

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.

- Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: The Jewish Institute of National Security of America (JINSA)
- Travel Destination(s): Israel
- Date of Departure: Saturday, October 26, 2024 Date of Return: Sunday, November 3, 2024
- Name(s) of Traveler(s): Christopher Mitchell

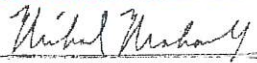
Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if *all* information is *identical* for each person listed.

- 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	\$3,453 (\$3,003 for round trip international travel, \$450 for bus transportation to and from the airport and between sites in Israel)	\$2,520	\$932	\$774 (guides, entry fees, security)
Accompanying Family Member				

- 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:  Date: 11/12/24

Name: Dr. Michael Makovsky Title: President and CEO

Organization: The Jewish Institute of National Security of America

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

Address: 1101 14th Street, NW, Suite 1030, Washington, D.C., 20005

Telephone: mmakovsky@jinsa.org Email: (202) 667-3900

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.

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, 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: Christopher Mitchell
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: Saturday, October 26, 2024 Return: Sunday, November 3, 2024
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C., USA Destination: Tel Aviv, Israel Return City: Washington, D.C.,
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: The Jewish Institute of National Security of America (JINSA)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: See attached Tab A for final itinerary

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: 11/12/24

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: Rep. Max Miller Date: 11/12/24

Signature of Supervising Member: 



**The Jewish Institute for National Security of America
2024 Congressional National Security Program to Israel
October 26th –November 2nd, 2024**

TRAVEL: Saturday, October 26th

21:20 Departure from Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C., USA

TRAVEL: Sunday, October 27th

09:50 Arrival at De Gaulle Airport, Paris, France

22:40 Departure from De Gaulle Airport, Paris, France

Day 1: Monday, October 28th

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

03:55 Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel.

04:30-05:30 Depart to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 4 HaShunit Street, Herzliya.

05:30-13:00 Executive Time

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

14:30-16:00 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: Schedule overview and "The State of Israel" briefing, 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

16:00-17:15 Briefing by **Mr. Elad Strohmayer, Director of Congressional Affairs Department at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: Overview of the current state of U.S. / Israel relations from the Israel perspective.

17:15-18:15 Briefing by **MG (ret.) Amikam Norkin, former Head of the Israeli Air Force** and a JINSA Distinguished Fellow, at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.

Topic: Discussion of Iran's ballistic missile attacks against Israel in April and October and how they emphasize the need for a region-wide air defense network to help deter and defeat the escalating missile and drone threat posed by Iran and its terrorist proxies to Israel (and America's other CENTCOM partners). Further brief on the Israeli attack on Iran's utilization of the F-35 in combat.

18:15-19:00 Briefing by a **Col. Shachar Shoshana, IDF International Cooperation Division**, 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, with a particular focus on the ongoing Operation Northern Arrows, the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

19:00 – 20:20 Briefing by **Stephanie L. Hallett, Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Israel**, at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: Overview of U.S.-Israeli relations from the American perspective, including an explanation of U.S.-Israel defense and security priorities with regards to the current conflicts with Hamas and Hezbollah and the regional impacts of those conflicts, and highlighting the challenges and opportunities they present.

20:20 - 21:40 **JINSA Delegation Welcome Dinner** with at the Ritz- Carlton Hotel, Herzliya.
Topic: **MG Ayish** led roundtable discussion. Summary of the key points from the day's briefings, open conversation and dialogue on topics including the background on Israel's system of mandatory military service. Guidance and preview the next day's events.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 7+

Day 2: Tuesday, October 29th

Southern Command and the Gaza Strip

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-09:15 Briefing by **MG Amidror**, former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: Explanation of Iran's "Ring of Fire" strategy to build up proxy forces surrounding Israel such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, and the Houthis in Yemen and how fighting over the past year has significantly weakened Iran's overall position in the Middle East.

09:15–10:15 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.

- 10:15-11:45 Depart to **Kibbutz Kfar Aza**, in southern Israel.
- 11:45-12:45 Visit **Kibbutz Kfar Aza**.
Topic: Tour led by **IDF Maj. Liad Dimont** 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.
- 12:45-13:00 Depart for **Nova Festival Victims Memorial**, near Kibbutz Re'im.
- 13:00-13:15 Visit **Nova Festival Victims Memorial**, near Kibbutz Re'im.
Topic: Self-guided tour of the one of the focal points of the October 7th Hamas attack, where more than 300 people were killed and some 40 taken hostage. Photos of each of the victims are displayed in their memory, along with Israeli flags and red anemone sculptures, symbolizing the flowers that bloom nearby in the forest during the winter and as a symbol of the lives lost.
- 13:15-13:45 Depart for **Kibbutz Eivim**. Brief by **MG Ayish** en route.
Topic: The role played by Iron Dome missile defense system in the 2024 "Iron Swords" war and more recent Iranian missile attack of April 14th, 2024 in protecting Israeli and Arab civilians.
- 13:45-14:30 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.
- 14:30-15:00 Drive to **Israeli Air Force (IAF) Base Palmachim** near Kibbutz Palmachim.
- 15:00-16:45 Briefing by **IAF Squadron at Palmachim Air Force Base** and walk-around of the base.
Topic: Discussion of recent day-to-day base operations and the squadron's role in current wartime operations in Gaza and Lebanon. Further discussion of the evolving threats in the air domain from cruise and ballistic missiles, manned and unmanned aerial systems, and rocket attacks from Iran and Iranian proxies.
- 16:30-18:00 Drive to Dinner, Concierge, Dizengoff 95, Tel Aviv.
- 18:00-19:30 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: 6+

Day 3: Wednesday, October 30th

Northern Command Day- Syria-Lebanon-Hezbollah

- 06:30 Breakfast available
- 08:30-09:00 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 offshore 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.
- 09:30-11:00 Depart to Gadot Observation Point in the Golan Heights.
- 11:15-12:45 Briefing by **BG. (res.) Yuval Bazak, IDF 91st Division (Northern Command)** at Gadot Observation Point in the Golan Heights (which also serves as a memorial site for the Six Day War).
Topic: The strategic threat Israel faces on its northern border facing Lebanon from Hezbollah (and Iran) and personal recollections of how his son died fighting Hamas terrorists during the October 7th attack.
- 12:45-13:15 Depart for Lunch at **Hamgdal Restaurant**, Mi'ilya Arab council, Northern District of Israel.
- 13:15-14:30 Lunch at Hamgdal Restaurant, Mi'ilya. Briefing by **MG Ayish**
Topic: Overview of the contentious history between Israel and Lebanon, including the Lebanese Civil War and 2nd Lebanon War that began in 2006 after a cross-border raid that left three IDF soldiers dead and how this impacts the current strategic environment. Discussion of the history of Mi'ilya, one of two Arab Christian towns in the upper Galilee region.
- 14:30-15:00 Depart to **Mitzpe Hila observation point**. 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.
- 15:00-16:00 Briefing by **Col. Boris Tishko IDF 36th Division** at Mitzpe Hila.
Topic: Briefing on the complex evolving threat Israel faces from the north today from Hezbollah in Lebanon (and Iran) and current ongoing Israeli

operations to address that threat in order to enable the enforcement of UN Resolution 1701.

16:00-17:00 Depart for old Caesarea Port, Caesarea.

17:00-18:30 Self-guided tour of **Caesarea Port**.

Topic: Built by King Herod, the ancient port city located on Israel's Mediterranean Coast about halfway between Tel Aviv and Haifa is one of Israel's most important archeological sites. The examination of the ancient port helps contextualize how critical maritime trade has been and continues to be for the economic vitality of Israel today.

18:30-20:00 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 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 the next day's events.

20:00-20:45 Return to Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 7+

Day 4: Thursday, October 31st

Parliament & Ministry of Foreign Affairs

06:30 Breakfast Available

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

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

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

11:30-12:15 Round Table discussion with **Amit Halevi, Knesset Member (Likud)** at the Knesset

Topic: Insights into how the Israeli legislative process operates, current national security issues under active consideration by Knesset members, and how members incorporate foreign diplomatic considerations into their deliberations.

12:15-12:30 Meeting with **Amir Ohana, Speaker of the Knesset** at the Knesset

Topic: The strength of the U.S.-Israel security partnership.

12:30-13:00 Picnic lunch outside the Knesset (no speakers).

- 13:00-13:30 Depart to the Prime Minister's office, Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem. Lunch on the bus
- 13:30-14:45 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.
- 14:45-15:00 Depart for Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem
- 15:00-15:30 Meeting with **Tamar Kaplan, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Legal Advisor** at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: The current status of International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ) investigations and potential legal cases against the State of Israel and senior Israeli officials with respect to the current conflict between Israel and Hamas.
- 15:30-16:00 Meeting with **Lior Haiat, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Director General of North America Division** at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: Briefing of U.S.-Israeli relations from the Israeli perspective, including the impact of the October 7th attacks not just in Israel but to Jews globally (including in America), and challenges and opportunities presented by the current ongoing conflict between Israel and Iran and its proxies Hamas and Hezbollah.
- 16:00-16:45 Meeting with **Meriav Shahar, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General Division for Strategic Affairs** at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: Briefing on Israel's perspective of threat posed by Iran's nuclear program, the expiration of the ability of the UN to snapback sanctions in 2025, and the potential for credible economic and military measures to bring Iran back to the negotiating table.
- 16:45-17:45 Meeting with **Alon Simhayoff, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director for UN Political Affairs** at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topics: Briefing on current challenges facing Israel at the UN, including a discussion of efforts in the UN General Assembly to expel Israel as a member.
- 17:45-18:45 Depart to Tel Aviv
- 18:45-19:45 Dinner on your own in Tel Aviv – A list of recommended restaurants provided.
- 19:45-20:15 Bus returns to Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya.

Day 5: Friday, November 1st

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

- 06:30 Breakfast Available
- 08:00-09:00 Depart Hotel for Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- 09:00-11:00 Visit and guided tour through **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 Visit and guided tour through the **City of David, Jerusalem**
Background: The United States Embassy in Jerusalem, together with the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, have recognized the City of David as a testament to America's Judeo-Christian heritage and founding principles. The archeological discoveries at the City of David bring Biblical Jerusalem back to life and reaffirm the prophetic messages of freedom, justice and peace that inspired America's founders. The City of David is an archaeological excavation of the city of ancient Jerusalem, prior to the Jewish-Roman wars and the destruction and the Second Temple in 70 CE. Participants will learn how Israelis, from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds, perceive their history and connection to the land of Israel. A key focus will be how this history and the interpretation of it strongly manifests itself in the political and religious challenges that Israeli experiences today in the modern world and how this impacts Israel's national defense posture.
- 14:00-15:00 Lunch at Abu Camal, Old City, Jerusalem (no speakers).
- 15:00-17:15 Guided tour of the **Old City, Jerusalem** with Ibgay 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.

17:15-18:30 Return to the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Herzliya.

18:30-19:30 Executive Time

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

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 6.5+

Day 6: Saturday, November 2nd

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

06:30 Breakfast Available

07:30-09:00 Drive to Qasr al-Yehud
Topics: Briefing en route by Ibgay Eliyahu, Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide #022114755, on the importance Christians have placed on the Holy Land over the centuries and how this has impacted military and political decision making from diverse groups including Crusaders in the Middle Ages and Great Britain in World War I.

09:30-10:30 Visit to **Qasr al-Yehud**, the traditional site of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist on the Jordan River with Ibgay Eliyahu, to gain a fuller understanding of the importance of the Holy Land to the Christian world and the security implications of that fact. At Qasr al-Yehud two Jordanian and two IDF soldiers face each other across the narrow 100-foot-wide river to protect their respective

sides of the joint border, while enabling large groups of religious pilgrims and tourists from around the world to visit the site.

- 10:30-11:30 Drive to Masada National Park East Entrance, off Dead Sea Route 90
Topic: Briefing en route by Ibgly Eliyahu on the history of Masada and its role in the Great Jewish Revolt.
- 11:30-13:30 **Tour of Masada** with Ibgly Eliyahu
Topic: A UNESCO World Heritage site, the Masada fortress and palace complex built by King Herod the Great sits perched atop a Judean Desert plateau. The fortress was famously the location of the Jewish Sicarii rebels suicidal last stand against Rome's X Legion in 73 CE. during the Great Jewish Revolt (or First Jewish-Roman War) of 66-74 CE. The destruction of Masada marked the end of the last independent remnant of the Kingdom of Judah at the end of the Second Temple period. As such, Masada remains a potent symbol to the modern state of Israel, and for many years inductees to the IDF swore that "Masada shall not fall again" at the end of their training on location.
- 13:30-14:00 Depart to the Vert Dead Sea Hotel, Ein Bokek, Dead Sea.
Topic: Briefing en route by Ibgly Eliyahu providing background to the geology and topography of the Dead Sea, and the extent to which the water level has dropped over the past century.
- 14:00-14:30 Lunch at the Vert Dead Sea Hotel (no speakers)
- 14:30-16:30 Tour with Ibgly Eliyahu of **lowest point on Earth on the shore of the Dead Sea.**
Topic: Discussion of the how Israelis internally displaced since the October 7th terrorist attacks have been relocated to hotels across Israel, including the Vert Dead Sea Hotel; the sometimes-contentious diplomacy between Israel and Jordan over water rights and how this impacts regional security; and the value of the potassium-rich potash, a key ingredient in fertilizers, extracted from the Dead Sea, which generated an average annual operating profit between 2017 and 2023 of between \$690 million to \$830 million a year.
- 16:30-18:30 Return to Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya.
- 18:30-19:00 Executive time.
- 19:00-20:00 Voluntary review of trip by participants at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya.
- 20:00-21:30 Dinner (no speakers)

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 8+

TRAVEL: Sunday, November 3rd

02:00 Depart to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.
05:50 Departure from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel.
10:00 Arrival at De Gaulle Airport, Paris, France.
16:40 Departure from De Gaulle Airport, Paris, France.
19:25 Arrival at Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C., USA.

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Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member



Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Keelie Broom
Counsel to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

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

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

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

Veronica Escobar, Texas
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Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

October 15, 2024

Mr. Christopher Mitchell
Office of the Honorable Max L. Miller
143 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for October 26 to November 3, 2024, sponsored by the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA).

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.

¹ 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>.

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 submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or 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: Christopher Mitchell

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. Max Miller

Office Address: 143 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Telephone Number: (202) 225-3876

Email Address of Contact Person: chris.mitchell@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 email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Christopher Mitchell
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: The Jewish Institute for National Security of American (JINSA)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: Saturday, October 26, 2024 Date of Return: Sunday, November 3, 2024
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, invitation, 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.**

9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in 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: 9/13/24

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's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

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. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

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 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, services, or in-kind assistance 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: Saturday October 26, 2024 Date of Return: Sunday, November 3, 2024

7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C., USA

b. Destination(s): Tel Aviv, Israel

c. City of return: Washington, D.C., USA

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. _____

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 the statement is true by clicking the 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 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): \$178

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 in the north and south of the country.

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

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.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <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	\$3,550 (\$3,000 for round trip international flights, \$550 for bus transportation to and from the airport and between sites in Israel)	\$2,940	\$1,068
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		

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:  Date: 09/1/2024
 Name: Dr. Mickael 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

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Tab A
October 2024 JINSA Congressional National Security Program to Israel
House 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.

Accepted

1. Zoë Prince, Chief of Staff to Rep. David Scott (GA)
2. Jasmine Caruthers, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Haley Stevens (MI)
3. Reed Kearins, Senior Legislative Assistant to Rep. Dave Joyce (OH)
4. Jack Lincoln, Legislative Director to Rep. Ken Calvert (CA)
5. Chris Mitchell, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Max Miller (OH)
6. Rachel Fedeli, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Jason Crow (CO)
7. Carl Schuler, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Mike Waltz (FL)
8. Jacqueline Olvera, Senior Legislative Assistant, Rep. Morgan Luttrell TX)
9. Patrick O'Connor, Legislative Assistant to Rep. Terri Sewell (AL)
10. Ryan Hofmann, Deputy Policy Director, House Republican Conference

Invited

1. Jake Vreeburg, Policy Director for the House Republican Conference
2. Morgan Cintron, Deputy Chief of Staff to Rep. Jared Moskowitz (FL)



**The Jewish Institute for National Security of America
2024 Congressional National Security Program to Israel
October 26th – November 3rd, 2024**

TRAVEL: Saturday, October 26th

21:20 Departure from Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C., USA

TRAVEL: Sunday, October 27th

09:50 Arrival at De Gaulle Airport, Paris, France

22:40 Departure from De Gaulle Airport, Paris, France

Day 1: Monday, October 28th

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

03:55 Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel.

04:30-05:30 Depart to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Herzliya

05:30-11:00 Executive Time

11:00-12:30 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 19th century, the Balfour Declaration issued by Great Britain during WWI pledging the establishment 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

12:30-14:00 Lunch at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Herzliya

14:00-15:30 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

- 15:30-16:30 Briefing by an Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs senior official.
- 16:30-18:00 Executive time
- 18:00-19:00 Briefing by a **senior IDF officer** 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.
- 19:00-21:00 **JINSA Delegation Welcome Dinner** at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya (no speakers)

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 6+

Day 2: Tuesday, October 29th

Southern Command and the Gaza Strip

- 06:30 Breakfast Available
- 08:00-09:00 Depart to **IDF Camp Aviv**, Chaim Levanon St 8, Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 09:00-10:00 Screening of the **IDF Spokesperson office video “Bearing Witness”** about the massacre of October 7th, 2023 at IDF Camp Aviv.
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.
- 10:00-11:30 Depart to **Kibbutz Kfar Aza**, in southern Israel.
- 11:30-13:00 Visit **Kibbutz Kfar Aza**
Topic: Tour 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.
- 13:00-13:30 Depart for **Kibbutz Eivim**. Brief by **MG Ayish** en route.
Topic: The role played by Iron Dome missile defense system in the 2024 “Iron Swords” war and more recent Iranian missile attack of April 14th, 2024 in protecting Israeli and Arab civilians.
- 13:30-14:15 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.
- 14:15-15:00 Drive to **Israeli Air-Force (IAF) Base Tel-Nuf**

- 15:00-16:30 Briefing by **IAF 210 Squadron at Tel-Nuf Air Force Base**
Topic: Discussion of day-to-day base operations and the squadron's role in operations during wartime. Further discussion of the evolving threats in the air domain from cruise and ballistic missiles, manned and unmanned aerial systems, and rocket attacks from Iran and Iranian proxies.
- 16:30-17:30 Drive to **Brothers for Life** at HaElla 115, Kefar Truman, Israel, 73150
- 17:30-19:30 Visit and dinner at **Brothers for Life** at HaElla 115, Kefar Truman, Israel, 73150
Topic: Gain insight into how Israel 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.
- 19:30-20:00 Return to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel
- Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya Total Hours of Programming: 7+*

Day 3: Wednesday, October 30th

Northern Command Day- Syria-Lebanon-Hezbollah

- 06:30 Breakfast available
- 08:30-09:00 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 offshore 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.
- 09:30-11:00 Depart to IDF 91st Division
- 11:00-12:00 Briefing by **Israel Defense Forces (IDF) 91st Division at Northern Command.**
Topic: The strategic threat Israel faces on its northern border facing Lebanon from Hezbollah (and Iran)
- 12:00-13:15 Depart to Camp Naura of the IDF 36th Division. 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.

- 13:15-14:15 Briefing by **IDF 36th Division**
Topic: Briefing on the 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 complex evolving threat Israel faces from the north today from Hezbollah in Lebanon, Syria, and Iran.
- 14:15-14:30 Depart to lunch
- 14:30-16:00 Lunch
- 16:00-17:00 Depart to old Caesarea Port, Caesarea
- 18:30-20:00 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.
- 20:00-20:45 Return to Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 8+

Day 4: Thursday, October 31st

Parliament & Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- 06:30 Breakfast Available
- 08:00-09:00 Depart for Jerusalem
- 09:30-10:30 Tour of the Knesset (Parliament)
Topic: The role of the Knesset in the Israeli system of government and the role it plays in the development and execution of Israeli national security policy.
- 10:30-11:30 Briefing by Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee official 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

- 11:30-12:30 Round Table discussion with members of the Israeli Knesset
- 12:30-13:00 Depart to the “Mahane Yehuda” Market in Jerusalem.
- 13:00-14:00 Guided tour and lunch at Mahane Yehuda Market (no speakers), 62 Agripas Yerushalayim 9430135
- 14:00-14:30 Depart to the Prime Minister’s office, Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem.
- 15:00-16:00 Meeting with **Mr. Josef Draznin**, Deputy National Security Advisor for Foreign Policy for Prime Minister Netanyahu
- 16:00-16:30 Depart for Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem
- 16:30-17:30 Meeting with **Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs North America Bureau** official at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: Briefing on the current state of U.S. / Israel foreign relations.
- 17:30-18:30 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, 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.
- 18:30-19:30 Depart back to the Ritz Carlton Herzliya
- 19:30-21:00 Dinner (no speakers)

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 6+

Day 5: Friday, November 1st

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

- 06:30 Breakfast Available
- 08:00-09:00 Depart Hotel for Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- 09:00-11:00 Visit and guided tour through **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 Visit and guided tour through 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 of 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 Guided tour of the **Old City, Jerusalem** with Daniel Gershon, Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide #13373
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 the Ritz Carlton Hotel
- 18:00-19:00 Voluntary review of trip by participants at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya.
- 19:00-19:30 Executive Time
- 19:30-22:00 Shabbat Dinner at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya.

Background: Shabbat is a day of rest that lasts from sundown on Friday evening through nightfall on Saturday night. Friday night dinner consists of a traditional meal and guests are considered an integral part of the weekly ritual. The Shabbat ceremony will consist of hymns, recitations, blessings, and eating, and provide participants with a unique window into modern Israeli cultural practices. Participation is an opportunity to strengthen ties with American foreign policy partners in Israel on a personal basis and gain a deeper understanding of each nation's rich heritage through participation in a shared communal experience.

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 6.5+

Day 6: Saturday, November 2nd

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 en route 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 Crusaders in the Middle Ages and Great Britain in World War I.
- 10:30-12:30 Guided tour of the Sea of Galilee region by with Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide #13373 Daniel Gershon 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, via a guided tour of the **Magdala Home** of Mary Magdalen and recently uncovered 2,000-year-old village which provides a window into the world of Jesus and his disciples in Magdala, Galilee with Daniel Gershon. 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 Guided tour of the **Kinneret**, also known as the Sea of Galilee, with Daniel Gerson, Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide.
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.
- 16:00-17:00 Return to Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya
- 17:00-18:00 Voluntary review of trip by participants at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya
- 18:00-20:00 Dinner (no speakers)

Overnight: Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Herzliya

Total Hours of Programming: 6.5+

TRAVEL: Sunday, November 3rd

- 03:30 Depart to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.
- 05:50 Departure from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel.
- 10:00 Arrival at De Gaulle Airport, Paris, France.
- 16:40 Departure from De Gaulle Airport, Paris, France.
- 19:25 Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C., USA.

###

Chris Mitchell
United States House of Representatives
Cannon House Office Building, Room 145
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 1, 2024

Dear Chris,

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 **Saturday, October 26-Sunday, November 3, 2024**.

JINSA is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to working with military and civilian decisionmakers to ensure American strategic interests in the Middle East are defended. JINSA believes the cornerstone of this defense is a robust U.S.-Israeli security cooperation relationship. One of the ways JINSA executes its educational mission is through [unique programs](#) that promote dialogue between prominent U.S. government officials and military leaders and their Mideast counterparts. The Congressional National Security Program provides insight and understanding into Israel's security challenges, the shared threats facing Israel and the United States, the benefits of U.S.-Israel security cooperation and ways to deepen that cooperation, and insight into how collaboration between U.S. and Israeli defense industries contribute to the defense of both nations. JINSA will cover your lodging, tours, food costs, and round-trip international travel between the United States and Israel.

The program curriculum will feature visits to strategically important sites, such as Israel's borders with Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt, where participants will be briefed by IDF commanders to better understand the security challenges Israel faces on each respective border, including its lack of strategic depth. Delegation participants will also visit the Knesset, to understand the role it plays in developing and executing Israeli national security policy, and key religious and historical sites to gain a deeper appreciation for the importance of the land to three of the world's great faiths and how this directly impacts the security environment in the Middle East.

The program will include briefings on topics such as:

- The impact of the Israel's war with Hamas in the aftermath of the October 7, 2023 terrorist attacks;
- Middle East regional security challenges confronting the United States and Israel;
- Prospects for U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation with Abraham Accords countries;

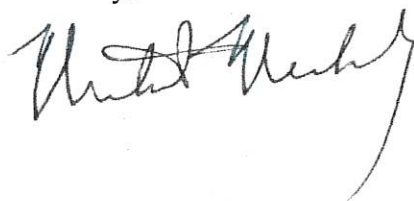
- Perspective on how the Arab world understands and perceives Israel; and
- Linkages between Israel's "Silicon Wadi," IDF weapons technology, and the U.S. defense establishment.

Please reach out to Matt Kenney at mkenney@jinsa.org or (703) 946-8363 if you have any questions about this invitation or travel arrangements.

Information which participants will be required to submit to the House Ethics Committee no later than September 24 will be provided upon confirmation of participation.

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)