RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
2026 SEP -1 AM 11:23

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

Travel Dates:
08/14/2026 to 08/23/2026

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$3,550.00	$2,940.00	$1,118.00	$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.

9/1/2026
Date

Pieter van Wingerden
Printed Name of Traveler

PVW
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.

9/1/2026
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: Day 1, 19:00-21:30: Briefing with Brig. Gen. (res.) Yaron Beit-On, Chief of Staff of the Yahalom Brigade, the IDF Head of the Subterranean Warfare branch switched to a 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. Topic: Israel's recovery from the Oct. 7th terrorist attacks, including discussion of his role leading resettlement of internally displaced persons in southern Israel, challenging in rebuilding communities physically and psychologically, and how private-public partnerships in Israel contributed to the process. Brig. Gen. (res.) Yaron Beit-On was deployed to Columbia to assist with recovery operations in the aftermath of the recent earthquake there. Day 2 13:30:14:00 Briefing by Mr. Dolan Abu Saleh, Head of the Majdal Shams Local Council. Topic: Visit to Druze village of Majdal Shams. Briefing by Druze village leaders. Discussion of the July 27, 2024, Hezbollah rocket attack that landed on a soccer game resulting in the death of 12 children and the Druze community in Israel more broadly. Insufficient time to travel between locations with other scheduled briefings.

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

○ Yes ● No

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

JINSA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Pieter van Wingerden
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

May 4, 2026

Dear Pieter,

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 16-22, 2026.**[1]

We take your security very seriously and have successfully organized several major programs and policy trips to Israel since 7 October 2023. Our Israel team, led by IDF MG (ret.) Yaacov Ayish, is constantly monitoring the security situation, and we will adjust our plans 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 has provided 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

[1] We will most likely depart for Israel late Saturday, August 15 and arrive on Sunday, August 16. We will depart from Israel the evening of Saturday, August 22 and arrive back in the United States on the morning of Sunday, August 23.

JINSA 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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 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:

- Middle East regional security challenges confronting the United States and Israel;
- The impact of the Israel's multi-front war against Iran and its so-called Axis of Resistance that started with the Hamas terrorist attack on October 7, 2023;
- 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 May 15, 2026 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 Ethics Committee no later than July 16, 2026 will be provided upon confirmation of participation:

- 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:
PIETER VAN WINGERDEN

Employing Office/Committee:
BANKS, JIM

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

Destination(s):
Herzliya, Israel

Travel Dates:
08/14/2026 to 08/23/2026

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.

In traveler's role as Defense Policy Advisor, supports the Senator's work on national security and defense issues.

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.

July 28, 2026
Date

PVW
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 Jim Banks
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize
Pieter van Wingerden
(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)

July 28, 2026
Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA): JINSA Congressional National Security Program to Israel 2026

Pieter van Wingerden

Title:
None

Employing Office/Committee:
BANKS, JIM

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):

Herzliya, Israel

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

In traveler's role as Defense Policy Advisor, supports the Senator's work on national security and defense issues.

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)

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

Phone Number
(703) 946-8363

Organization URL
https://jinsa.org/

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 - JINSA Congressional National Security Program to Israel 2025

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 does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyists.*

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

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 in 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?

- [x] 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

- [x] 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

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

- [x] 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:
08/14/2026 @ 05:30 PM

Trip End Date/Time:
08/23/2026 @ 03:05 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: $3,550.00 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$3,000.00

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
08/15/2026	08/22/2026	Ritz Carlton	Herzliya		Israel	7	$420.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $1118.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
08/15/2026	$0.00	$0.00	$80.00	$0.00	**$80.00**	Herzliya		Israel	No
08/16/2026	$0.00	$40.00	$118.00	$0.00	**$158.00**	Herzliya		Israel	No
08/17/2026	$0.00	$40.00	$118.00	$0.00	**$158.00**	Caesarea		Israel	No
08/18/2026	$0.00	$40.00	$118.00	$0.00	**$158.00**	Tel Aviv		Israel	No
08/19/2026	$0.00	$40.00	$118.00	$0.00	**$158.00**	Tel Aviv		Israel	No
08/20/2026	$0.00	$40.00	$118.00	$0.00	**$158.00**	Jerusalem		Israel	No
08/21/2026	$0.00	$40.00	$118.00	$0.00	**$158.00**	Jerusalem		Israel	No
08/22/2026	$0.00	$40.00	$50.00	$0.00	**$90.00**	Herzliya		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 All additional attachments are below.

Document Name
JINSA CNSP 2026 Itinereary

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 16 through August 22

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)

June 8, 2026 — *(date)*

2026 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. **Pieter van Wingerden**, Defense Policy Advisor to Sen. Jim Banks (R-IN)
2. **Cecily Monson**, National Security Legislative Correspondent to Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)
3. **Bridget Greene**, Military Legislative Assistant to Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)
4. **Alana Foodman,** Military Legislative Correspondent to Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC)
5. **Grace Kim,** National Security Advisor to Sen. Elisa Slotkin (D-NC)
6. **David Camhi**, Legislative Aide to Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
7. **Robert Waisanen**, Senior Advisor to Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV)
8. **Ben Lebowitz**, Legislative Aide to Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
9. **Nikita Mann**, Senior Policy Analyst in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
10. **Jooeun Kim**, Legislative Assistant to Sen. Mark Kelley (D-AZ)
11. **Joe Gookin**, Policy Advisor to Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH)
12. **Will Hewitt,** National Security Advisor to Sen. Ashley Moody (R-FL)
13. **Kaitlin Kleiber**, Defense Policy Advisor to Sen. Jim Banks (R-IN)
14. **Hannah Schwartz**, National Security Advisor to Sen. Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV)

JINSA

The Jewish Institute for National Security of America
2026 Congressional National Security Program to Israel
August 14-23, 2026

TRAVEL: Friday, August 14th

17:30 Departure of delegation from Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C., USA

TRAVEL: Saturday, August 15th

07:45 Arrival at Munich Airport, Munich, Germany

11:10 Departure from Munich Airport, Munich, Germany

16:00 Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel

16:00-17:30 Depart to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 4 Hashunit Street, Herzliya, 4655504, Israel

17:30-19:00 Executive Time

19:00-21:00 **JINSA Delegation Welcome Dinner with 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 U.S. / Israel Relations," a strategic overview of U.S.-Israel defense and security relations with a focus on concurrent priorities with regards to the ongoing struggle against the Iranian Axis of Resistance.

Day 1: Sunday, August 16th
Grand Strategy and Regional Perspective, Israel's Policy and Defense Strategy Day

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-10:00 Executive Time

10:00-11:30 Briefing by **MG Amidror**, former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: "Israel's Asymmetric Position in the Middle East," an overview of the Israel's overall strategic environment, followed by discussion of the evolution of U.S. / Israel defense cooperation relationship since the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks.

11:30-13:00 Briefing by **MG Ayish** 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 Unites States and Israel strengthens the ability of both nations to address shared security concerns.

13:00-14:30 Lunch at Benny Hadayag (the Fisherman), Ritz-Carlton Hotel complex, Herzliya (no speakers)

14:30-16:00 Executive Time

16:00-17:30 Briefing by **MG Amikam Norkin**, Former Commander of the Israeli Air Force and a former member of the Israel Defense Forces General Staff and JINSA Distinguished Fellow at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: Evolving threats in the air domain from cruise and ballistic missiles, manned and unmanned aerial systems, and rocket attacks from Iran and Iranian proxies including Hamas and Hezbollah, particularly in the context of joint U.S.-Israel military operations this year against Iran (Operations Epic Fury / Roaring Lion).

17:30-18:30 **Screening of the IDF Spokesperson office video "Bearing Witness"** about the massacre of October 7th at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: The video is a sequential collection of raw footage of the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attack painstakingly compiled and put together by the IDF. It includes videos taken by terrorists themselves from their own body cameras and dashcams, data from the phones of victims, and security camera footage.

18:30-19:00 Executive Time

19:00-20:00 Briefing with **Brig. Gen. (res.) Yaron Beit-On,** Chief of Staff of the Yahalom Brigade, the IDF Head of the Subterranean Warfare branch
Topic: Lessons learned from subterranean warfare. How the IDF countered Hamas subterranean capabilities, and examples of the sorts of technological solutions employed to do so, many of which were jointly developed with the United States.

20:00-21:30 **JINSA Delegation Dinner with BG. Yaron Beit-On**, Chief of Staff of the Yahalom Brigade, the IDF Head of the Subterranean Warfare branch
Topic: Continued discussion on lessons learned from subterranean warfare, analysis of prospective future developments in this military domain moving forward, and potential applications to help better secure America's borders.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya *Total Hours of Programming: 7+*

Day 2: Monday, August 17th

Northern Command Day- Syria-Lebanon Day

06:30 Breakfast available

08:00-09:30 Depart Hotel for **War Reserves Stockpile Allies-Israel (WRSA-I)**. 30-minute brief by **MG Ayish** on the 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.

09:30-10:30 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 and how it could be enhanced to be more useful.

10:30-11:00 Travel to Kfar Giladi Hotal in city of Kefar Gil'adi

10:00-11:45 Briefing on **IDF 91st Division at Northern Command by Lt. Col. Liad Diamond, Head of the VIP Delegations Branch** at Kfar Giladi Hotel, Kefar Gil'adi
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.

11:45-12:00 Departure from Kfar Giladi Hotel to Brigade 769 at Camp Gibor

12:00-12:30 **Weapons Exhibition** and Brigade Briefing at Brigade 769 at Camp Gibor
Topic: Tour and briefing by **Col. Yuval Mazor, Commander Brigade 769** of a weapons exhibition of military weapons and materials seized from Hezbollah and Iranian backed forced used against Israel since the October 7th attacks.

12:30-13:30 Depart to Majdal Shams Local Council

13:30:14:00 Briefing by **Mr. Dolan Abu Saleh**, Head of the Majdal Shams Local Council.
Topic: Visit to Druze village of Majdal Shams. Briefing by Druze village leaders. Discussion of the July 27, 2024, Hezbollah rocket attack that landed on a soccer game resulting in the death of 12 children and the Druze community in Israel more broadly.

14:00-14:45 Depart for the **Valley of Tears**

14:45-15:45 Briefing by Brig. **Gen. (res.) Avigdor Kahalani**, former Deputy Commander of the Ground Forces Headquarters
Topic: First-hand account briefing of the tank battles between Israel and Egypt during the Six-Day War and between Israel and Syrian forces during the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

15:45-16:00 Drive to **Mt. Bental, IDF 210th Division** (near the Syrian border). Briefing by **MG Ayish** on the bus. Lunch 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.

16:00-16:30 Briefing by **IDF 210th Division by an IDF officer, Golan Israel Liaison Office,** at Mt. Bental 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 under the al-Shaara government.

16:30-17:00 Drive to **Israel-Syrian militarized zone/UN Disengagement Observer Force** (UNDOF) post at Quneitra Crossing

17:00-17:30 **UNDOF Base Tour and Briefing**
Tour and briefing at the UNDOF base by an UNDOF representative
Topic: The role of the United Nations at Quneitra Crossing, created in the aftermath of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Discussion of the role of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) at the crossing and its current role in the aftermath of the fall of the Assad regime in Syria and rise of the al-Shaara government.

17:30-19:00 Depart for Caesarea

19:00-20:00 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 drone threat 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.

20:00-20:40 Return to Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya *Total Hours of Programming: 8+*

Day 3: Tuesday, August 18th
Southern Command and the Gaza Strip

06:00 Breakfast Available

08:30-10:00 Depart to Southern Israel, Iron Dome site

10:00-10:45 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 Gevim.
Topic: The value of this critically important joint-U.S. / Israeli produced system in protecting civilian life and infrastructure.

10:45-11:15 Depart to **Kfar Aza**, in southern Israel. Briefing by **MG Ayish**.
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.

11:15-12:30 **Visit to Kfar Aza**, in southern Israel.
Topic: Tour led by **IDF Diplomatic Liaison officer in the IDF Spokesperson Unit**, 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.

12:30-12:45 Depart for IDF **Nahal Oz Camp**

12:45-13:30 Tour and briefing by **Sgt. (res.) Oriya Berlin** at IDF Nahal Oz Camp
Topic: First-hand account of Sgt. Berlin, who served as a soldier in the Observation unit, of the events of Oct 7th, in which many of her teammates were killed or taken hostage.

13:30-13:45 Depart for **Nova Festival Victims Memorial**, near Kibbutz Re'im.

13:45-14:15 Visit **Nova Festival Victims Memorial**, near Kibbutz Re'im.
Topic: Tour led by **an IDF officer** 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

14:15-14:45 Drive to **Israeli Air Force (IAF) Base Hazerim** 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.

14:45-16:00 Briefing by **IAF Squadron at Hazerim Air Force Base** and walk-around of the base led by **IAF officer.**
Topic: Tour led by an IAF officer explaining day-to-day base operations by viewing runways, hangers, and a mission briefing room. Briefing by an IAF officer on the squadron's role in recent wartime operations, with a specific briefing on Israel's "Operation Roaring Lion" against Iran in 2026.

16:00-17:00 Depart for the US-backed Civil-Military Coordination Center (CMCC) in Kiryat Gat

17:00-18:00 Briefing at the CMCC headquarters in Kiryat Gat by **Lt. Col. Yogev Shahaf**, IDF Intelligence Officer of the Corps and Headquarters.
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.

18:00-19:00 Drive to Dinner, Concierge, Dizengoff 95, Tel Aviv.

19:00-20:30 Dinner at Concierge, Tel Aviv (no speakers).

20:30-21:00 Return to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya *Total Hours of Programming: 7+*

Day 4: Wednesday, August 19th
U.S.-Israel Defense Cooperation Day

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00- 08:30 Depart to the IDF HQ, HaKirya, Tel Aviv.

08:30-09:30 Briefing by **the Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D)**
Topic: How Israel develops technological, logistical and industrial infrastructure to support Israeli national security operations at IDF HQ.

09:30-10:00 Depart to Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in International Airport Ben Gurion in Lod.

10:00-12:00 Visit to IAI and brief by **IAI executives Yael Barenboim (Rocket Division), Yechiel Shalev (Space Division) and Amir Dan (Aerial Defense Division)** in Lod.
Topic: History of Israel Aerospace Industries and background of collaboration with the U.S. defense industrial base, with a focus on the significant role IAI has played in the development of Israel's world class integrated air and missile defense systems, and emerging technologies in this field.

12:00-14:00 Depart to the **David Institution, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd** in Lod.
Lunch on the bus.

14:00-17:00 Visit to **the David Institution, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems** Ltd main offices & testing sites and **briefings by Rafael executives Gidi Wise, Yossi Pinto (on Trophy) and Jonathan (on Iron Beam)** in 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, particularly with regards to the Iron Beam directed energy missile defense system, the Trophy tank defense system, and Spike family of electro-optical missiles.

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

18:00-20:00 **Dinner** at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya. **MG Ayish** led roundtable discussion.
Topic: Summary of the key points from the day's briefings on the future of Israeli integrated air and missile defense efforts. Briefing on how Israeli's mandatory military service requirements operate. Guidance and preview of the next day's events.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya *Total Hours of Programming: 7+*

Day 5: Thursday, August 20th
Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Israel's National Security Council

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-09:00 Depart for Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem

09:00-10:00 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, and the upcoming need to negotiate a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States.

10:00-11:00 Meeting with **Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Strategic Affairs Bureau official** at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: Briefing on the Iranian nuclear program over the years, Operation Rising Lion (the 12-day war with Iran), and considerations for next steps moving forward to prevent the Iranians from rebuilding their nuclear program.

11:00-12:00 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 and the current state of relations with countries including Egypt, Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco.

12:00-13:00 Depart for IDF Central Command, Jerusalem

13:00-14:00 Briefing at Central Command by **Lt. Col. Nissim Ben Efraim**, Intelligence Officer for Judea and Samaria.

Topic: Briefing on recent security developments in Judea and Samaria (or the West Bank) and prospects and potential impediments to improving relations with the Palestinians.

14:00-15:00 Depart for the Prime Minister's office, Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem. Lunch on the bus

15:00-16:00 Meeting with **Dr. Josef Draznin, Deputy National Security Advisor for Foreign Policy for Prime Minister Netanyahu** at Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem
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.

16:00-16:30 Depart for Western Wall, Ha'Omer 2 Jerusalem, Israel 97500

16:30-17:30 Old City, Jerusalem. Briefing by **Mr. Khaled Abu Toameh,** an Israeli Arab Journalist in Jerusalem.
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.

17:30-17:45 Travel to Western Wall, Ha'Omer 2 Jerusalem, Israel 97500

17:45-18:45 **Western Wall Tunnel 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.

18:45-19:45 Return to Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya.

20:00-21:00 Dinner on your own in Tel Aviv – A list of recommended restaurants provided.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya *Total Hours of Programming: 6.5+*

Day 6: Friday, August 21st

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

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.

14:00-17:00 Guided tour of the Old City, Jerusalem with **Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide Ibgy 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.

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

19:00-19:30 Executive Time.

19:30-22:00 Shabbat Dinner at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya with **MG Ayish.**
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 22nd
Day of Departure / Israel's Roots & Heritage, the Impact on National Security

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-10:00 Drive to the city **Tiberias**, founded in 20 CE and named after the Roman Emperor Tiberius.
Topic: Briefing by **Ibgy 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.

10:00-12:30 **Tour of Capernaum and key Christian churches near the Sea of Galilee.**
Topic: Exploration of the Sea of Galilee region with Ibgy Eliyahu by visiting Christian holy sites including the Mount of Beatitudes, site of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount; 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.

12:30-13:15 Tour of the **Kinneret,** also known as the Sea of Galilee.

Topic: Briefing by Ibgy 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.

13:15-13:30 Drive to the Yardenit, Jordan River Baptismal Site of Jesus, Kibbutz Kinneret.

13:30-14:30 **Briefing at Yardenit, Jordan River Baptismal Site of Jesus**, Kibbutz Kinneret, one of Israel's most sacred religious sites for Christians and the second oldest kibbutz in Israel.
Topic: Briefing by Ibgy Eliyahu on the significance the Christian community has placed on this historic site, and the intimate relationship Christians have with Israel's biblical history.

14:30-15:25 Lunch, Magdalena Restaurant, Migdal Junction, Magala Center Migdal (no speakers).

15:25-15:30 Drive to **Magdala Home**, Migdal Junction, Magala Center Migdal.

15:30-16:00 **Tour of Magdala Home,** Migdal Junction, Magala Center Migdal
Topic: Tour with Ibgy Eliyahu to allow participants to 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 touring 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. 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.

END OF OFFICIAL PROGRAM

16:00-18:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

18:00-20:00 Executive Time

20:00-21:00 Dinner, no speakers

21:00-23:00 Executive Time

23:00 Departure to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.

No overnight *Total Hours of Programming: 6+*

TRAVEL: Sunday, August 23rd

04:50	Departure of delegation from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel
10:00	Arrival at Munich Airport, Munich, Germany
12:00	Departure from Munich Airport, Munich, Germany
15:05	Arrival in Washington Dulles Airport, Washington, D.C., USA

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JINSA

The Jewish Institute for National Security of America
2026 Congressional National Security Program to Israel
August 14-23, 2026

TRAVEL: Friday, August 14th

17:30 Departure of delegation from Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C., USA

TRAVEL: Saturday, August 15th

07:45 Arrival at Munich Airport, Munich, Germany

11:10 Departure from Munich Airport, Munich, Germany

16:00 Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel

16:00-17:30 Depart to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 4 Hashunit Street, Herzliya, 4655504, Israel

17:30-19:00 Executive Time

19:00-21:00 **JINSA Delegation Welcome Dinner with 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 U.S. / Israel Relations," a strategic overview of U.S.-Israel defense and security relations with a focus on concurrent priorities with regards to the ongoing struggle against the Iranian Axis of Resistance.

Day 1: Sunday, August 16th
Grand Strategy and Regional Perspective, Israel's Policy and Defense Strategy Day

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-09:00 Executive Time

09:00-10:00 Briefing by **MG Amidror**, former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: "Israel's Asymmetric Position in the Middle East," an overview of the Israel's overall strategic environment, followed by discussion of the evolution of U.S. / Israel defense cooperation relationship since the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks.

10:00-11:00 Briefing by **MG Ayish** 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 Unites States and Israel strengthens the ability of both nations to address shared security concerns.

11:00-11:45 Executive Time

11:45-12:45 Lunch at Benny Hadayag (the Fisherman), Ritz-Carlton Hotel complex, Herzliya (no speakers)

12:45-13:00 Executive Time

13:00-14:00 Briefing by **MG Amikam Norkin**, Former Commander of the Israeli Air Force and a former member of the Israel Defense Forces General Staff and JINSA Distinguished Fellow at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: Evolving threats in the air domain from cruise and ballistic missiles, manned and unmanned aerial systems, and rocket attacks from Iran and Iranian proxies including Hamas and Hezbollah, particularly in the context of joint U.S.-Israel military operations this year against Iran (Operations Epic Fury / Roaring Lion).

14:00-14:30 **Screening of the IDF Spokesperson office video "Bearing Witness"** about the massacre of October 7th at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: The video is a sequential collection of raw footage of the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attack painstakingly compiled and put together by the IDF. It includes videos taken by terrorists themselves from their own body cameras and dashcams, data from the phones of victims, and security camera footage.

14:30-15:00 Executive Time

15:00-16:00 Briefing with **LtC Roi Bloch, Heard of the International Law Branch within the Israeli Military Advocate General (MAG)** at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
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.

16:00-19:00 Executive Time

19:00-21:00 **JINSA Delegation Dinner with Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs official**, at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: "The State of U.S. / Israel Relations" from the Israeli perspective, a strategic overview of U.S.-Israel defense and security relations with a focus on concurrent priorities at the UN and the Board of Peace.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya *Total Hours of Programming: 6+*

Day 2: Monday, August 17th
Northern Command Day- Syria-Lebanon Day

06:30 Breakfast available

07:30-09:00 Depart Hotel for **War Reserves Stockpile Allies-Israel (WRSA-I)**. Brief by **MG Ayish** on the 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 and how it could be enhanced to be more useful.

09:30-10:00 Travel to **IDF Northern Command, 91st Division** at Mt. Adir.

10:00-11:30 Briefing by **IDF 91st Division at Northern Command by an IDF officer**
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** (near the Syrian border). Briefing by **MG Ayish** on the bus. Lunch 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.

12:30-13:30 Briefing by **IDF 210th Division by an IDF officer, Golan Israel Liaison Office,** at Mt. Bental 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 under the al-Shaara government.

13:30-13:45 Drive to **Israel-Syrian militarized zone/UN Disengagement Observer Force** (UNDOF) post at Quneitra Crossing

13:45-14:15 Briefing **by an IDF officer** at Quneitra Crossing
Topic: IDF management of the Israel-Syrian border and the role of the United Nations at Quneitra Crossing, created in the aftermath of the 1973 Yom Kippur

War. Discussion of the role of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) at the crossing and its current role in the aftermath of the fall of the Assad regime in Syria and rise of the al-Shaara government.

14:15-14:45 Depart for Majdal Shams, Golan Heights.

14:45-15:45 Visit to Druze village of **Majdal Shams**. Briefing by Druze village leaders.
Topic: Discussion of the July 27, 2024 Hezbollah rocket attack that landed on a soccer game resulting in the death of 12 children and the Druze community in Israel more broadly.

15:45-16:45 Depart for old Caesarea Port, Caesarea.

16:45-17:45 Executive time in Caesarea.

17:45-19:15 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 drone threat 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.

19:15-20:15 Return to Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya

Overnight: *Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya* *Total Hours of Programming: 8+*

Day 3: Tuesday, August 18th
Southern Command and the Gaza Strip

06:00 Breakfast Available

08:15-10:00 Drive to **Israeli Air Force (IAF) Base Nevatim** near Beersheba. 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.

10:00-11:45 Briefing by **IAF Squadron at Nevatim Air Force Base** and walk-around of the base led by **IAF officer.**
Topic: Tour led by an IAF officer explaining day-to-day base operations by viewing runways, hangers, and a mission briefing room. Briefing by an IAF officer on the F-35 squadrons' role in current wartime operations, with a specific briefing on Israel's "Operation Roaring Lion" against Iran in 2026.

11:45-12:15 Depart to the IDF experimental Terror Tunnel at the IDF Gaza Division by bus. Lunch on the bus

12:15-13:15 Briefing by the **IDF Head of the Subterranean Warfare branch** at the Gaza Division near Kibbutz Kissufim, under the jurisdiction of Eshkol Regional Council.
Topic: Lessons learned from subterranean warfare in Gaza. How the IDF countered Hamas subterranean capabilities, and examples of the sorts of technological solutions employed to do so, many of which were jointly developed with the United States.

13:15-13:45 Depart to **Kfar Aza**, in southern Israel. Briefing by **MG Ayish**.
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.

13:45-15:00 **Visit to Kfar Aza**, in southern Israel.
Topic: Tour led by **IDF Diplomatic Liaison officer in the IDF Spokesperson Unit**, 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.

15:00-15:15 Depart for **Nova Festival Victims Memorial**, near Kibbutz Re'im.

15:15-16:15 Visit **Nova Festival Victims Memorial**, near Kibbutz Re'im.
Topic: Tour led by **an IDF officer** 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.

16:15-16:30 Depart to Kibbutz Gevim, in southern Israel.

16:30-17:00 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 Gevim.
Topic: The value of this critically important joint-U.S. / Israeli produced system in protecting civilian life and infrastructure.

17:00-18:30 Drive to Dinner, Concierge, Dizengoff 95, Tel Aviv.

18:30-19:30 Dinner at Concierge, Tel Aviv (no speakers).

19:30-20:00 Return to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya *Total Hours of Programming: 7+*

Day 4: Wednesday, August 19th
U.S.-Israel Defense Cooperation Day

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:15- 09:15 Depart to the IDF HQ, HaKirya, Tel Aviv.

09:15-10:15 Briefing by **IDF BG (ret.) Daniel "Danny" Gold at the Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D)**
Topic: Hon how Israel develops technological, logistical and industrial infrastructure to support Israeli national security operations at IDF HQ.

10:15-11:00 Depart to Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in International Airport Ben Gurion in Lod.

11:00-13:00 Visit to IAI and brief by **IAI executives Yael Barenboim (Rocket Division), Yechiel Shalev (Space Division) and Amir Dan (Aerial Defense Division)** in Lod.
Topic: History of Israel Aerospace Industries and background of collaboration with the U.S. defense industrial base, with a focus on the significant role IAI has played in the development of Israel's world class integrated air and missile defense systems, and emerging technologies in this field.

13:00-15:00 Depart to the **David Institution, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd** in Lod. Lunch on the bus.

15:00-17:00 Visit to **the David Institution, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems** Ltd main offices & testing sites and **briefings by Rafael executives Gidi Wise, Yossi Pinto (on Trophy) and Jonathan (on Iron Beam)** in 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, particularly with regards to the Iron Beam directed energy missile defense system, the Trophy tank defense system, and Spike family of electro-optical missiles.

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

18:00-20:00 **Dinner** at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya. **MG Ayish** led roundtable discussion.
Topic: Summary of the key points from the day's briefings on the future of Israeli integrated air and missile defense efforts. Briefing on how Israeli's mandatory military service requirements operate. Guidance and preview of the next day's events.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya *Total Hours of Programming: 7+*

Day 5: Thursday, August 20th
Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Israel's National Security Council

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-09:00 Briefing by **IDF Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) office** at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: How Israel manages humanitarian aid distribution in Gaza in coordination with partners including the UN, the Board of Peace, and private sector actors.

09:00-10:30 Depart for Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem

10:30-11:30 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, and the upcoming need to negotiate a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States.

11:30-12:15 Meeting with **Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Strategic Affairs Bureau official** at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: Briefing on the Iranian nuclear program over the years, Operation Rising Lion (the 12-day war with Iran), and considerations for next steps moving forward to prevent the Iranians from rebuilding their nuclear program.

12:15-13:30 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 and the current state of relations with countries including Egypt, Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco.

13:30-14:00 Depart to the Prime Minister's office, Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem. Lunch on the bus

14:00-15:00 Executive Time

15:00-16:00 Meeting with **Dr. Josef Draznin, Deputy National Security Advisor for Foreign Policy for Prime Minister Netanyahu** at Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem
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.

16:00-16:30 Depart for Western Wall, Ha'Omer 2 Jerusalem, Israel 97500

16:30-18:00 **Western Wall Tunnel 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.

18:00-19:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya.

20:00-21:00 Dinner on your own in Tel Aviv – A list of recommended restaurants provided.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya *Total Hours of Programming: 6.5+*

Day 6: Friday, August 21th

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

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 Abu Camal, Old City, Jerusalem. Briefing by **Mr. Khaled Abu Toameh,** an Israeli Arab Journalist in Jerusalem.
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.

15:00-17:00 Guided tour of the Old City, Jerusalem with **Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide Ibgy 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.

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

19:00-19:30 Executive Time.

19:30-22:00 Shabbat Dinner at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya with **MG Ayish**.
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 22th

Day of Departure / Israel's Roots & Heritage, the Impact on National Security

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-10:00 Drive to the city **Tiberias**, founded in 20 CE and named after the Roman Emperor Tiberius.
Topics: Briefing by **Ibgy 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.

10:00-12:30 **Tour of Capernaum and key Christian churches near the Sea of Galilee.** Exploration of the Sea of Galilee region with Ibgy Eliyahu by visiting Christian holy sites including the Mount of Beatitudes, site of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount; 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.

12:30-13:15 Tour of the **Kinneret,** also known as the Sea of Galilee.
Topic: Briefing 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.

13:15-13:30 Drive to the Yardenit, Jordan River Baptismal Site of Jesus, Kibbutz Kinneret.

13:30-14:30 **Briefing at Yardenit, Jordan River Baptismal Site of Jesus**, Kibbutz Kinneret, one of Israel's most sacred religious sites for Christians and the second oldest kibbutz in Israel.
Topic: Briefing on the significance the Christian community has placed on this historic site and the intimate relationship Christians have with Israel's biblical history.

14:30-15:25 Lunch, Magdalena Restaurant, Migdal Junction, Magala Center Migdal (no speakers).

15:25-15:30 Drive to **Magdala Home**, Migdal Junction, Magala Center Migdal.

15:30-16:00 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. 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.

END OF OFFICIAL PROGRAM

16:00-19:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

19:00-23:00 Executive Time

23:00 Departure to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.

No overnight *Total Hours of Programming: 6+*

TRAVEL: Sunday, August 23th

04:50 Departure of delegation from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel

10:00 Arrival at Munich Airport, Munich, Germany

12:00 Departure from Munich Airport, Munich, Germany

15:05 Arrival in Washington Dulles Airport, Washington, D.C., USA

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