

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

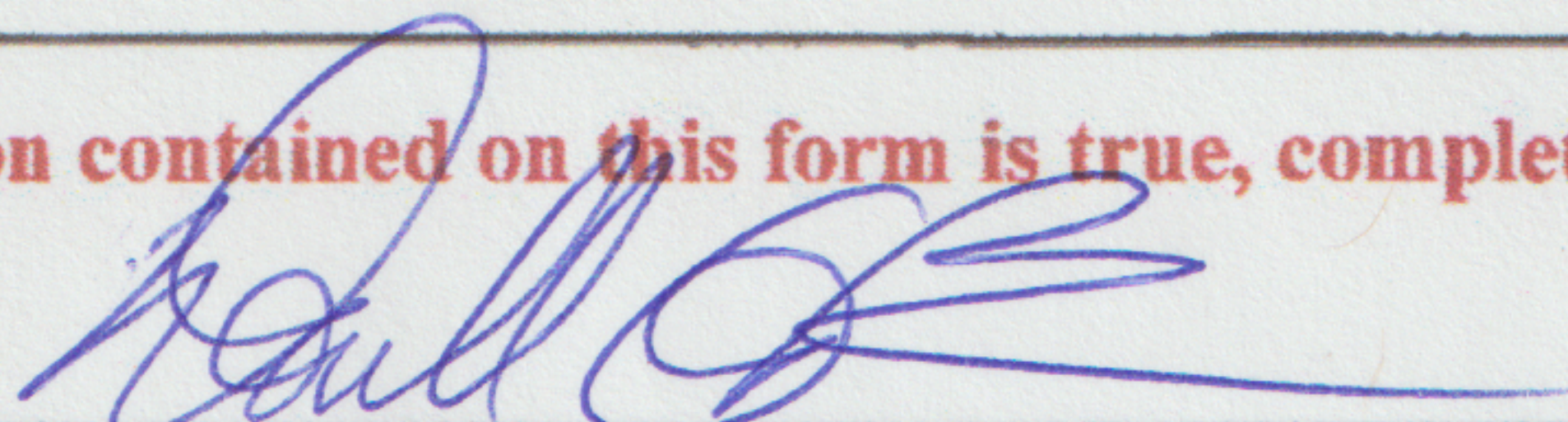
## EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at [gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov](mailto:gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov), within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

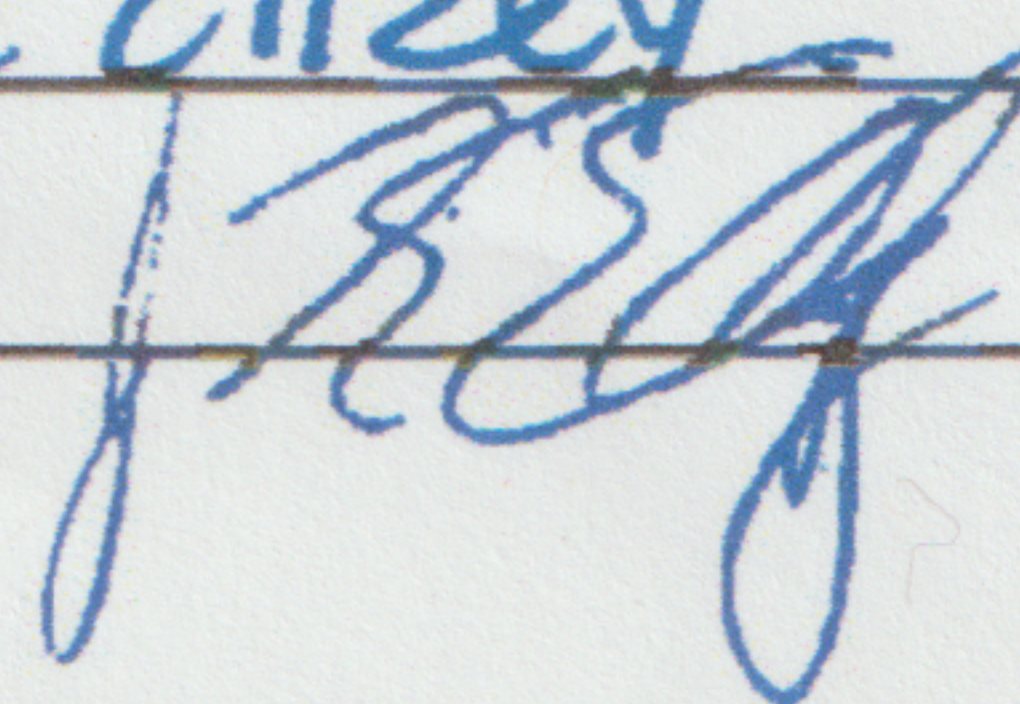
**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Name of Traveler: Donald G Barber
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: Friday, August 11, 2023 Return: Sunday, August 20, 2023  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C., U.S.A. Destination: Tel Aviv, Israel Return City: Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: See Tab A
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
  - a.  a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
  - b.  the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
  - c.  page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
  - d.  the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a.  I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*  
b. If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 8/24/23

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Jake Ellzey Date: 8/24/23  
Signature of Supervising Member: 



# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original  Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Travel Destination(s): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Date of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Return: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*Note:* You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

|                            | Total Transportation Expenses | Total Lodging Expenses | Total Meal Expenses | Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Traveler                   |                               |                        |                     |   |
| Accompanying Family Member |                               |                        |                     |   |

6.  All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

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

Signature: Michael Makovsky Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

**I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.*

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Donald Barber

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:  
The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Israel

4. a. Date of Departure: Friday, August 11, 2023 Date of Return: Sunday, August 20, 2023

b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?

If yes, list dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_

5. a. Yes  No  Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? If yes:

(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Yes  No  Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age:

6. a. Yes  No  Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?

b. If yes, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes  No  *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

*NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.*

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties.

Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.

Educational travel to deepen understanding of the U.S.-Israel bilateral defense and security relationship.

*My staff title is Legislative Director. I am specifically responsible for/lead the portfolios of national security, military affairs, armed services, foreign affairs, and other relevant issues. This educational trip will provide learning opportunities related to those issue areas only available by participating in this trip.*

9. Yes  No  Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

### ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

7/10/2023

Michael Guest, Mississippi  
*Chairman*  
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania  
*Ranking Member*

David P. Joyce, Ohio  
John H. Rutherford, Florida  
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York  
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas  
Mark DeSaulnier, California  
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina  
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Keelie Broom  
*Counsel to the Chairman*

David Arrojo  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

August 9, 2023

Mr. Donald Barber  
Office of the Honorable Jake Ellzey  
1721 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Barber:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for August 11 to 20, 2023, sponsored by the Jewish Institute for National Security of America.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

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<sup>1</sup> Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.



If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Guest". The first letter "M" is large and loops around the start of the name.

Michael Guest  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Wild". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "S" and "W" being prominent.

Susan Wild  
Ranking Member

MG/SW:rp





U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee website ([ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:  
The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)
2.  I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. Signify that the statement is true by checking box.
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
  - a.  The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other trip source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip: **OR**
  - b.  The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds: **OR**
  - c.  The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.  
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors:
4. Provide names and titles of ALL House Members *and* employees you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary):  
  
See attached Tab A
5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: Friday, August 11, 2023 Date of return: Sunday, August 20, 2023
7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C., U.S.A.  
b. Destination(s): Tel Aviv, Israel  
c. City of return: Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
8. **Check only one.** I represent that:
  - a.  The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: **OR**
  - b.  The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: **OR**
  - c.  The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. **Check only one of the following:**
  - a.  I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
  - b.  I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
  - c.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
  - d.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:





U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

10.  Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*
11. **Check only one of the following:**
- a.  I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box; OR*
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
- For nearly 50 years, JINSA has been 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.-Israel security cooperation relationship. Organized and run entirely by JINSA, this trip directly supports our core educational mission.
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- b. Class of travel: Coach  Business  First  Charter  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
14.  I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*
15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a.  The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b.  The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation.
- If "b" is checked:
- 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided):
- \$184
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:
- Educational travel to deepen understanding of the U.S.-Israel bilateral defense relationship.
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: Ritz Carlton City: Herzliya, Israel Cost Per Night: \$420  
Reason(s) for Selecting: Centrally located for meetings in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and meetings in the north and south of the country.
- Hotel Name: David Citadel City: Jerusalem, Israel Cost Per Night: \$420  
Reason(s) for Selecting: Centrally located for meetings in Jerusalem.
- Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_
17.  I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*





U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

### 18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

| <input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates | Total Transportation Expenses per Participant  | Total Lodging Expenses per Participant            | Total Meal Expenses per Participant             |
|---|--|---|---|
| For each Member, Officer, or Employee   | \$2,050 (\$1,500 for round trip international flights, \$550 for bus transportation to and from the airport and between sites in Israel) | \$2,940 (\$2,100 in Herzliya, \$840 in Jerusalem) | \$1,238 (\$900 in Herzliya, \$338 in Jerusalem) |
| For each Accompanying Family Member   |  |   |   |

|                                       | Other Expenses (dollar amount per item) | Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.) |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| For each Member, Officer, or Employee | \$700                                   | Guides, entry fees   |
| For each Accompanying Family Member   |   |  |

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

### 19. Check only one:

- a.  I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

### 20. I certify by my signature that

- a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
- b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
- c. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Michael Makovsky Date: 06/26/2023  
 Name: Dr. Michael Makovsky Title: President and CEO  
 Organization: The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)  
 Address: 1101 14th Street, NW, Suite 1030, Washington, D.C. 20005  
 Email: mmakovsky@jinsa.org Telephone: (202) 667-3900

## INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

[ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov](mailto:ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov) | 202-225-7103  
More information and forms available at [ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)





U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. **This form and any attachments may be delivered to the Committee at 1015 Longworth or e-mailed to [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).**

**Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date.** Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Donald Barber

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): \_\_\_\_\_

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Jake Ellzey (TX)

Office Address: 1721 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Telephone Number: (202) 225-2002

Email Address of Contact Person: don.barber@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

**KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM.** Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via e-mail: [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).





U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Donald Barber
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:  
The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel : Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: Friday, August 11, 2023 Date of Return: Sunday, August 20, 2023  
b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?  
If yes, list dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. Yes  No  Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**  
(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) Yes  No  Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age:
6. a. Yes  No  Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?  
b. If yes, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:
7. Yes  No  *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.  
  
*NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.*
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties.  
**Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**  
Educational travel to deepen understanding of the U.S.-Israel bilateral defense and security relationship.
9. Yes  No  **Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

### ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

7/10/2023





Mr. Don Barber  
United States House of Representatives  
1721 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 20, 2023

Dear Don,

On behalf of the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA), it is my pleasure to invite you to participate in our second annual [Congressional National Security Program to Israel](#), to be held **August 11-20, 2023**.

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.

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 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 security challenges confronting the United States and Israel;
- U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation with Abraham Accords countries;
- Perspective on how the Arab world understands and perceives Israel;
- Linkages between Israel's "Silicon Wadi," IDF weapons technology, and the U.S. defense establishment; and
- Cyber threats and challenges for military intelligence.



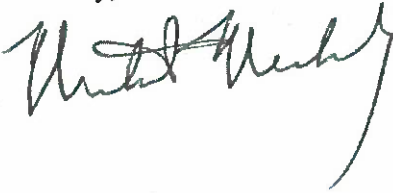
Please RSVP by April 28, 2023 to Morgan Viña at [mvina@jinsa.org](mailto:mvina@jinsa.org) or (202) 262-9385 or Matt Kenney at [mkenney@jinsa.org](mailto:mkenney@jinsa.org) or (703) 946-8363 to let us know if you are able to attend. Please also reach out to either Morgan or Matt if you have any questions about this invitation or travel arrangements.

Finally, the following information which participants will be required to submit to the **House / Senate Ethics Committee** no later than July 11, 2023 will be provided upon confirmation of participation:

- **House / Senate** Ethics Committee Primary Trip Sponsor Form
- Itinerary for participants

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Makovsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Michael Makovsky, Ph.D.  
President & CEO  
Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)



**Tab A**  
**2023 JINSA Congressional National Security Program to Israel**  
**House Participant List**

1. **Charles Truxall**, Legislative Director to Rep. Morgan Luttrell (TX)
2. **Catherine Treadwell**, Chief of Staff to Rep. Cory Mills (FL)
3. **Amelia Litynski**, Policy Advisor to Rep. Tom Emer (MN)
4. **John Faherty**, Executive Director for the For Country Caucus
5. **Donald Barber**, Legislative Director to Rep. Jake Ellzey (TX)
6. **Shaefer Bagwell**, Military Legislative Assistant to Rep. Mikie Sherrill (NJ)
7. **James Dolbow**, Military Legislative Assistant to Rep. Austin Scott (GA)
8. **Luis Reyes**, Military Legislative Assistant to Rep. John James (MI)
9. **Clare Plassche**, Legislative Director to Rep. Jared Moskowitz (FL)
10. **Merrilee Rogers**, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Jake Auchincloss (MA)
11. **Monika Konrad**, Military Legislative Assistant to Rep. Mark Amodei (NV)





**The Jewish Institute for National Security of America  
2023 Congressional National Security Program to Israel  
August 11–21, 2023**

**TRAVEL: Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**

- 08:00 Departure of Group 1 from Reagan Airport, Washington, D.C., USA. (1. Clare Plassche, 2. Monika Konrad, 3. James Dolbow, 4. Luis Reyes, 5. Merrilee Rogers)
- 16:40 Departure of Group 2 from Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C., USA (6. Catherine Perry, 7. Donald Barber, 8. Shaefer Bagwell, 9. Amelia Litynski, 10. John Faherty)

**TRAVEL: Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>**

- 09:15 Arrival of Group 1 at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel. (1. Clare Plassche, 2. Monika Konrad, 3. James Dolbow, 4. Luis Reyes, 5. Merrilee Rogers)
- 09:30-10:15 Group 1 depart to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 4 Hashunit Street, Herzliya, 4655504, Israel.
- 13:30 Arrival of Group 2 at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel (6. Catherine Perry, 7. Donald Barber, 8. Shaefer Bagwell, 9. Amelia Litynski, 10. John Faherty)
- 14:00-14:45 Group 2 depart to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya
- 10:15-18:00 Executive Time after arrival at Ritz-Carlton
- 18:00-20:00 Dinner at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya (no speakers).

*Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya*

**Day 1: Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**

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

- 06:30 Breakfast Available
- 09:00-10:00 Depart to the **Israeli Knesset** (Parliament), Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem.
- 10:00-11:00 Tour of the Knesset (Parliament)  
Topic: The role of the Knesset in the Israeli system of government, how the 120 members are elected, and the role it plays in the development and execution of Israeli national security policy.



- 11:00-12:00 Briefing by **Senior Staff from the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee** at the Knesset in Jerusalem.  
Topic: Brief on the role the Knesset plays in developing and executing Israeli national security policy. 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.
- 12:00-12:30 Depart for lunch in Jerusalem.
- 12:30-13:30 Lunch in Jerusalem at Abu Gosh Restaurant, 11 Hagoren Abu Ghosh (no speakers).
- 13:30-14:30 Drive back to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya.
- 14:30-15:00 Executive Time
- 15:00-16:00 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.
- 16:00-17:00 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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. 17:00-17:15 Executive Time
- 17:15-18:15 Briefing by **MG Amikam Norkin**, Former Commander of the Israeli Air Force, 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.
- 18:15-19:00 Executive Time



19:00-21:00 **JINSA Delegation Welcome Dinner with Joshua Zarka**, Deputy Director General for Strategic Affairs, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs 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: 7+*

**Day 2: Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**

**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.

09:30-09:45 Drive to Hezbollah Terror Tunnel near Metula. Briefing by **MG Ayish** on bus.  
Topic: How Hezbollah planned to use the tunnels from Lebanon to invade Israel and conduct raids against Israeli civilians and infrastructure.

09:45-10:30 **IDF 91<sup>st</sup> Division briefing and tour of the Remia Hezbollah Terror Tunnel** near Metula.  
Topic: Discussion of how Hezbollah spent years carving tunnels out of hard rock, at a cost of millions of dollars, designed to enable them to launch surprise attacks against Israel and how these efforts were thwarted. Tour of physical tunnel to enable participants to see first-hand the extent of the tunnels and the level of effort employed to develop them.

10:30-11:00 Travel to Israel's Northern Command in Safed.

11:00-11:45 Briefing by **Israel Defense Forces (IDF) 91<sup>st</sup> Division at Northern Command** in Safed.  
Topic: The strategic threat Israel faces on its northern border facing Lebanon from Hezbollah (and Iran).



- 11:45-12:15 Drive to lunch in Kibbutzim Sasa, Upper Galilee area of northern Israel (one mile from the border with Lebanon). Briefing by **MG Ayish** on the bus.  
Topic: The history and continuing use of Israel's Kibbutz economic system, the role it played in the history of Zionism and helping Israel to settle and secure its northern border region.
- 12:15-13:15 Lunch at **Kibbutzim Sasa**, the first Hebrew settlement founded in the high region of the Upper Galilee after the War of Independence in 1948 (no speakers).
- 13:15-14:30 Tour of the **Plasan factory**, run by Kibbutzim Sasa, a manufacturer of armor protection technology for vehicles, utilized by the U.S. military to protect troops in Iraq. Ride-along in military vehicles.
- 14:30-15:30 Drive to IDF 210<sup>th</sup> Division Base Isaac (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.
- 15:30-16:30 Briefing by **IDF 210<sup>th</sup> 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 violent incidents in recent years that have strained relations between the two nations. Discussion of Israeli humanitarian aid to Syrians during the recent civil war.
- 16:30-17:30 Drive to Caesarea Port, Caesarea.
- 17:30-18:00 Executive time in Caesarea to explore the Roman ruins.
- 18:00-20:00 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 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 the next day's events.
- 20:00 Return to hotel

*Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya*

*Total Hours of Programming: 9+*



**Day 3 Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**

**U.S.-Israel Defense Cooperation Day**

- 06:30 Breakfast Available
- 07:30-08:30 Depart to Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in International Airport Ben Gurion.
- 08:30-09:15 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.
- 09:15-10:00 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.
- 10:00-10:30 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.
- 10:30-10:45 Depart for the **Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D)**, at Israel's Ministry of Defense, Hakirya, IDF and MOD HQ 6473424
- 10:45-12:15 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.
- 12:15-12:30 Depart to Airport Café, Ben Gurion Airport City in Tel Aviv.
- 12:30-14:30 Lunch and briefing by **Khaled Abu Toameh**, Israeli-Arab Journalist for the Washington Post and Jerusalem Post at Airport Café, Ben Gurion Airport City in Tel Aviv.  
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.
- 14:30-15:00 Depart for Elbit Systems, 2 Hamachshev Netanya 4250712
- 15:00-17:00 Briefing by **Elbit Systems project manager** on the F-35 Gen III Helmet Mounted Display System and other joint U.S. / Israeli projects.
- 17:00-17:30 Drive to Dinner, Concierge, Dizengoff 95, Tel Aviv.
- 17:30-19:00 Dinner at Concierge, Tel Aviv (no speakers).



19:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton

*Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya*

*Total Hours of Programming: 7.5*

**Day 4: Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Southern Command and the Gaza Strip + Middle East Policy and Israel's National Security Day**

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-09:30 Drive to Israeli Air-Force (IAF) Base Ramon, southwest of Beersheba. Brief by **Yaniv Menachim**, JINSA Middle East Operations Manager on the bus.  
Topic: Overview of the Israeli Air-Force and base structure.

09:30-10:00 F16 training demonstration by 201 Squadron at Ramon Air Force Base.

10:00-10:30 Briefing by **IAF 201 Squadron** at Ramon Air Force Base.  
Topic: Discussion of day-to-day base operations and the squadron's role in operations like Operation Guardian of the Walls in 2021 and Operation Breaking Dawn in 2022.

10:30-11:30 Base tour of Ramon Air Force Base.

11:30-12:00 Depart to Kibbutz Eivim. Brief by **MG Ayish**  
Topic: The role played by Iron Dome missile defense system in the 2021 Gaza conflict and more recent missile attacks in protecting Israeli and Arab civilians.

12:00-12:40 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.

12:40-13:00 Depart for lunch near Bells Hills.

13:00-14:00 Lunch at food truck at Black Arrow Monument near Bells Hills (no speakers).

14:00-14:30 Depart to the Bells Hills Observation Point near the Gaza border. Brief by **MG Ayish** on 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.

14:30-15:00 **IDF briefing at Bells Hills Observation Point** overlooking Gaza from Israel.



Topic: Overview of the strategic landscape faced by Israel during the 11-day Gaza conflict in 2021, where Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad fired more than 4,455 total munitions at Israel. Roughly 90 percent of projectiles targeting civilian populated areas were intercepted by Iron Dome, while over 600 rockets fired from Gaza landed in Gaza itself. Discussion of what more recent small scale conflicts have looked like and what a future large conflict with Hamas might look like.

- 15:00-15:10 Depart for the **Gaza Division Command & Control Center at Camp Reim**
- 15:10-15:50 Visit and brief by the IDF at the Gaza Division Command & Control Center at Camp Reim.  
Topic: Briefing on observation and fire capabilities on the Israeli southern border to protect Israel's civilian population from rocket and missile attacks.
- 15:50-16:00 Depart for Kerem Shalom crossing at the end of Road 232
- 16:00-16:30 IDF briefing at the **Kerem Shalom crossing** into the Gaza Strip at the end of Road 232.  
Topic: Israeli Humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip and how it operates on a day-to-day basis.
- 16:30-17:30 Drive to **Brothers for Life** at HaElla 115, Kefar Truman, Israel, 73150
- 17:30-18:30 Visit and dinner at **Brothers for Life** at HaElla 115, Kefar Truman, Israel, 73150  
Topic: Gain insight into how Israeli supports their military veterans by visiting Brothers for Life, a non-profit organization, created and run by injured Israeli veterans, which gives critical and immediate help to other injured Israeli combat veterans.
- 18:30-19:00 Return to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel
- 19:00-21:00 Executive Time
- 19:00 Clare Plassche departure to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.
- 23:55 Clare Plassche Departure from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel.
- Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya      Total Hours of Programming: 8+*

**Day 5: Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Israel's Innovation Ecosystem and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Day**

06:30 Breakfast Available



- 09:30-10:00 Depart to Unit 8200 base Gllot. Brief by **Gen. Ayish** en route providing background context on Unit 8200.
- 10:00-11:00: Briefing by **IDF officer, Unit 8200**, the Israeli Intelligence Corps unit responsible for collecting signal intelligence (SIGINT) and code decryption at Camp Gllot.  
Topic: Discussion of the important role Unit 8200 plays to support Israeli national security, how the unit has served as an incubator for talent for Israeli's high-tech industry, and how it interacts with U.S. partner agencies in pursuit of shared goals.
- 11:15 Clare Plassche arrival at Reagan Airport, Washington, D.C.
- 11:00-11:30 Departure for David Citadel Hotel, King David St 7, Jerusalem
- 11:30-12:00 Executive time
- 12:00-13:30 Lunch at Mahane Yehuda Market (no speakers), 62 Agripas Yerushalayim 9430135
- 14:00-15:00 Meeting with **Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs official** with the North America branch at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.  
Topic: Briefing on the current state of U.S. / Israel foreign relations.
- 14:00-15:00 Meeting with **Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs official** with the Middle East Bureau at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 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, how to respond to the Iranian nuclear program, and emergent opportunities to expand and deepen the Abraham Accords diplomatic agreements.
- 15:00-15:30 Depart for David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem
- 15:30-17:00 Executive Time
- 19:00-21:00 Briefing with **Amb Ron Dermer**, Minister of Strategic Affairs at David Citadel Hotel  
Topic: In-depth discussion of topics such as the U.S. / Israel security relationship, emergent opportunities to expand and deepen the Abraham Accords, the potential for Israeli-Saudi normalization, and how best to respond to Iranian malign activity in the region.
- 21:00-22:15 **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 it 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.

*Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem*

*Total Hours of Programming: 6*

**Day 6: Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**

**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 at Panoramic Golden City, Old City, Jerusalem (no speakers).

15:00-17:00 Visit to the Old City, Jerusalem  
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 David Citadel, Jerusalem.

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

19:30-23:00 Shabbat Dinner at David Citadel, Jerusalem

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: David Citadel, Jerusalem*

*Total Hours of Programming: 6+*

### Day 7: Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

#### **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 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 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.

- 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. 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 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Return to David Citadel, Jerusalem

***END OF OFFICIAL PROGRAM***

- 17:00 Departure to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.

*No overnight*

*Total Hours of Programming: 6+*

- 23:55 Departure of Group 1 from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel. (1. Monika Konrad, 2. James Dolbow, 3. Luis Reyes, 4. Merrilee Rogers)

**TRAVEL: Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

- 04:45 Group 2 departure from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel. (5. Catherine Perry, 6. Donald Barber, 7. Shaefer Bagwell, 8. Amelia Litynski, 9. John Faherty)
- 11:15 Arrival of Group 1 at Reagan Airport, Washington, D.C. (1. Monika Konrad, 2. James Dolbow, 3. Luis Reyes, 4. Merrilee Rogers)
- 12:10 Group 2 arrival at Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C. (5. Catherine Perry, 6. Donald Barber, 7. Shaefer Bagwell, 8. Amelia Litynski, 9. John Faherty)





**The Jewish Institute for National Security of America  
2023 Congressional National Security Program to Israel  
August 11–20, 2023**

**TRAVEL: Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**

- 08:00 Departure of Group 1 from Reagan Airport, Washington, D.C., USA. (1. Clare Plassche, 2. Monika Konrad, 3. James Dolbow, 4. Luis Reyes, 5. Merrilee Rogers, 6. John Castillo)
- 16:40 Departure of Group 2 from Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C., USA (7. Donald Barber, 8. Shaefer Bagwell, 9. Amelia Litynski, 10. John Faherty)

**TRAVEL: Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>**

- 08:20 Departure of Charles Truxal from Heathrow Airport, London, UK
- 09:15 Arrival of Group 1 at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel. (1. Clare Plassche, 2. Monika Konrad, 3. James Dolbow, 4. Luis Reyes, 5. Merrilee Rogers, 6. John Castillo)
- 09:45-10:30 Transfer of Group 1 to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 4 Hashunit Street, Herzliya, 4655504, Israel.
- 10:30-15:15 Executive Time for Group 1
- 13:30 Arrival of Group 2 at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel (7. Donald Barber, 8. Shaefer Bagwell, 9. Amelia Litynski, 10. John Faherty)
- 14:00 Transfer of Group 2 to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya
- 15:15 Arrival of Group 2 at Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya
- 15:40 Arrival of Charles Truxal at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 15:15-18:00 Executive Time
- 18:00-20:00 Dinner at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya (no speakers).

*Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya*

**Day 1: Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**

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

- 06:30 Breakfast Available



- 09:00-10:00 Briefing by **U.S. Chargé d’Affaires ad interim Stephanie Hallet** (U.S. Embassy) at the Ritz-Carlton complex, 4 HaShunit Street, Herzliya  
Topic: Overview of U.S.-Israeli relations including an explanation of U.S.-Israel defense and security priorities internally to Israel and the region as well as the challenges and opportunities they present.
- 10:00-10:30 Executive Time
- 10:30-11:00 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: Overview of Israel’s evolving border geography, particularly focused on the role played by Israel’s first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, the interplay between the two cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and impact of the 1948 and 1967 wars.
- 11:00-12:00 Depart to the Prime Minister office, Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem.
- 12:30-13:30 Meeting with **Mr. Tzachi Hanegbi**, the Israeli National Security Advisor for Prime Minister Netanyahu and **Mr. Joseph Draznin**, the Israeli Deputy National Security Advisor.
- 13:30-14:15 Depart to the Israeli Knesset (Parliament), Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem.  
Lunch on the go\*
- 14:15-14:45 Briefing by **Mr. Roni Tal**, Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana  
Topic: The role of the Speaker of the Knesset, structure and operations of the Israeli system of government, and parliamentary elections.
- 14:45-15:30 Briefing by **Mr. Asaf Friedman, Director the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee** at the Knesset in Jerusalem.  
Topic: Brief on how the 120 members are elected and the role the Knesset plays in developing and executing Israeli national security policy. 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.
- 15:30-16:00 Tour of the Knesset (Parliament)  
Topic: The role of the Knesset in the Israeli system of government, the history of the foundation of the Israeli democratic system of governance, and the role the Knesset plays in the development and execution of Israeli national security policy.
- 16:00-17:00 Drive to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya



- 17:00-18:30 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- 18:30-19:15 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, 4 HaShunit Street, 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.
- 19:15-21:00 **JINSA Delegation Welcome Dinner with Joshua Zarka**, Deputy Director General for Strategic Affairs, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs 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 such as the Iranian nuclear program and expanding and deepening the Abraham Accords.

*Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya*

*Total Hours of Programming: 8+*

**Day 2: Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Northern Command Day- Syria-Lebanon-Hezbollah**

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 Drive to Hezbollah Terror Tunnel near Metula. Briefing by **MG Ayish** on bus.  
Topic: How Hezbollah planned to use the tunnels from Lebanon to invade Israel and conduct raids against Israeli civilians and infrastructure.
- 10:00-11:00 **IDF 91<sup>st</sup> Division briefing and tour of the Remia Hezbollah Terror Tunnel** near Metula.  
Topic: Discussion of how Hezbollah spent years carving tunnels out of hard rock, at a cost of millions of dollars, designed to enable them to launch surprise attacks against Israel and how these efforts were thwarted. Tour of physical tunnel to enable participants to see first-hand the extent of the tunnels and the level of effort employed to develop them.
- 11:00-11:15 Travel to Mt. Adir, Israel's Northern Command, 91<sup>st</sup> Division.
- 11:15-11:55 Briefing by **Israel Defense Forces (IDF) 91<sup>st</sup> Division at Northern Command**.  
Topic: The strategic threat Israel faces on its northern border facing Lebanon from Hezbollah (and Iran).
- 11:55-12:00 Drive to Kibbutz Sasa, Upper Galilee area of northern Israel (one mile from the border with Lebanon). Briefing by **MG Ayish** on the bus.  
Topic: The history and continuing use of Israel's Kibbutz economic system, the role it played in the history of Zionism and helping Israel to settle and secure its northern border region.
- 12:00-12:45 Visit to **Kibbutz Sasa**, the first Hebrew settlement founded in the high region of the Upper Galilee after the War of Independence in 1948. Presentation by **Yaron Roded, Vice President of Armored Vehicle Programs division at SASA Plasan**.
- 12:45-13:15 Tour led by Yaron Roded of the **Plasan factory**, run by Kibbutzim Sasa, a world leader in manufacturing armor protection technology for vehicles, many of which were utilized by the U.S. military in Iraq. Ride-along in military vehicles.
- 13:15-13:30 Ride along to the Kibbutz dining room
- 13:30-14:00 Lunch at Kibbutz Sasa
- 14:00-14:45 Drive to **Israel-Syrian militarized zone/UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)** post at Quneitra Crossing
- 14:45-15:15 Briefing by **MG Ayish** at Quneitra Crossing  
Topic: IDF management of the Israel-Syrian border and the role of the United Nations at Quneitra Crossing



- 15:15 -15:30 Drive to Mt. Bental, IDF 210<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 15:30-16:30 Briefing by **IDF 210<sup>th</sup> 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 violent incidents in recent years that have strained relations between the two nations. Discussion of Israeli humanitarian aid to Syrians during the civil war that began in 2011.
- 16:30-17:00 Drive to The Valley of Tears
- 17:00-18:00 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.
- 18:00-19:30 Depart to old Caesarea Port, Caesarea.
- 19:30-21:00 Dinner at Hazalbanim Restaurant (or Crusaders Restaurant), Caesarea Port, Caesarea.
- 21:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya
- Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya* *Total Hours of Programming: 8+*

### **Day 3 Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**

#### **U.S.-Israel Defense Cooperation Day**

- 06:30 Breakfast Available
- 08:00-09:00 Depart to ‘Palmahim’ Air Force Base near Kibbutz Palmachim. Brief by MG Ayish on bus.  
Topic: Overview of Israel’s integrated air defense architecture.
- 09:00-10:15 Briefing by **Moshe Patel**, Director of the Israel Missile Defense Organization, at the **Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D)**, on how it develops technological, logistical and industrial infrastructure to support



Israeli national security operations; guarantees Israel's ability to protect its civilians and maintain its qualitative military edge; and cooperates with international partners like the United States in the field of Research and Development (R&D). Particular focus on Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow 3 systems.

- 10:15-11:00 Depart for Elbit Systems, 2 Hamachshev Netanya 4250712
- 11:00-13:00 Briefings by **Gen. Miki Edelstein (ret.), Executive Vice President for Strategy; Nir Solomon, Head of the Autonomy Division; and Horace Spellman, Systems Engineer in the Underground Warfare Division at Elbit Systems** on joint U.S. / Israeli projects like the Phalanx system utilized by the U.S. Army to detect and destroy incoming threats on land.
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch at Elbit
- 14:00-15:00 Depart to Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) in International Airport Ben Gurion.
- 15:00-15:30 Visit to IAI and brief by **Boaz Levy, Chief Executive Officer of IAI** in Lod.  
Topic: History of Israel Aerospace Industries and background of collaboration with the U.S. defense industrial base.
- 15:30-16:00 Briefing by **Yael Bimbaum, IAI project manager** on the loitering munitions line at IAI, Lod.  
Topic: Gain insight into Israel's use of loitering munitions in the region and international partnerships..
- 16:00-16:30 Briefing by **Johnny Shaelit, IAI Deputy Director for Space** 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.
- 16:30-17:00 Briefing by **Amir Paun, IAI project manager** on IAI's production of air defense systems, including Arrow 3 and Arrow 2 interceptors, and BARAK.
- 17:00-17:30 Drive to Dinner, Concierge, Dizengoff 95, Tel Aviv.
- 17:30-19:00 Dinner at Concierge, Tel Aviv.
- 19:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya

*Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya*

*Total Hours of Programming: 6+*

**Day 4: Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Southern Command and the Gaza Strip + Middle East Policy and Israel's National Security Day**



- 06:30 Breakfast Available
- 08:30-9:30 Drive to Israeli Air-Force (IAF) Base Tel-Nuf. Brief by **Yaniv Menachim**, JINSA Middle East Operations Manager on the bus.  
Topic: Overview of the Israeli Air-Force and base structure.
- 09:30-11:15 Briefing by **IAF 210 Squadron** at Tel-Nuf Air Force Base.  
Topic: Presentation of IAF's use of UAV technology and discussion of day-to-day base operations and the squadron's role in operations like Operation Guardian of the Walls in 2021 and Operation Breaking Dawn in 2022.
- 11:15-12:15 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 Tel-Nuf Air Force Base.  
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.
- 12:15-13:30 Depart for **Bells Hills Gaza observation point**.
- 13:30-14:00 Briefing by **MG Ayish at Bells Hills- Gaza observation point**.  
Topic: Briefing on Israel's border management with Gaza and the role played by Iron Dome missile defense system in the 2021 Gaza conflict and more recent missile attacks in protecting Israeli and Arab civilians.
- 14:00-14:15 Depart for lunch at Black Arrow Monument near Bells Hills.
- 14:15-15:00 Lunch at food truck at Black Arrow Monument near Bells Hills with briefing by local business owner, sharing his life story living on the border with Gaza and the air strikes he and his family experience
- 15:00-15:15 Depart for **Iron Dome** missile defense battery site near Kibbutz Eivim.
- 15:15-16:00 Briefing at the **Iron Dome** missile defense battery site by an **IDF officer and meeting with "Lone Soldier,"** 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.
- 16:00-16:45 Depart to IDF Gaza Division **Command & Control Center**
- 16:45-17:30 **Gaza Division Command & Control Center**  
Visit and brief by the all-female unit at the Gaza Division Command & Control Center



Topic: Briefing on observation and fire capabilities on the Israeli southern border to protect Israel's civilian population from rocket and missile attacks.

17:30-18:00 IDF briefing at the **Kerem Shalom crossing** into the Gaza Strip at the end of Road 232.  
Topic: Israeli Humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip and how it operates on a day-to-day basis.

18:00-19:00 Drive to **Brothers for Life** at HaElla 115, Kefar Truman, Israel, 73150

19:00-20:30 Visit and dinner at **Brothers for Life** at HaElla 115, Kefar Truman, Israel, 73150  
Topic: Gain insight into how Israeli supports their military veterans by visiting Brothers for Life, a non-profit organization, created and run by injured Israeli veterans, which gives critical and immediate help to other injured Israeli combat veterans.

20:30 Clare Plassche departure to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.

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

23:55 Clare Plassche Departure from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel.

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

### **Day 5: Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Israel's Innovation Ecosystem and Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

06:30 Breakfast Available

09:00-11:00 **MG Ayish** led roundtable discussion on Jerusalem at Ritz-Carlton Hotel  
Topic: Briefing on IDF organizational structure, recruitment and selection process, defense budget planning, IDF performance and evaluation, and force readiness.

11:00-12:00 Departure to Machane Yehuda Market, Jerusalem

12:00-13:45 Lunch and tour of Machane Yehuda Market (no speakers), 62 Agripas Yerushalayim 9430135

13:45-14:00 Depart for Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem

14:00-15:00 Meeting with **Amb. Benjamin Krasna, Senior Director of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs North America Bureau** at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.

Topic: Briefing on the current state of U.S. / Israel foreign relations.



15:00-16:00 Meeting with **Ori Ruttman, Head of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Middle East Bureau** at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs 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, how to respond to the Iranian nuclear program, and emergent opportunities to expand and deepen the Abraham Accords diplomatic agreements.

16:00-17:00 Depart for Western Wall Tunnel (walking)

17:00-19:00 **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 it 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, a heritage site and location for formal ceremonies of the State of Israel.

*Overnight: David Citadel, Jerusalem*

*Total Hours of Programming: 7+*

## **Day 6: Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**

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

06:30 Breakfast Available

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

08:30-10:30 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.

10:30-11:00 Depart for the City of David, Jerusalem

11:00-14:00 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 Panoramic Golden City, Old City, Jerusalem (no speakers).

15:00-16:20 Visit to the **Old City, Jerusalem**

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.

16:20-16:30 Return to David Citadel, Jerusalem (walking)

16:30-17:30 Briefing by **Khaled Abu Toameh**, Israeli-Arab Journalist for the Washington Post and Jerusalem Post at David Citadel, 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.

17:30-18:00 Executive Time

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 David Citadel, Jerusalem



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: David Citadel, Jerusalem*

*Total Hours of Programming: 7+*

### **Day 7: Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**

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

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-10:00 Drive to the city Capernaum.

Topics: Briefing 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 Exploration of the Sea of Galilee region by visiting Christian holy sites including **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.

12:30-13:30 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

13:30-14:30 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.

Topics: Briefing on the significance the Christian community has placed on this historic site and the intimate relationship Christians have with Israel's biblical history.

14:30-15:30 Lunch, **Magdalena Restaurant**, Migdal Junction, Magala Center Migdal (no



speakers).

15:30-16:30 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. 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.

16:30-18:00 Return to David Citadel, Jerusalem

***END OF OFFICIAL PROGRAM***

17:00-1800 Executive Time

18:00 Depart to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.

*No overnight*

*Total Hours of Programming: 7+*

23:55 Departure of Group 1 from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel. (1. Monika Konrad, 2. James Dolbow, 3. Luis Reyes, 4. Merrilee Rogers, 5. John Castillo, 6. Charles Truxal)

**TRAVEL: Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**

04:45 Group 2 departure from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel. (7. Donald Barber, 8. Shaefer Bagwell, 9. Amelia Litynski, 10. John Faherty)

11:15 Group 1 arrival at Reagan Airport, Washington, D.C. (1. Monika Konrad, 2. James Dolbow, 3. Luis Reyes, 4. Merrilee Rogers, 5. John Castillo, 6. Charles Truxal)

12:10 Group 2 arrival at Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C. (7. Donald Barber, 8. Shaefer Bagwell, 9. Amelia Litynski, 10. John Faherty)