arena. Aug 14 briefing with IDF Col. Yotam Shefer with the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) office added.

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

Yes

☒ No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.

Trevor Tackett
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 347
Washington, D.C. 20510

June 1, 2025

Dear Trevor,

On behalf of the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA), it is my pleasure to invite you to participate in this year's [Congressional National Security Program to Israel](#), to be held **August 8-17, 2025**.¹

We take your security very seriously. Our Israel team, led by IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, will constantly be monitoring the security situation and we will adjust accordingly if necessary.

JINSA is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to working with military and civilian decisionmakers to ensure American strategic interests in the Middle East are defended. JINSA believes the cornerstone of this defense is a robust U.S.-Israeli security cooperation relationship.

One of the ways JINSA executes its educational mission is through [unique programs](#) that promote dialogue between prominent U.S. government officials and military leaders and their Mideast counterparts. The Congressional National Security Program provides insight and understanding into Israel's security challenges, the shared threats facing Israel and the United States, the benefits of U.S.-Israel security cooperation and ways to deepen that cooperation, and insight into how collaboration between U.S. and Israeli defense industries contribute to the defense of both nations. JINSA will cover your lodging, tours, food costs, and round-trip international travel between the United States and Israel.

The program curriculum will feature visits to strategically important sites, such as Israel's borders with Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt, where participants will be briefed by IDF commanders to better understand the security challenges Israel faces on each respective border, including its lack of strategic depth. Delegation participants will also visit the Knesset, to understand the role it plays in developing and executing Israeli

¹ We will most likely depart for Israel late Friday, August 8 and arrive on Saturday, August 9. We will depart from Israel the evening of Saturday, August 16 and arrive back in the United States on the morning of Sunday, August 17.

national security policy, and key religious and historical sites to gain a deeper appreciation for the importance of the land to three of the world's great faiths and how this directly impacts the security environment in the Middle East.

The program will include briefings on topics such as:

- The impact of the Israel's war with Hamas in the aftermath of the October 7, 2023 terrorist attacks;
- Middle East regional security challenges confronting the United States and Israel;
- Prospects for U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation with Abraham Accords countries;
- Perspective on how the Arab world understands and perceives Israel; and
- Linkages between Israel's "Silicon Wadi," IDF weapons technology, and the U.S. defense establishment.

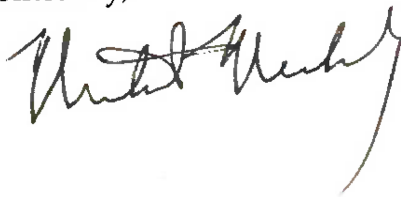
Please RSVP by June 15, 2025 to Matt Kenney at mkenney@jinsa.org or (703) 946-8363 to let us know if you are able to attend. Please also reach out if you have any questions about this invitation or travel arrangements.

Finally, the following information which participants will be required to submit to the Senate Ethics Committee no later than July 8, 2025 will be provided upon confirmation of participation:

- Senate Ethics Committee Primary Trip Sponsor Form
- Itinerary for participants

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Makovsky, Ph.D.

President & CEO

Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)

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:

Trevor Tackett

Employing Office/Committee:

Republican Policy Committee

Private Sponsor(s):

The Jewish Institute for National Security

Destination(s):

Herzliya, Israel

Travel Dates:

08/08/2025 to 08/17/2025

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. As I inform Republican staff on national security policy issues, this trip will allow me to see how the U.S.-Israel security relationship is functioning and assess areas of need.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?

Name and Relationship to Traveler:

☐

(signify "yes" by checking box)

N/A

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

7/24/2025

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)

Senator Shelley Moore Capito

Trevor Tackett

(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

(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)

7/24/2025

Date



Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA): JINSA Congressional National Security Program to Israel 2025

Trevor Tackett

Title:
National Security Advisor

Employing Office/Committee:
REPUBLICAN POLICY COMM

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON, DC

Destination(s):
Herzliya, Israel

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

My primary duties with the Republican Policy Committee (RPC) are to inform and advise Senate Republican staff on policy issues and challenges in the defense and foreign policy portfolio. Since I joined RPC at the beginning of 2023, I have frequently written about, hosted briefings on, and advised on the U.S.-Israel security relationship, especially in the context of Israel's multi-front war against Iranian terror proxies. This trip will help inform my work by allowing me to see first-hand how this security relationship is functioning on the ground and assess additional areas of need.

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

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)

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

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
N/A

Address
1101 14th Street, NW, Suite 1030

Address 2 (Optional)
None

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

Phone Number
(703) 946-8363

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

- JINSA Congressional National Security Program to Israel 2022 - JINSA Homeland Security Program to Israel 2022 (two participants from the House of Representatives) - JINSA Congressional National Security Program to Israel 2023 - JINSA Congressional National Security Program to Israel 2024

Educational Activities

JINSA has executed its education mission through unique programs that promote dialogue between prominent U.S. military leaders and government officials and their Mideast counterparts since 1981, such as by hosting regular webinars, monthly roundtable discussions and events, and annual educational trips to Israel.

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 goal of JINSA's Congressional National Security Program is to provide insight and understanding into Israel's security challenges, the shared threats facing Israel and the United States in the Middle East, and how U.S.-Israel security cooperation contributes to the defense of both nations. Participants meet with Israeli military and intelligence leaders and policy professionals, conduct field visits to key strategic locations such as Israel's northern and southern borders, and visit defense industrial and innovation sites showcasing the strength of the U.S.-Israel defense partnership. We will also visit the Knesset (Israel's Parliament), to understand the role it plays in developing and executing Israeli national security policy.

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

For nearly 50 years, JINSA has been dedicated to educating congressional, military and civilian national security decision-makers on American defensive and strategic interests, primarily in the Middle East, the cornerstone of which is a robust U.S.-Israel security cooperation relationship. Organized and run entirely by JINSA, this trip directly supports our core educational mission.

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

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

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

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:
08/08/2025 @ 11:00 PM

Trip End Date/Time:
08/17/2025 @ 08:00 AM

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: \$3,639.00 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	\$3,089.00
Note Round trip international flights from Washington, D.C. to Tel Aviv, Israel.		
Ground Transportation	Coach	\$550.00
Note Bus transportation to and from the airport and to sites in Israel		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$2,940.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/09/2025	08/16/2025	Ritz Carlton	Herzliya	None	Israel	7	\$420.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$1206.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
08/10/2025	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$118.00	\$0.00	\$158.00	Herzliya	None	Israel	No
08/11/2025	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$118.00	\$0.00	\$158.00	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	No
08/12/2025	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$118.00	\$0.00	\$178.00	Caesarea	None	Israel	No
08/13/2025	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$118.00	\$0.00	\$178.00	Herzliya	None	Israel	No
08/14/2025	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$118.00	\$0.00	\$178.00	Herzliya	None	Israel	No
08/15/2025	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$118.00	\$0.00	\$178.00	Herzliya	None	Israel	No
08/16/2025	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$118.00	\$0.00	\$178.00	Herzliya	None	Israel	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$700.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Other (Guides, entry fees, security)	\$700.00	Expenses for guides, entry fees, and security for the delegation.

Additional Attachments**Document Name**

There are no additional attachments.

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: JINSA Congressional National Security Program to Israel
Travel Date(s): August 8 August 17
Travel Destination(s): Israel
Sponsor: Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)

Michael Makovsky
(printed name of sponsor representative)

President and CEO
(title)


(signature of sponsor representative)

6/10/25
(date)

**2025 JINSA Congressional National Security Program to Israel
Senate Participant List**

The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA) is dedicated to educating Congressional, military and civilian national security decision-makers on American defense and strategic interests, primarily in the Middle East, the cornerstone of which is a robust U.S.-Israeli security cooperation relationship. To help fulfill this mission, JINSA runs an annual Congressional National Security Program to Israel that equips legislative staff with greater insight and understanding into shared threats and opportunities facing the United States and Israel in the Middle East. Invitees are staff to Members of Congress with national security, foreign policy, or defense policy portfolios.

1. **Luke Burke**, National Security Advisor to Sen. Dave McCormick (R-PA)
2. **Madison Sparber**, Foreign Policy Legislative Assistant, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)
3. **Trevor Tackett**, National Security Advisor for the U.S. Senate Republican Policy Committee
4. **David Jansen**, National Security Advisor to Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL)
5. **Brandon Gindt**, National Security Advisor to Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)
6. **Dylan Vorbach**, Senior Advisor to Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)



The Jewish Institute for National Security of America
2025 Congressional National Security Program to Israel
August 8–17, 2025

TRAVEL: Thursday, August 7th

13:25 Departure from Reagan National Airport, Washington D.C., USA (1) Madison Sparber)

15:18 Arrival in Boston Logan International Airport, Massachusetts, USA (1) Madison Sparber)

TRAVEL: Friday, August 8th

13:50 Arrival in Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel (1) Madison Sparber)

18:30 Departure from Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C., USA (Group 1: 2) Luke Burke, 3) Zachary Huff, 4) David Horsley, (5) James Fleet, 6) Steven Goodall, 7) Bethany Schrock, 8) Trevor Tackett, 9) Sarah Salas, 10) William Layton, 11) Delia Kashat, and 12) John Kolb)

TRAVEL: Saturday, August 9th

8:20 Arrival in Barcelona-El Prat Airport, Barcelona, Spain (Group 1)

NO PROGRAMMING

20:45 Depart Barcelona-El Prat Airport, Barcelona, Spain (Group 1)

Day 1: Sunday, August 10th

Parliament & Grand Strategy and Regional Perspective, Israel's Policy and Defense Strategy Day

01:55 Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel (Group 1)

02:25-03:00 Depart to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 4 Hashunit Street, Herzliya, 4655504, Israel

06:30 Breakfast Available

06:30-08:30 Executive Time

08:30-10:00 Depart for the Knesset, Jerusalem

10:00-11:30 Tour of the Knesset (Parliament) with **Liat Margalit, Foreign Affairs Department of the Knesset**

Topic: The role of the Knesset in the Israeli system of government and the role it plays in the development and execution of Israeli national security policy.

- 11:30-12:30 Round Table discussion with **Members of the Israeli Knesset**
Topic: Insights into how the Israeli legislative process operates, current national security issues under active consideration by Knesset members, and how members incorporate foreign diplomatic considerations into their deliberations.
- 12:30-13:30 Briefing by **Senior Staffer at Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee** at the Knesset in Jerusalem.
Topic: Discussion of how the legislative process operates in Israel, challenges in designing and executing policy within the Israel system of government, and discussion of similarities and differences to how the U.S. Congress operates.
- 13:30-14:00 Lunch outside the Knesset (no speakers)
- 14:00-15:00 Drive to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya
- 15:00-16:00 Briefing by **MG Amidror**, former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: "Israel - 2,000 Years of Dreams," an overview of the history of Israel touching on the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 CE, the rise of Zionism in the 19th century, the Balfour Declaration issued by Great Britain during WWI to establish a Jewish homeland, and the declaration of Israeli independence in 1948 in the aftermath of WWII, followed by a broad strategic overview of the U.S. / Israel defense cooperation relationship from 1948 through the present.
- 16:00-17:00 Briefing by **MG Yaacov Ayish**, Former Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Defense Attaché to the U.S. and Canada and JINSA's Senior Vice President for Israeli Affairs at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: "The State of Israel," a strategic overview of Israel including a discussion of population concentrations, key strategic infrastructure, and current security threats. Discussion of how the mil-to-mil partnership between the United States and Israel strengthens the ability of both nations to address shared security concerns.
- 17:00-18:00 Executive Time
- 18:00-19:00 Briefing by **IDF BG Ephraim "Effi" Defrin, IDF Spokesman** and former JINSA Distinguished Fellow at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: Overview of IDF operations during Operation Rising Lions against Iran from June 13-24 and discussion of the challenges that confront public affairs officers during wartime.
- 19:00-20:00 Briefing by **Stephanie L. Hallett**, Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Israel, at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.

Topic: Overview of U.S.-Israeli relations from the American perspective, including an explanation of U.S.-Israel defense and security priorities with regards to the current conflicts with Hamas and Hezbollah and the regional impacts of those conflicts, and highlighting the challenges and opportunities they present.

20:00-21:00 **JINSA Delegation Welcome Dinner with Stephanie L. Hallett** at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.

Topic: "The State of U.S. / Israel Relations," a strategic overview of how the mil-to-mil partnership between the United States and Israel strengthens the ability of both nations to address shared security concerns.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 8+

Day 2: Monday, August 11th

Southern Command and the Gaza Strip

06:00 Breakfast Available

08:00-9:00 Drive to **Israeli Air Force (IAF) Base Nevatim\Hazerim Air Force Base** near Beersheba.

09:00-10:30 Briefing by **IAF Squadron at Nevatim\Hazerim Air Force Base** and walk-around of the base.
Topic: Briefing on Israel's "Operation Rising Lions" against Iran from June 13-24, 2025.

10:30-11:00 Briefing at the **Iron Dome** missile defense battery site by an **IDF officer**, the Defense Ministry's Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure (MAFAT), near Kibbutz Eivim.
Topic: The value of this critically important joint-U.S. / Israeli produced system in protecting civilian life and infrastructure.

11:00-12:00 Depart to **Gaza Division at Camp Reim**
Briefing by **MG Ayish** on the bus.
Topic: Israel's lack of strategic depth in the south and discussion of economically important strategic sites such as the Ashkelon Desalination Plant in this region.

12:00-13:00 Visit and brief by the IDF at the **Gaza Division at Camp Reim**.
Topic: Briefing on upgraded capabilities on the Israeli southern border to protect Israel's civilian population from Gaza in the aftermath of the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks.

13:00-13:20 Depart to **IDF Camp Nahal Oz**, in southern Israel. Lunch on the bus.

- 13:20-14:00 Visit **IDF Camp Nahal Oz**
Topic: Tour led by **IDF officer** of the one of the focal points of the October 7th Hamas attack, to see the extent of the destruction and the impact on the community first-hand, as well as ongoing rebuilding efforts.
- 14:00-14:45 Depart to **IDF Camp Amitay**, in southern Israel.
- 14:45-16:00 Briefing at **Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) headquarters** at Camp Amitay.
Topic: Briefing on ongoing efforts by this joint American Israeli program to address the ongoing Gaza humanitarian crisis and prevent Hamas from seizing and diverting aid.
- 16:00-16:30 Depart for **Nova Festival Victims Memorial**, near Kibbutz Re'im.
- 16:30-17:00 Visit **Nova Festival Victims Memorial**, near Kibbutz Re'im.
Topic: Self-guided tour of the one of the focal points of the October 7th Hamas attack, where more than 300 people were killed and some 40 taken hostage. Photos of each of the victims are displayed in their memory, along with Israeli flags and red anemone sculptures, symbolizing the flowers that bloom nearby in the forest during the winter and as a symbol of the lives lost.
- 17:00-18:30 Drive to Dinner, Concierge, Dizengoff 95, Tel Aviv.
- 18:30-20:00 Dinner at Concierge, Tel Aviv (no speakers).
- 20:00-20:30 Return to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel
- Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya Total Hours of Programming: 6+*

Day 3 Tuesday, August 12th

Northern Command Day- Syria-Lebanon-Hezbollah Day

- 06:30 Breakfast available
- 07:30-09:00 Depart Hotel for **War Reserves Stockpile Allies-Israel (WRSA-I)**. Brief by **MG Ayish** on bus.
Topic: Israel's lack of strategic depth in the north, highlighting economically important strategic sites including Haifa Port and off-shore natural gas platforms.
- 09:00-09:30 Briefing by **MG Ayish** on the War Reserves Stockpile Allies-Israel (WRSA-I), one of the United States' largest collections of warfighting material pre-positioned to be used in wartime at a WRSA-I observation point.
Topic: How WRSA-I functions and serves as an example of U.S. / Israel security cooperation.

- 09:30-10:00 Travel to **Bnaya Observation Point, Israel's Northern Command, 91st Division.**
- 10:00-11:30 Briefing by **IDF 91st Division** at Northern Command.
Topic: The strategic threat Israel faces on its northern border facing Lebanon from Hezbollah (and Iran) and the impact of combat operations since October 7, 2023 to degrade Hezbollah's capabilities.
- 11:30 -12:30 Drive to **Mt. Bental, IDF 210th Division** (along the Syrian border). Briefing by **MG Ayish** on the bus.
Topic: Overview of the contentious history between Israel and Syria, who have technically been at war since 1948, and have fought each other in three major wars: the 1948 Arab Israeli War, the 1967 Six-Day War, and the 1973 Yom Kippur War.
- 12:30-14:00 Briefing by **IDF 210th Division on the Syrian Border** at an observation point overlooking the Israel-Syria border.
Topic: Briefing on the tank battles between Israel and Syrian forces during the Six-Day War in 1967 and Yom Kippur War in 1973 on the Golan Heights. Further discussion of the evolving threat Israel faces from Syria today, particularly in light of the Syrian Civil War that began in 2011 and ended with the overthrow of the Assad regime in 2024, and current prospects for improved relations between the two nations.
- 14:00-14:15 Drive to **Israel-Syrian militarized zone/UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)** post at Quneitra Crossing.
- 14:15-14:45 Briefing by **IDF Major. Liad Diamond** at Quneitra Crossing.
Topic: IDF management of the Israel-Syrian border and the role of the United Nations at Quneitra Crossing.
- 14:45-15:00 Drive to The Valley of Tears
- 15:00-16:30 Briefing by **BG (Ret.) Avigdor Kahalani**, known for his heroics in the Yom Kippur War in the Valley of Tears
Topic: First-hand account briefing of the tank battles between Israel and Egypt during the Six Way War and between Israel and Syrian forces during the Yom Kippur War in 1973.
- 16:30-18:30 Depart for old Caesarea Port, Caesarea.
- 18:30-19:00 Executive time in Caesarea.
- 19:00-20:30 Dinner at Hazalbanim Restaurant (or Crusaders Restaurant), Caesarea Port Caesarea. **MG Ayish** led roundtable discussion.

Topic: Summary of the key points from the day's briefings and site visits in the north, open conversation and dialogue on topics including the Hezbollah terror tunnel system and the role of Caesarea as the principal port in the Roman-era and how this compares to the Haifa Port complex of today. Guidance and preview of the next day's events.

20:30-21:15 Return to Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 7+

Day 4: Wednesday, August 13th

U.S.-Israel Defense Cooperation Day

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-09:00 Depart to the IDF Headquarters, HaKiryat, Tel Aviv.

09:00-10:00 Briefing by **BG Yael Grossman**, Commander of the Lotem unit (the IDF's Digital and Information Unit)
Topic: The development of highly advanced technological solutions for the IDF. The unit develops platforms in the domains of networking, mobility, space, and cloud computing which serve as information hubs in both operational and organizational contexts during wartime.

10:00-10:30 Depart to Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D), Tel Aviv.

10:30-11:30 Briefing by IDF official at the **Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D)**, on how Israel develops technological, logistical and industrial infrastructure to support Israeli national security operations.

11:30-12:30 Depart to Airport Café, Ben Gurion Airport City in Tel Aviv.

12:30-13:30 Lunch at Airport Café, Ben Gurion Airport City in Tel Aviv (no speakers).

13:30-14:00 Depart to Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in International Airport Ben Gurion.

14:00-15:00 Visit to IAI and brief by **IAI senior executive** in Lod.
Topic: History of Israel Aerospace Industries and background of collaboration with the U.S. defense industrial base.

15:00-16:00 Briefing by **IAI project manager** on the F-35 wing production line at IAI, Lod.
Topic: Gain insight into how collaboration between U.S. and Israeli defense industries contribute to the defense of both nations in the air domain.

16:00-17:00 Briefing by **IAI project manager** on the Israeli satellite industry at IAI, Lod.
Topic: Gain insight into how collaboration between U.S. and Israeli industry contributes to space capabilities of both nations.

17:00-18:00 Drive to Ritz Carlton, Herzliya.

18:00-19:30 **Dinner** at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya. **MG Ayish** led roundtable discussion.
Topic: Summary of the key points from the day's briefings. Guidance and preview of the next day's events.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 6+

Day 5: Thursday, August 14th

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-09:30 Depart to Jerusalem

09:30-10:30 Briefing by **Mr. Khaled Abu Toameh**, an Israeli Arab journalist.
Topic: Perspective on how the Arab world, (including Palestinian Arabs, Jordanians, Egyptians and others), understands and perceives Israel, how perceptions and misperceptions impact public opinion and government decision-making, and how this in turn impacts the regional security environment.

10:30-11:00 Depart to the **Prime Minister's office**, Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem.

11:00-12:00 Meeting with **National Security Advisor's office** for Foreign Policy for Prime Minister Netanyahu
Topic: Briefing on the value of the strategic relationship between the United States and Israel and insight into how that relationship impacts the decision-making process of Israeli senior leadership in the context of Israel's conflict with Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran.

12:00-12:30 Depart to the "**Mahane Yehuda**" **Market** in Jerusalem.

12:30-13:30 **Guided tour and lunch at Mahane Yehuda Market**, 62 Agripas Yerushalayim 9430135

Topic: The market dates to the Ottoman period. An empty lot as the 19th Century drew to a close, this central location was developed by local peasants who brought produce to sell and slowly turned it into an organized market. The success of the shuk was attributed to its location, which was a much closer walk to neighborhoods and villages located outside of Jerusalem's older and more established Old City. Today, it is a unique cultural site where Jews and Arabs

shop and bargain side-by-side with more than 250 vendors. The site is an illustrative example of the overlapping layers of history in Jerusalem that impact political debates in Israel and the region. The tour includes discussions on how Israel provides security against terrorist attacks (the market was attacked repeatedly during the Second Intifada) as well as stops at vendors to experience Israel's varied cuisine.

13:30-14:00 Depart for Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem

14:00-15:00 Meeting with **Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs North America Bureau** official at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: Briefing of U.S.-Israeli relations from the Israeli perspective, including a challenges and opportunities presented by the current ongoing conflict between Israel and Iran and its proxies Hamas and Hezbollah.

15:00-16:00 Meeting with the **Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Middle East Bureau** official at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: Briefing on Israel's perspective of the Middle East, the current state of efforts to build out a regional air defense architecture and emergent opportunities to expand and deepen the Abraham Accords diplomatic agreements in the aftermath of the 12 Day War against Iran.

16:00-16:30 Meeting with **Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Legal Advisor** at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: The current status of International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ) investigations and potential legal cases against the State of Israel and senior Israeli officials with respect to the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

16:30-17:00 Meeting with **Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs / UN Political Affairs** at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topics: Briefing on current challenges facing Israel at the UN, including a discussion of efforts in the UN General Assembly to expel Israel as a member.

17:00-17:30 Depart for Western Wall, Ha'Omer 2 Jerusalem, Israel 97500

17:30-18:30 **Western Wall Tunnel Tour**, Ha'Omer 2 Jerusalem, Israel 97500
Topic: Western Wall Tunnel Guided Tour, Ha'Omer 2 Jerusalem, Israel 97500
Topic: The Western Wall is one of the four supporting walls of the Temple Mount that still stands after the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans. It is the wall that faces westward, and is the closest in proximity to the site of the Holy of Holies, the most sacred location within the Temple for the Jewish people. Since the Temple's destruction, the Western Wall has served as a source of inspiration, and the focus of yearning and prayer for the Jewish people. It has helped keep the memory of the Temple alive and is now a site of prayer and a location for formal ceremonies of the State of Israel, including

swearing in ceremonies for IDF soldiers. This guided tour examines archeological evidence about the history of the Temple Mount to enable participants to better understand how Israelis, from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds, perceive their history and connection to the land of Israel, and to provide context for how and why struggles for control of religious sites in Jerusalem remain major political flashpoints with local and global security implications.

18:30-20:00 Dinner on your own in Jerusalem – A list of recommended restaurants will be provided.

20:00-21:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 7+

Day 6: Friday, August 15th

Israel's Roots, Heritage, and the Impact on National Security

01:00 Departure from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel (1) Madison Sparber)

05:50 Arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York, USA (1) Madison Sparber)

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:30-09:00 Depart Hotel for Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial Museum

09:00-11:00 Visit to **Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial Museum, Jerusalem**
Background: By 1945, the Nazi's Third Reich had killed the majority of Europe's Jewish population, destroying a civilization that had flourished for centuries. Yad Vashem encapsulates and memorializes this tragic history. The visit will provide participants with an unparalleled opportunity to learn about the Holocaust, how it is perceived and understood through the eyes of Israelis, and how it significantly impacts Israel's national defense posture and diplomatic relationships today.

11:00-11:30 Depart for the City of David, Jerusalem

11:30-14:00 Tour of the **City of David, Jerusalem**

Background: The United States Embassy in Jerusalem, together with the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, have recognized the City of David as a testament to America's Judeo-Christian heritage and founding principles. The archeological discoveries at the City of David bring Biblical Jerusalem back to life and reaffirm the prophetic messages of freedom, justice and peace that inspired America's founders. The City of David is an archaeological excavation of the city of ancient Jerusalem, prior to

the Jewish–Roman wars and the destruction and the Second Temple in 70 CE. Participants will learn how Israelis, from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds, perceive their history and connection to the land of Israel. A key focus will be how this history and the interpretation of it strongly manifests itself in the political and religious challenges that Israeli experiences today in the modern world and how this impacts Israel’s national defense posture.

14:00-15:00 Lunch at Abu Camal, Old City, Jerusalem (no speakers).

15:00-17:00 **Guided tour of the Old City**, Jerusalem with Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide Ibgly Eliyahu, Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide #022114755

Background: Participants will be exposed to Jerusalem as city of continuing vital importance to three of the world’s great faiths. The walk through of the Old City will include an overview of government administration of the West Bank and a discussion of the current political dynamics in the West Bank, specifically the relationship between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority and the ongoing security challenges that affect Israelis and Palestinians, and how this impacts the broader security environment in the Middle East.

They will start with a visit to the **Jewish Quarter** of the Old City and learn about the layers of Judaism from the time of the First Temple until the present day, including the **Cardo**, the main thoroughfare of Roman Jerusalem. Participants will then continue to the traditional **Via Dolorosa**, the Way of the Cross, to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, to gain a greater appreciation of the importance of Jerusalem to the Christian world.

17:00-18:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya.

18:00-19:30 Voluntary review of trip by participants at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

19:30-22:00 Shabbat Dinner with **Stephanie L. Hallett**, Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Israel at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya.
Background: Shabbat is a day of rest that lasts from sundown on Friday evening through nightfall on Saturday night. Friday night dinner consists of a traditional meal and guests are considered an integral part of the weekly ritual. The Shabbat ceremony will consist of hymns, recitations, blessings, and eating, and provide participants with a unique window into modern Israeli cultural practices. Participation is an opportunity to strengthen ties with American foreign policy partners in Israel on a personal basis and gain a deeper understanding of each nation’s rich heritage through participation in a shared communal experience.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 6+

Day 7: Saturday, August 17th**Day of Departure / Israel's Roots & Heritage, the Impact on National Security**

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-10:30 Drive to the city **Tiberias**, founded in the year 20 CE and named after the Roman Emperor Tiberius.

Topics: Briefing by Ibgay Eliyahu, Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide #022114755 on the importance Christians have placed on the Holy Land over the centuries and how this has impacted military and political decision making from diverse groups including Jewish revolutionaries in the Roman Era, Crusaders in the Middle Ages, and Great Britain in World War I.

10:30-12:30 Exploration of the Sea of Galilee region with Ibgay Eliyahu by visiting Christian holy sites including the **Tabgha**, site of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish, and **Capernaum**, one of the first villages where Jesus taught to gain a fuller understanding of the importance of the Holy Land to the Christian world, the security implications of the religious importance of the region, and how this impacts the global political landscape with Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide.

12:30-13:30 Participants will gain a fuller understanding of the importance of the Holy Land to Christians and Jews today and how this impacts the global political landscape, by visiting the **Magdala Home** of Mary Magdalen and recently uncovered 2,000-year-old city which provides a window into the world of Jesus and his disciples in Magdala, Galilee with Ibgay Eliyahu. Magdala is a unique Holy Land site with a first century city where the Jewish residents gathered in a synagogue where Jesus visited and taught. Discussion will also provide an overview of the vibrant Christian community in Israel, the only place in the Middle East with a growing Christian population.

13:30-15:00 Lunch, Magdalena Restaurant, Migdal Junction, Magala Center Migdal (no speakers).

15:00-16:00 Tour of the **Kinneret**, also known as the Sea of Galilee.
Topic: Briefing by Ibgay Eliyahu on the importance of the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River as both a border and a key water source for Israel and Jordan and the impact this plays in Israeli national security strategy. Discussion of the sea's historic importance, including to Christians for its connection to Jesus, who spent much of his life on or near it, and to late 19th century Zionists, who's dream of settling the Land of Israel became reality as pioneers and their families returned to the land and created a new form of agricultural settlement, the kibbutz.

16:00-17:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

17:00-18:00 Voluntary review of the final day of the trip by participants at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

END OF OFFICIAL PROGRAM

20:00 Departure to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.

No overnight

Total Hours of Programming: 6+

TRAVEL: Sunday, August 18th

00:05 Departure from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel (2) Luke Burke, 3) Zachary Huff, 4) David Horsley)

01:00 Departure from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel (5) James Fleet, 6) Steven Goodall, 7) Bethany Schrock, 8) Trevor Tackett, 9) Sarah Salas, 10) William Layton, 11) Delia Kashat, and 12) John Kolb)

04:05 Arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York, USA (2) Luke Burke, 3) Zachary Huff, 4) David Horsley)

05:50 Arrival at John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York, USA (5) James Fleet, 6) Steven Goodall, 7) Bethany Schrock, 8) Trevor Tackett, 9) Sarah Salas, 10) William Layton, 11) Delia Kashat, and 12) John Kolb)

08:35 Departure from John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York, USA (everyone)

10:14 Arrival in Washington Reagan Airport, Washington, D.C., USA (everyone)

###