

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: Gil Thompson
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: August 16, 2025 Return: August 22, 2025
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Bahrain; UAE; Israel Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: We had high-level government meetings in all three countries. We learned about crucial dynamics regarding regional integration, the war in Gaza, and the countries' respective bilateral relations with the US.
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: September 8, 2025

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: Bradley S. Schneider Date: September 8, 2025

Signature of Supervising Member: 

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

August 12, 2025

Mr. Gil Thompson
Office of the Honorable Bradley Schneider
300 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, and Israel,¹ scheduled for August 16 to 22, 2025, sponsored by Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc.

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>.

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

Sincerely,



Michael Guest
Chairman



Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:tn

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: Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc.

2. Travel Destination(s): Manama, Bahrain; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Jerusalem, Israel

3. Date of Departure: August 16, 2025 Date of Return: August 22, 2025

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Gil Thompson

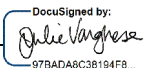
Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

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	\$5133.57	\$1698.00	\$554.57	Total: \$803.68 See below
Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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:  _____ Date: 9/8/2025

Name: Julie Varghese Title: Chief Operating Officer

Organization: Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc.

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

Address: 1400 L Street NW, 11th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005

Telephone: +1 202-213-8200 Email: jvarghese@atlanticcouncil.org

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

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Gil Thompson
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc.
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Manama, Bahrain; Abu Dhabi, UAE; Jerusalem, Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: August 16, 2025 Date of Return: August 22, 2025
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.**
Rep. Schneider is a Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Co-Chair of the Abraham Accords Caucus, Congressional Jewish Caucus, and Hellenic Israel Alliance Caucus. As his Senior Advisor, I will be able to better advise him on these issues once I am better educated about the region.
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: July 15, 2025

Other: \$803.68/person

Manama, Bahrain

- Field Coordinator through travel company: \$90.00/person
- Airport expediting (departure): \$125.00/person

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

- Field Coordinator through travel company: \$86.25/person
- Private conference room reservation (for meeting with DCM): \$75.28/person
- Tickets for Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque: \$40.00/person
- Private dinner space (for working dinner with Ghaida Rinawie Zoabi): \$90.00/person

Jerusalem, Israel

- Portage in/out of hotel: \$6.00/person
- Private conference room reservation (for meeting with Goldberg-Polins): \$63.33
- Private conference room reservation (for meeting with Shelly Tal Meron): \$63.33
- Airport expediting (arrival): \$47.19/person
- Airport expediting (departure): \$56.36/person
- Field Coordinator through travel company: \$53.13/person
- ETA form for Israel entry: \$7.81/person

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:

Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc.

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 list

5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: August 16, 2025 Date of Return: August 22, 2025

7. a. City of departure: Dulles, Virginia

b. Destination(s): Manama, Bahrain; Abu Dhabi, UAE; Jerusalem, Israel

c. City of return: Dulles, Virginia

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:
See below
-

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): \$152/day
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
- See below
-

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name:	<u>Intercontinental Bahrain</u>	City:	<u>Manama, Bahrain</u>	Cost Per Night:	<u>223.39/night</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting:	<u>Proximity to meetings in Manama</u>				
Hotel Name:	<u>St. Regis Abu Dhabi</u>	City:	<u>Abu Dhabi, UAE</u>	Cost Per Night:	<u>285/night</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting:	<u>Proximity to meetings in Abu Dhabi</u>				
Hotel Name:	<u>David Citadel</u>	City:	<u>Jerusalem, Israel</u>	Cost Per Night:	<u>440/night</u>
Reason(s) for Selecting:	<u>Proximity to meetings in Jerusalem.</u>				

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	2684.14	1611.78	794
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A

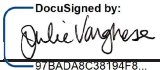
	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	960.00	Visa fees, logistical fees, insurance fees
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	

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: 7/14/2025
 Name: Julie Varghese Title: Chief Operating Officer
 Organization: Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc.
 Address: 1400 L St NW, 11th Floor, Washington, D.C., 20005
 Email: jvarghese@atlanticcouncil.org Telephone: +1 (202) 213-8200

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

Responses Continued

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

15b, 2. Staff are visiting countries that are original signatories of the Abraham Accords to support regional integration among US partners and allies.

US House of Representatives

Committee on Ethics

Primary Trip Sponsor Form supplemental documentation

Atlantic Council of the US, Inc.

House of Representatives employees invited:

1. Valerie Foy
 - a. Chief Council/Director of Foreign Policy, Office of Representative Donald J. Bacon
 - b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. Representative Donald Bacon is a member of the House Armed Service Committee and the Abraham Accords Caucus. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the House of Representatives.
2. Roland Hernandez
 - a. Staff Director, House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security
 - b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. The House Committee on Homeland Security oversees multiple angles of the Abraham Accords such as the Department of Homeland Security cyber cooperation program explicitly focused on supporting the Accords. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the House of Representatives through the staffers work on regional integration and maritime security.
3. Manya-Jean Gitter
 - a. National Security Advisor, Office of Representative Steny Hoyer
 - b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. Representative Steny Hoyer is a senior member of the House Appropriations committee where he is responsible for overseeing and appropriating appropriations to U.S. government agencies to support all aspects of the Abraham Accords. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole, are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the House of Representatives.
4. Michael Koren
 - a. Staff Director, House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Europe
 - b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. The House Foreign Affairs Committee has a direct role in supporting and overseeing U.S. efforts on the Abraham Accords. The Abraham Accords is relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the House of Representatives due to cross-regional efforts such as normalization with countries in Europe, like Kosovo, and regional economic efforts such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
5. Jesse von Stein
 - a. Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director, Office of Representative Cory Mills
 - b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. Representative Cory Mills is a member of the House Foreign Affairs and Armed Service Committees which both play a direct role in supporting and overseeing the Abram Accords. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the House of Representatives.
6. Reid Dagul
 - a. Chief of Staff, Office of Representative Ben Cline
 - b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. Representative Ben Cline is a Member of both the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Select Committee on Intelligence, which oversee and fund important aspects of U.S. government efforts on the Abraham Accords. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the House of Representatives.
7. Taylor Fairless

- a. National Security Advisor, Office of Representative Jimmy Panetta
 - b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. Representative Jimmy Panetta is a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade which oversees an important aspect of the economic integration related to the Abraham Accords. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the House of Representatives.
8. Andrew Bohn
 - a. National Security Advisor, Office of Representative Zach Nunn
 - b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. Representative Zach Nunn serves as the Vice Chair of the House Committee on Financial Services Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions which oversees aspects of the Abraham Accord's financial integration. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the House of Representatives.
9. Gil Thompson
 - a. Senior Advisor, Office of Representative Brad Schneider
 - b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. Representative Brad Schneider is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the co-chair of the House Abraham Accords Caucus. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole, are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the House of Representatives.
10. John Bleed
 - a. National Security Advisor, Office of Representative Blake Moore
 - b. Reason for inviting: Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel are each Abraham Accords countries and are playing a critical role in the expansion and deepening of the accords across defense, political, and trade nexuses. Representative Blake Moore is a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, which oversees an important aspect of the economic integration related to the Abraham Accords. The Abraham Accords and the Middle East on the whole are relevant to the staffer's official professional portfolio in the House of Representatives.

Participants

House of Representatives:

- Valerie Foy, Rep. Bacon (R-NE)
- Gil Thompson, Rep. Schneider (D-IL)
- Many-Jean Gitter, Rep. Hoyer (D-MD)
- Andrew Bohn, Rep. Nunn (R-IA)
- John Bleed, Rep. Moore (R-UT)
- Reid Dagul, Rep. Cline (R-VA)
- Jesse von Stein, Rep. Mills (R-FL)

Senate:

- Callahan Stoub, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
- Samantha Schifrin, Sen. Booker (D-NJ)
- Marcos Ibarra, Sen. Cortez Masto (D-NV)
- Jose Villalvazo, Sen. Padilla (D-CA)
- Arden Hooper, Sen. Cruz (R-TX)
- Luis Reyes, Sen. Schmitt (R-MO)



 Atlantic Council

JEFFREY M. TALPINS
FOUNDATION

N7 Initiative Congressional Education Mission

Hosted by the Atlantic Council

August 16-22, 2025

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

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

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

Itinerary

Saturday, August 16, 2025: Travel

22:05

Primary Delegation flight departs from United States

Etihad Airways (EY 645)

Departure: Saturday, August 16 at 22:05 (IAD)

Layover: 1 h 50 min (AUH)

Arrival: Sunday, August 17 at 21:05 (BAH)

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

Sunday, August 17, 2025: Travel

14:50

Gitter Etihad flight departs from Tel Aviv

Etihad (EY594/EY645)

Departure: Sunday, August 17 at 14:50 (TLV)

Layover: 1 h 45 min (AUH)

Arrival: Sunday, August 17 at 21:05 (BAH)

Traveler: Manya-Jean Gitter

20:15

Dagul Turkish Airways flight departs from Istanbul

Turkish Airways (TK 778)

Departure: Sunday, August 17 at 20:15 (IST)

Arrival: Monday, August 18 at 0:15 (BAH)

Traveler: Reid Dagul

21:05

Primary Delegation and Gitter Etihad flight arrives at Bahrain International Airport (BAH)

21:46

Transport to InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel

Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

22:12

Check-in at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel

Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

22:15

End of Day

Monday, August 18, 2025: Bahrain

0:15 *Dagul Turkish Airways flight arrives at Bahrain International Airport (BAH)*

1:04 *Dagul transport to InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel*

Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

1:36 *Dagul check-in at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel*

Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

7:45 – 8:30 *Breakfast at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel*

Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

8:30 – 9:10 *Transportation by bus to NAVCENT, U.S. Fifth Fleet Headquarters*

9:10 – 10:10 *Briefing with VADM George Wikoff from NAVCENT and U.S. Fifth Fleet*

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

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

Location: U.S. Fifth Fleet Headquarters, Manama

10:10 – 10:28 *Transportation by bus to Bahrain Financial Harbour*

10:28 – 11:32 *Meeting with officials from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce*

Rationale: The Ministry of Industry and Commerce provided a briefing to congressional staff on Bahrain's trade policies, industrial development priorities, and regulatory frameworks shaping commerce with the U.S., Israel, and the wider region. The briefing also addressed elements of trade friction, such as aluminum tariffs, and outlined the ministry's role in shaping financial and legal tools to support Bahrain's economic growth. This was relevant to the trip's mission, as the Members were likely to

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

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

Location: Bahrain Financial Harbour, King Faisal Hwy, Manama

11:32 – 11:48

Transportation by bus to Arcapita Building

11:48 – 12:20

Meeting with the Bahrain Economic Development Board

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

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

Location: Arcapita Building, Bahrain Bay

12:20 – 13:05

Meeting with Ministry of Sustainable Development

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

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

Location: Arcapita Building, Bahrain Bay

13:05 – 13:30***Transportation by bus to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, lunch en route*****13:30 – 14:30****Meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Rationale: H.E. Ambassador Khaled Yousef Al-Jalahma, Undersecretary for Political Affairs from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provided a briefing to the staffers on the Kingdom's current diplomatic relations with the United States and developments on supporting the expansion of regional relations with Israel. The delegation engaged on diplomatic topics such as intra-gulf relations, updates to the Bahrain-Israel Free Trade Agreement negotiations, and the status of the Abraham Accords. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Bahrain ties, regional trade and investment developments, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: H.E. Ambassador Khaled Yousef Al-Jalahma (Undersecretary for Political Affairs), Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Gershon Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

14:30 – 14:50***Transportation by bus to Qudaibiya Palace*****14:50 – 16:10****Meeting with the Office of the Prime Minister**

Rationale: Yara Faraj, Head of the Prime Minister's Office, shared the policies of the Kingdom of Bahrain across diplomatic, defense, trade, and investment nexuses. Members and staff will engage with H.R.H.'s team on the importance of the Abraham Accords across multiple nexuses and on the hostilities between Iran and Israel and how it affects regional normalization. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.- Bahrain ties and regional developments. The Office of the Prime Minister, Crown Prince, H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, can authoritatively speak to Bahraini positions on the Bahrain-U.S. relationship.

Participants: Yara Faraj (Head of the Prime Minister's Office), Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Gershon Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Qudaibiya Palace

16:10 – 16:30***Transportation by bus to U.S. Embassy Manama***

16:30 – 18:06**Modified Country Team Briefing with the U.S. Embassy**

Rationale: Ambassador Steve Bondy and DCM Elizabeth Litchfield, alongside additional representatives from the U.S. Country Team, provided a briefing to staffers on the U.S.'s current diplomatic relationship with Bahrain. The delegation engaged with the Ambassador on the U.S.'s political and military relationships with the kingdom as well as gain important insights on the upcoming meetings throughout the day. It was relevant to the trip's mission as the staff are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Bahrain ties as well as legislation related to regional military, political, and economic stability.

Participants: Ambassador Steven C. Bondy, DCM Elizabeth Litchfield, U.S. Country Team, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Andrew Bohn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Gershon Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: U.S. Embassy Manama

18:06 – 18:17***Transportation to the Manama Souq*****18:17– 19:00****Guided Tour of Manama Souq**

Rationale: The delegation began its tour of the Manama Souq at the House of the Ten Commandments, the only functioning synagogue in Bahrain and a symbol of the country's longstanding Jewish heritage and commitment to religious pluralism. They then visited the Shrinathji Temple, a Hindu temple in Manama established in 1817. The visits highlighted Bahrain's tradition of religious tolerance and coexistence. The delegation also walked through the market, where they interacted with locals and viewed local artwork.

Participants: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Gil Thompson, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Gershon Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Al Mutanabi Ave, Manama, Bahrain

19:00 – 21:00***Free time for dinner*****21:00*****End of Meetings/Day*****Tuesday, August 19, 2025****7:00 – 8:00*****Breakfast at the hotel restaurant***



8:00

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Transportation to the airport by bus

10:40

Primary Delegation flight to Abu Dhabi

Etihad (EY 642)

Departure: Tuesday, August 19 at 10:40 (BAH)

Arrival: Tuesday, August 19 at 12:50 (AUH)

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

10:50

Jose Juan Villalvazo arrives at Zayed International Airport

Qatar Airways (QR 710/QR1044)

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

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

Traveler: Jose Juan Villalvazo

12:50 – 14:05

Wait for baggage – delay at baggage claim

14:05 – 14:58

Transportation by bus to Ministry of Foreign Affairs

14:58 – 16:15

Meeting with Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

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

Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

16:15 – 16:28

Transportation by bus to St. Regis Abu Dhabi

16:28 – 18:05

Meeting with Eric Gaudiosi, Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Mission to the UAE

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

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

Location: St. Regis, Abu Dhabi

18:05 – 18:20

Check-in to hotel rooms/change into modest clothing

18:20 – 18:45

Transportation by bus to Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque

18:45 – 20:35

Guided Tour of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque

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

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

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

20:35– 21:00

Transportation by bus to Flamingo Room

21:00 – 23:20

Dinner and debrief with N7 Staff and with Ghaida Rinawie Zoabi

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

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

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

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

23:20– 23:47

Transportation by bus to St. Regis Abu Dhabi

23:47

End of Meetings/Day

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

6:00

Transportation to the airport by bus, breakfast boxes en route

8:35

Delegation Flight to Tel Aviv

Etihad (EY 593)

Departure: Wednesday, August 20 at 8:35 (AUH)

Arrival: Wednesday, August 20 at 11:00 (TLV)

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

11:45 – 13:15

Transportation by bus to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem

13:15 – 13:30

Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

13:30 – 15:45

Meeting with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

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



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Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem

15:45 – 16:15

Transportation to National Security Council

16:15 – 16:25

Security at the National Security Council

16:25 – 17:45

Meeting with Officials from National Security Council

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

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

Location: National Security Council, Jerusalem

17:45 – 18:15

Transportation by bus to David Citadel Hotel

18:15 – 18:30

Check-in to hotel rooms

18:30 – 19:45

Meeting with deceased hostage Hersh Goldberg-Polin's parents

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

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



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Location: Jaffa Gate Room, David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

19:45 – 20:15

Free time to change/decompress before dinner

20:15 – 20:20

Walk to dinner

20:20 – 23:00

Working Dinner with Atlantic Council Staff

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

Presenters: Emily Milliken and Cassidy McGoldrick

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

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

23:00

End of Meetings/Day

Thursday, August 21, 2025

7:00 – 9:00

Transportation by bus to Gaza Envelope with bathroom/coffee break en route

9:00 – 12:41

Guided Tour of Kfar Azza and Nova Festival Site with IDF Diplomacy

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

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

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

12:41 – 14:38

Transportation by bus to David Citadel Hotel, with bathroom/coffee break en route



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14:38 – 16:50

Time to explore the Old City, Jerusalem

16:50 – 18:05

Meeting with representative of the Yesh Atid Party

Rationale: The delegation met with Shelly Tal Meron, a representative of the Israeli opposition party Yesh Atid, to discuss Israel's domestic political landscape and the implications for U.S.-Israel relations. The conversation provided insight into how the opposition views the government's handling of security challenges, the ongoing conflict with Hamas, and prospects for advancing regional integration under the Abraham Accords. Engaging with the opposition offered congressional staff a fuller picture of Israel's political dynamics and was directly relevant to the trip's mission, as Members are likely to encounter legislation related to U.S.-Israel ties, democratic governance, and regional security.

Participants: MK Shelly Tal Meron (Member of Knesset, Yesh Atid Party), Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Gil Thompson, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Jesse von Stein, Manya-Jean Gitter, Jose Juan Villalvazo, Gershon Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Jaffa Gate Room, David Citadel, Jerusalem

18:05 – 19:30

Free time before dinner

19:30 – 21:55

Working Dinner with Stephanie Hallett, Deputy Chief of Mission of the United States to Israel

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

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

Location: Private Room, David Citadel Restaurant

21:30

Valerie Foy transportation to Ben Gurion Airport by SUV

22:00

End of Meetings/Day

Friday, August 22, 2025

00:30

Valerie Foy departs to Vietnam (sponsored by CARE)



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EI AI/THAI (EY 85 / TG 564)

Departure: Friday, August 22 at 00:30

Layover: 2 h 55 min (BKK)

Arrival: Friday, August 22 at 19:40

Traveler: Valerie Foy

7:00 – 7:45

Breakfast at the hotel

7:45

Transportation by bus to Ben Gurion Airport

11:00

Delegation Flight Departs to Washington, DC

United (UA 85/UA 4432)

Departure: Friday, August 22 at 11:00 (TLV)

Layover: 2 h 5 min (EWR)

Arrival: Friday, August 22 at 19:26 (DCA)

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

Saturday, August 23, 2025

19:00

Gitter Flight Departs to Washington, DC

United (UA 85/UA 4434)

Departure: Saturday, August 23 at 19:00 (TLV)

Layover: 7 h 23 min (EWR)

Arrival: Sunday, August 24 at 8:21 (DCA)

Traveler: Manya-Jean Gitter

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

End of trip



JEFFREY M. TALPINS
FOUNDATION

The Office of the Honorable Brad Schneider
Gil Thompson, Senior Advisor
United States House of Representatives
Washington, District of Columbia

July 3, 2025

Dear Dr. Gil Thompson,

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

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WFW'.

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



N7 Initiative Congressional Education Mission

Hosted by the Atlantic Council

August 16-22, 2025

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

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

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



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Itinerary

Saturday, August 16, 2025: Travel

22:05

Flights depart from United States

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

Sunday, August 17, 2025: Travel

12:45

Hernandez Gulf Air flight departs from Manila

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

Traveler: Roland Hernandez

12:45

Koren flight departs from Tiranë

FlyDubai (FZ 746/FZ 29)
Departure: Sunday, August 17 at 12:55 (TIA)
Layover: 4 h 10 (DXB)
Arrival: Monday, August 18 at 0:40 (BAH)

Traveler: Michael Koren

13:40

Gitter flight departs from Tel Aviv

FlyDubai (FZ 1212/FZ 25)
Departure: Sunday, August 17 at 13:40 (TLV)
Layover: 3 h (DXB)
Arrival: Sunday, August 17 at 21:00 (BAH)



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Traveler: Manya-Jean Gitter

17:05 **Hernandez Gulf Air Flight arrives at Bahrain International Airport (BAH)**

17:30 **Hernandez transport to the InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel**
Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

18:00 **Hernandez check-in at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel**
Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

20:15 **Dagul flight departs from Istanbul**
Turkish Airways (TK 778)
Departure: Sunday, August 17 at 20:15 (IST)
Arrival: Monday, August 18 at 0:15 (BAH)
Dress Code: Casual/Comfort

Traveler: Reid Dagul

21:00 **Gitter FlyDubai Flight arrives at Bahrain International Airport (BAH)**

21:05 **DC Eithad Flight arrives at Bahrain International Airport (BAH)**

21:35 **Transport to InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel**
Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

22:10 **Check-in at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel**
Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

Monday, August 18, 2025: Bahrain

0:15 **Dagul Turkish Airways flight arrives**

0:40 **Koren FlyDubai flight arrives**

Commented [KA1]: The current itinerary meets 6 hours but could be supplemented with a relevant cultural activity or making the lunch a formal briefing time.



Atlantic Council
JEFFREY M. TALPINS
FOUNDATION

1:00

Transport to InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel

Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

1:30

Dagul/Koren Check-in at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel

Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

8:30 – 9:30

Breakfast at InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel

Location: King Faisal Hwy, Manama, Bahrain

9:30 – 10:00

Transportation by bus to NAVCENT, U.S. Fifth Fleet Headquarters

10:00 – 11:30

Briefing with Leadership from NAVCENT and U.S. Fifth Fleet

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

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

Location: U.S. Fifth Fleet Headquarters, Manama

Dress Code: Business Professional

11:30 – 11:45

Transportation by bus to Qudaibiya Palace

11:45 – 13:00

Meeting with the office of the Prime Minister, H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Rationale: The Office of the Prime Minister, Crown Prince, H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, is best positioned to share the policies of the Kingdom of Bahrain across diplomatic, defense, trade, and investment nexuses. Members and staff will engage with H.R.H.'s team on the importance of the Abraham Accords across multiple nexuses and on the hostilities between Iran and Israel and how it affects regional normalization. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.- Bahrain ties and regional developments. The Office of the Prime Minister, Crown Prince, H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, can authoritatively speak to Bahraini positions on the Bahrain-U.S. relationship.

Participants: Officials from the Office of H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Jose Villalvazo, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Taylor Fairless, Gil Thompson, Many-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bonn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Michael Koren, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Qudaibiya Palace
Dress Code: Business Professional

13:00 – 13:15

Transportation by bus to Nomad Urban Eatery

13:15 – 14:00

Lunch at Nomad Urban Eatery

14:00 – 14:15

Transportation by bus to meeting with The Ministry of Foreign Affairs

14:30 – 15:30

Meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Rationale: Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will provide a briefing to the staffers on the Kingdom's current diplomatic relations with the United States and developments on supporting the expansion of regional relations with Israel. The delegation will engage on diplomatic topics such as intra-gulf relations, updates to the Bahrain-Israel Free Trade Agreement negotiations, and the status of the Abraham Accords. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Staffers are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Bahrain ties, regional trade and investment developments, and the Abraham Accords.



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

Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 7th Floor

Dress Code: Business Professional

15:30 – 15:45

Transportation by bus to meeting with Bahrain Economic Development Board and Minister of Industry and Commerce

15:45 – 16:20

Meeting with Officials from the Ministry of Sustainable Development and the Bahrain Economic Development Board and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

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

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

Location: EDB, Arcapita Building

Dress Code: Business Professional

16:20 – 16:30

Transportation by bus to meeting with Minister of Finance and National Economy

16:30 – 15:15

Meeting with the Ministry of Finance and National Economy

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

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

Location: Ministry of Finance and National Economy

Dress Code: Business Professional

17:15 – 17:30

Transportation by bus to U.S. Embassy, Bahrain

17:30 – 18:30

Briefing with Ambassador Steve C. Bondy, United States Ambassador to Bahrain

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

Participants: Ambassador Steve C. Bondy, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Jose Villalvazo, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Taylor Fairless, Gil Thompson, Many-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bonn, Luis

Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Michael Koren, Gershon Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

18:30 – 18:45

Transportation by bus to House of Ten Commandments

18:45 – 19:45

Guided Tour and Briefing of the House of Ten Commandments

Rationale: Congressional staff will receive a guided tour and briefing at the House of Ten Commandments, the only functioning synagogue in Bahrain and a symbol of the country's longstanding Jewish heritage and commitment to religious pluralism. Supported by the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this visit will offer insight into the country's evolving interfaith landscape and the role of Jewish life in Bahraini society. The discussion will also touch on how Bahrain's leadership views religious tolerance as a foundation for broader regional integration, particularly within the context of the Abraham Accords. The visit is relevant to the trip's mission as it underscores the cultural and societal dimensions of normalization and offers valuable context for U.S. policy discussions around interfaith engagement and regional cooperation.

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

Location: House of Ten Commandments, Manama

Dress Code: Business Professional

Commented [KA2]: Emily, recommend using a block here for another meeting of interest.

19:45 – 20:00

Transportation by bus to Mirai Restaurant

20:00 – 21:00

Dinner at Mirai Restaurant

21:00 – 21:15

Transportation by bus to InterContinental Bahrain, an IHG Hotel

Commented [KA3]: Emily, Defer to you here on the cultural activity and dinner plans and how you want to structure.

21:15

End of Meetings/Day

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

7:30 – 8:30

Check-out of hotel and breakfast

Location: Selections, InterContinental Bahrain



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8:30 – 9:00

Transportation by bus to Bahrain International Airport

10:40

Flight to Abu Dhabi

Etihad (EY 642)

Departure: Tuesday, August 18 at 10:40 (BAH)

Arrival: Tuesday, August 18 at 12:50 (AUH)

13:10 – 14:00

Transportation by bus to Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abu Dhabi

14:00 – 15:00

Meeting with Moath Alwarai, Director of the Policy Planning Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

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

Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dress Code: Business Professional

15:00 – 16:00

Meeting with H.E. Reem Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

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

Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dress Code: Business Professional

16:00 – 16:15

Transportation by bus to the U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi

16:15 – 18:00

Meeting with Ambassador Martina Strong, Ambassador of the United States to the United Arab Emirates and Eric Gaudiosi, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission

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

Participants: Ambassador Martina Strong, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Jose Villalvazo, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Taylor Fairless, Gil Thompson, Many-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bonn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Michael Koren, Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: U.S. Embassy, Abu Dhabi

Dress Code: Business Professional

18:00 – 18:10

Transportation by bus to the Abrahamic Family House

18:10 – 19:15

Guided Tour and Briefing of the Abrahamic Family House

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

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

Location: Abrahamic Family House, Abu Dhabi

Dress Code: Business Professional

19:15 – 20:00

Transportation by bus for dinner

Commented [KA4]: Emily, recommend using a block here for another meeting of interest.

20:00 – 22:30

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

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

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

Location: Palace Restaurant

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

Dress Code: Business Professional

22:30 – 23:00

Transportation by bus to St. Regis Abu Dhabi

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

23:00

End of Meetings/Day

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Commented [KA5]: I left this here but defer to you on UAE Dinner



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6:00 – 6:30

Breakfast

6:30 – 7:00

Transportation by bus to the airport

8:35

Flight to Tel Aviv

Etihad (EY 593)

Departure: Wednesday, June 18 at 8:35 (AUH)

Arrival: Wednesday, June 18 at 11:00 (TLV)

12:00 – 13:00

Transportation by bus to meeting at the Ministry of Defense

12:00 – 13:00

Working Lunch Briefing

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

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

Presenter: Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken

Location: Bus En-Route to Tel Aviv

Dress Code: Business Professional

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

13:00 – 14:00

Meeting with Ministry of Defense

Rationale: Officials from the Ministry of Defense will provide a briefing to Congressional staff on the IDF's recent and ongoing operations in Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, Iran, and Yemen and the military and political objectives of each operation. The delegation will have a chance to engage on the IDF's effort following October 7th as well as on broader U.S.-Israel defense cooperation. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Members are likely to encounter legislation relating to U.S.-Israel ties, regional security developments, and the Abraham Accords.

Participants: Officials from the Ministry of Defense, Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Jose Villalvazo, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Taylor Fairless, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bonn,

Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Michael Koren, Gershon Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Location: Ministry of Defense

Dress Code: Business Professional

14:00 – 14:30

Depart for meeting to the Office of H.E. Yair Lapid

14:30 – 15:30

Meeting with the Office of H.E. Yair Lapid, Yesh Atid Party Leader and Leader of the Opposition in Israel's Knesset

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

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

Location: Knesset, Eliezer Kaplan St 1, Jerusalem, 9195000, Israel
Dress Code: Business Professional

15:30 – 16:30

Transportation by bus to Jerusalem

16:30 – 17:45

Meeting with the Office of H.E. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel

Rationale: Officials from the office of Prime Minister of Israel, H.E. Benjamin Netanyahu will share the position of the current Israeli government across diplomatic, defense, trade, and investment nexuses. Congressional Staff will have the chance to engage the Office of the Prime Minister on any issue touching U.S. – Israel relations with a focus on the four nexuses outlined. It is relevant to the trip's mission as the Members are likely to encounter legislation related to U.S.- Israel ties, the ongoing war in Gaza, and regional developments. The Office of the

Prime Minister of Israel, H.E. Benjamin Netanyahu, will be able to authoritatively speak to the current official Israeli position on Israel-U.S. ties.

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

Location: Office of the Prime Minister of Israel, Jerusalem

Dress Code: Business Professional

17:45 – 18:15

Transportation by bus to David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

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

18:15 – 18:45

Check in to David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem

18:45 – 21:00

Working Dinner with Ambassador Mike Huckabee, Ambassador of the United States to Israel

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

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

Location: King David Citadel Restaurant

Dress Code: Business Professional

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

21:00

End of day

Thursday, August 21, 2025



8:30 – 9:30

Working Breakfast Briefing with Atlantic Council Experts

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

Participants: Callahan Stoub, Samantha Schifrin, Marcos Ibarra, Jose Villalvazo, Arden Hooper, Valerie Foy, Taylor Fairless, Gil Thompson, Manya-Jean Gitter, Andrew Bonn, Luis Reyes, John Bleed, Reid Dagul, Jesse von Stein, Roland Hernandez, Michael Koren, Gershon Sacks, Emily Milliken, Cassidy McGoldrick

Presenter: Amir Hayek, Itai Melchoir

Location: Private Room, David Citadel Hotel

Dress Code: Business Professional

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

9:30 – 9:45

Transportation by bus to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

9:45 – 11:00

Meeting with the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gideon Sa'ar

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

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

Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem

11:00 – 11:15

Transportation by bus for meeting to Israeli Ministerial Complex

11:15 – 12:00

Meeting with Ron Dermer, Minister of Strategic Affairs

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

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

Locations: Israeli Ministerial Complex

Dress Code: Business Professional

12:00 – 12:15

Transportation by bus to Israel National Library

12:15 – 13:45

Guided Tour and Briefing of the October 7 Memorial Wall and Swords of Iron Memorial Monument

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

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

Location: Israel National Library, Jerusalem

Dress Code: Business | Professional

Commented [KA6]: Emily, recommend using a block here for another meeting of interest.

13:45 – 15:00

Lunch on your own in downtown Jerusalem (“The Shuk”)

15:00 – 15:15

Transportation by bus for meeting to the President’s Office

15:15 – 16:15

Meeting with the Office of H.E. Isaac Herzog, President of Israel

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

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

Location: Beit HaNassi

Dress Code: Business | Professional

Commented [KA7]: Emily, I’m leaving this block open for a cultural event or other engagement. The present events (barely) meet the 6 hours requirement but a cultural event could also count.

16:15 – 16:30

Transportation by bus to the hotel

16:30 – 18:30

Free time

18:30 – 20:00

Working Dinner and debrief with Atlantic Council on the trip.

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

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

Presenter: Gershom Sacks, Emily Milliken

Location: Private room, The David Citadel Hotel

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

Dress Code: Rugged Casual/Casual

20:00

End of day

Friday, August 22, 2025

8:00 – 9:00

Breakfast

9:00 – 9:40

Transportation by bus to the airport

11:00

Depart to Washington, DC

United (UA 85/UA 4432)

Departure: Friday, August 22 at 11:00 (TLV)

Layover: EWR (2 hr, 5 min)

Arrival: Friday, June 22 at 19:26 (DCA)

Saturday, August 22, 2025

11:00

Thompson depart to Washington, DC

United (UA 85/UA 4432)

Departure: Friday, August 22 at 11:00 (TLV)

Layover: 1 h 44 min (EWR)

Arrival: Friday, June 22 at 19:05 (DCA)

End of Trip

Non-Congressional Meeting Participants

- Gershom Sacks, N7 Initiative Deputy Director
- Emily Milliken, N7 Initiative Associate Director

Commented [KA8]: Defer to the AC to fill this



- Cassidy McGoldrick, N7 Initiative Assistant Director