# 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: Daniel Thayer
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: August 14, 2026 Return: August 23, 2026
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☐ None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: Israel Return City: Washington, D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: The Jewish Institute of National Security of America (JINSA)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: See Tab A for executed trip itinerary
7. Attached to this form are ***each*** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
   a. ☒ a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
   b. ☒ the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor ***prior*** to the trip, ***including all*** attachments ***and*** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
   c. ☒ page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; ***and***
   d. ☒ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. ☒ I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
   b. If not, explain: _____

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

**Signature of Traveler:** _____ **Date:** 09/15/2026

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:** Congressman Mark Messmer **Date:** 09/15/2026

**Signature of Supervising Member:** _____

*last updated 7/2023*

# 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: The Jewish Institute of National Security of America (JINSA)
2. Travel Destination(s): Israel
3. Date of Departure: August 14, 2026 Date of Return: August 23, 2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Daniel Thayer

   ***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 | $3,550 ($3,000 for round trip international flights, $550 for bus transportation to and from the airport and between sites in Israel | $2,940 | $1,400 | $700 (guides, entry fees) |
| Accompanying Family Member | | | | |

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

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

**Signature:** Matthew I. Kenney Digitally signed by Matthew I. Kenney Date: 2026.08.27 08:52:40 -04'00' **Date:** 8/27/2026

**Name:** Matthew Kenney **Title:** VP Government Affairs

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

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

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

**Telephone:** (703) 946-8363 **Email:** Mkenney@jinsa.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.**

*last updated 7/2023*

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

**This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.**

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

Name of Traveler: Daniel Thayer

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

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

Signature: [signature]

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): Daniel Thayer

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Mark Messmer (R-IN)

Office Address: 1208 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Telephone Number: 202-960-0613

Email Address of Contact Person: daniel.thayer@mail.house.gov

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

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

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

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

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Daniel Thayer
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: Friday, August 14 2026 Date of Return: Sunday, August 23, 2026

   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.**

   I am Congressman Messmer's National Security Advisor covering his defense and foreign policy portfolio. Attending this trip strengthens my knowledge of the U.S.-Israeli bilateral relationship and supports my national security legislative duties.
9. **Yes ☐ No ☒ Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

## ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

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

**Signature of Employing Member:** Mark B Messmer **Date:** 7/14/2026

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

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

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

   The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)

2. ☒ I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. ***Check only one.*** I represent that:
   a. ☒ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
   c. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

   If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____

   See Tab A

5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: Friday, August 15 Date of Return: Sunday, August 23
7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C., USA
   b. Destination(s): Tel Aviv, Israel
   c. City of return: Washington, D.C., USA
8. ***Check only one.*** I represent that
   a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
   b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
   c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☐ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
   b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
   c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
   d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. ☐ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☐ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
   b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For ***each*** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip ***and*** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
   For 50 years, JINSA has been dedicated to educating congressional, military and civilian national security decision-makers on American defense and strategic interests, primarily in the Middle East, the cornerstone of which is a robust U.S.-Israel security cooperation relationship. Organized and run entirely by JINSA, this trip directly supports our core educational mission.

13. ***Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary***:
   a. Mode of travel: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   b. Class of travel: Coach ☐ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. ☐ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. ***Check only one.*** I represent that either:
   a. ☐ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
      1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): $200
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Educational travel to deepen understanding of the U.S.-Israel bilateral defense and security relationship.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: Ritz Carlton City: Herzliya Cost Per Night: $420
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. ☒ I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

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

| ☐ Actual Amounts<br>☒ Good Faith Estimates | Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant | Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant | Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant |
|---|---|---|---|
| For each Member, Officer, or Employee | $3,550 ($3,000 for round trip international flights, $550 for bus transportation to and from the airport and between sites in Israel | $2,940 | $1,400 |
| For each Accompanying Family Member | | | |

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

19. ***Check only one:***
    a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
    b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

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

Signature: Leo Nayfeld Digitally signed by Leo Nayfeld Date: 2026.07.07 16:56:00 -04'00' Date: 7/7/2026

Name: Leo Nayfeld Title: Managing Director

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

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

Email: LNayfeld@jinsa.org Telephone: (202) 524-5502

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

Michael Guest, Mississippi
*Chairman*
Mark DeSaulnier, California
*Ranking Member*

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

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 10, 2026

Mr. Daniel Thayer
Office of the Honorable Mark Messmer
1208 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Thayer:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,[1] scheduled for August 14 to 23, 2026, sponsored by the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA).

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than $525 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 $525] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

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[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

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

**TRAVEL: Friday, August 14th**

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

**TRAVEL: Saturday, August 15th**

07:45 Arrival at Munich Airport, Munich, Germany

11:10 Departure from Munich Airport, Munich, Germany

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

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

17:30-19:00 Executive Time

19:00-21:00 **JINSA Delegation Welcome Dinner with MG Yaacov Ayish**, Former Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Defense Attaché to the U.S. and Canada and JINSA's Senior Vice President for Israeli Affairs**,** at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: "The State of U.S. / Israel Relations," a strategic overview of U.S.-Israel defense and security relations with a focus on concurrent priorities with regards to the ongoing struggle against the Iranian Axis of Resistance.

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

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-10:00 Executive Time

10:00-11:45 Briefing by **MG Amidror**, former National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: "Israel's Asymmetric Position in the Middle East," an overview of the Israel's overall strategic environment, followed by discussion of the evolution of U.S. / Israel defense cooperation relationship since the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks.

11:45-13:25 Briefing by **MG Ayish** at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.

Topic: "The State of Israel," a strategic overview of Israel including a discussion of history of the region since the dissolution of the Ottoman empire, current population concentrations, key strategic infrastructure, and current security threats. Discussion of how the mil-to-mil partnership between the Unites States and Israel strengthens the ability of both nations to address shared security concerns.

13:25-14:45 Lunch at Marina Bay, Ritz-Carlton Hotel complex, Herzliya (no speakers)

14:45-16:00 Executive Time

16:00-17:15 Briefing by **MG Amikam Norkin**, Former Commander of the Israeli Air Force and a former member of the Israel Defense Forces General Staff and JINSA Distinguished Fellow at the Ritz-Carlton complex, Herzliya.
Topic: Evolving threats in the air domain from cruise and ballistic missiles, manned and unmanned aerial systems, and rocket attacks from Iran and Iranian proxies including Hamas and Hezbollah, particularly in the context of joint U.S.-Israel military operations this year against Iran (Operations Epic Fury / Roaring Lion).

17:15-17:30 Executive time.

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

18:30-19:00 Executive Time

19:00-20:00 Briefing with **MG Ayish**
Topic: Israel's recovery from the Oct. 7th terrorist attacks, including discussion of his role leading resettlement of internally displaced persons in southern Israel, challenging in rebuilding communities physically and psychologically, and how private-public partnerships in Israel contributed to the process.

20:00-21:30 **JINSA Delegation Dinner with MG Ayish**
Topic: Continued discussion on the makeup of Israel's system of mandatory military service, exceptions to service and how this leads to tension within the Israeli body politic, and the role of the Israeli Defense Force Reservists as a key element of the IDF's total force.

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

**Day 2: Monday, August 17th**

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

06:30 Breakfast available

08:00-09:30 Depart Hotel for **War Reserves Stockpile Allies-Israel (WRSA-I)**. 30-minute brief by **MG Ayish** on the bus.
Topic: Israel's lack of strategic depth in the north, highlighting economically important strategic sites including Haifa Port and off-shore natural gas platforms.

09:30-10:00 Briefing by **MG Ayish on the War Reserves Stockpile Allies-Israel (WRSA-I)**, one of the United States' largest collections of warfighting material pre-positioned to be used in wartime at a WRSA-I observation point.
Topic: How WRSA-I functions and serves as an example of U.S. / Israel security cooperation and how it could be enhanced to be more useful.

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

10:30-10:45 Executive Time

10:45-11:45 Briefing on **IDF 91st Division at Northern Command by Lt. Col. Liad Diamond, Head of the VIP Delegations Branch** at Kfar Giladi Hotel, Kefar Gil'adi
Topic: The strategic threat Israel faces on its northern border facing Lebanon from Hezbollah (and Iran) and the impact of combat operations since October 7, 2023, to degrade Hezbollah's capabilities.

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

12:00-13:30 **Weapons Exhibition** and Brigade Briefing at Brigade 769 at Camp Gibor
Topic: Tour and briefing by **Col. Roei Roso, IDF 91st Division** of a weapons exhibition of military weapons and materials seized from Hezbollah and Iranian backed forced in Lebanon used against Israel since the October 7th attacks.

13:00-14:30 Lunch at Biga, BIG Center at Kiryat Shmona. No speakers.

14:30-14:45 Depart for the **Valley of Tears**

14:45-16:15 Briefing by Brig. **Gen. (res.) Avigdor Kahalani**, former Deputy Commander of the Ground Forces Headquarters
Topic: First-hand account briefing of the tank battles between Israel and Egypt during the Six-Day War and between Israel and Syrian forces during the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

16:15:-16:30 Drive to **Mt. Bental, IDF 210th Division** (near the Syrian border). Briefing by **MG Ayish** on the bus.
Topic: Overview of the contentious history between Israel and Syria, who have technically been at war since 1948, and have fought each other in three major

wars: the 1948 Arab Israeli War, the 1967 Six-Day War, and the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

16:30-17:00 Briefing by **IDF 210th Division by IDF Maj. Rom, Golan Israel Liaison Office,** at Mt. Bental overlooking the Israel-Syria border.
Topic: Briefing on the tank battles between Israel and Syrian forces during the Six-Day War in 1967 and Yom Kippur War in 1973 on the Golan Heights. Further discussion of the evolving threat Israel faces from Syria today, particularly in light of the Syrian Civil War that began in 2011 and ended with the overthrow of the Assad regime in 2024, and current prospects for improved relations between the two nations under the al-Shaara government.

17:00-17:15 Drive to **Israel-Syrian militarized zone/UN Disengagement Observer Force** (UNDOF) post at Quneitra Crossing

17:15-17:45 **UNDOF Base Tour and Briefing**
Tour and briefing at the UNDOF base by UNDOF representatives
Topic: The role of the United Nations at Quneitra Crossing, created in the aftermath of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Discussion of the role of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) at the crossing and its current role in the aftermath of the fall of the Assad regime in Syria and rise of the al-Shaara government.

17:45-19:15 Depart for Caesarea

19:15-20:15 Dinner at Hazalbanim Restaurant (or Crusaders Restaurant), Caesarea Port Caesarea. **MG Ayish** led roundtable discussion.
Topic: Summary of the key points from the day's briefings and site visits in the north, open conversation and dialogue on topics including the Hezbollah drone threat and the role of Caesarea as the principal port in the Roman-era and how this compares to the Haifa Port complex of today. Guidance and preview of the next day's events.

20:15-20:45 Return to Ritz-Carlton, Herzliya

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

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

06:00 Breakfast Available

08:30-09:45 Depart to Southern Israel, Iron Dome site

09:45-10:45 Briefing at the **Iron Dome** missile defense battery site by **an IDF officer**, the Defense Ministry's Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure (MAFAT), near Kibbutz Gevim.
Topic: The value of this critically important joint-U.S. / Israeli produced system in protecting civilian life and infrastructure.

10:45-11:30 Depart to **Kfar Aza**, in southern Israel. Briefing by **MG Ayish**.
Topic: Briefing on upgraded capabilities on the Israeli southern border to protect Israel's civilian population from Gaza in the aftermath of the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks.

11:30-12:30 **Visit to Kfar Aza**, in southern Israel.
Topic: Tour led by **IDF Diplomatic Liaison officer in the IDF Spokesperson Unit**, of the one of the focal points of the October 7th Hamas attack, to see the extent of the destruction and the impact on the community first-hand.

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

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

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

13:45-14:15 Visit **Nova Festival Victims Memorial**, near Kibbutz Re'im.
Topic: Tour led by **an IDF officer** of the one of the focal points of the October 7th Hamas attack, where more than 300 people were killed and some 40 taken hostage. Photos of each of the victims are displayed in their memory, along with

14:15-14:45 Drive to **Israeli Air Force (IAF) Base Hazerim.** Briefing by **MG Ayish** on the bus.
Topic: Israel's lack of strategic depth in the south and discussion of economically important strategic sites such as the Ashkelon Desalination Plant.

14:45-16:00 Briefing by **IAF Squadron at Hazerim Air Force Base** and walk-around of the base led by **IAF officer Ariel Ovich.**
Topic: Tour led by an IAF officer explaining day-to-day base operations by viewing runways, hangers, and a mission briefing room. Briefing by an IAF officer on the 107th Squadron (F-16Is) role in recent wartime operations, with a specific briefing on Israel's "Operation Roaring Lion" against Iran in 2026.

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

17:00-17:15 Executive time.

17:15-18:15 Briefing at the CMCC headquarters in Kiryat Gat by **Lt. Col. Yogev Shahaf**, IDF Intelligence Officer of the Corps and Headquarters.
Topic: Briefing on ongoing efforts by this joint American-Israeli program to address the ongoing Gaza humanitarian crisis and prevent Hamas from seizing and diverting aid.

18:15-19:15 Drive to Dinner, Concierge, Dizengoff 95, Tel Aviv.

19:15-20:45 Dinner at Concierge, Tel Aviv (no speakers).

20:45-21:15 Return to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel

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

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

06:30 Breakfast Available

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

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

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

10:00-11:00 Visit to IAI and brief by **Amir Geva, IAI EVP, Head of U.S. Business and Yehuda Davidovitch, VP Marketing & Business Development** at IAI in International Airport Ben Gurion in Lod
Topic: History of Israel Aerospace Industries and background of collaboration with the U.S. defense industrial base, with a focus on the significant role IAI has played in the development of Israel's world class integrated air and missile defense systems, and emerging technologies in this field.

11:00-11:45 Briefing by **Ori Eyal, IAI Regional Director Marketing - Missiles & Space Group** at IAI in International Airport Ben Gurion in Lod
Topic: The history of joint U.S.-Israeli missile defense development and current IAI programs including the Barak missile defense system, loitering munitions, and radar systems.

11:45-12:15 Briefing by **Niko Adamsky, Space Business Development & Marketing** at IAI in International Airport Ben Gurion in Lod

Topic: The history of the Israeli space program and IAI's key role in it. Discussion of the evolution of IAI's optical and radar-based satellites to the present day.

12:15-13:45 Depart to the **David Institution, Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd** main offices & testing sites in Leshem. Lunch on the bus.

13:45-14:50 Briefing by **Gil Kukach, IDF Lt Col (Res.)** on Iron Dome / David's Sling air defense systems at Rafael's office in Leshem.
Topic: Gain insight into how collaboration between U.S. and Israeli defense industries contribute to the defense of both nations in the air domain, particularly with regards to the Iron Beam directed energy missile defense system, the Trophy tank defense system, and Spike family of electro-optical missiles.

14:50-15:20 Briefing by **Gilon Shaer, Director, Marketing and Business Development Precision Tactical Systems** at Rafael's office in Leshem.
Topic: Rafael's a 6th-generation, precision-guided electro-optical (EO) Spike missile designed to engage targets at stand-off ranges without requiring a direct line of sight system and tour of the manufacturing line.

15:20-15:45 Briefing by **Oren Keidar, Rafael Director of Business Development & Marketing** at Rafael's office in Leshem.
Topic: Rafael's Litening Pod, an advanced, multi-sensor, multispectral airborne targeting pod that enhances the strike fighter's cognitive capability. Handling auto detection, target tracking, location extraction,Lightning System and pinpointing, it enables the pilot to perform multiple missions. Tour of the tour of production line.

15:45-16:30 Presentation by Rafael's **Yael Yadlovker, Iron Dome Site Director,** at Rafael's office in Leshem.
Topic: The construction of Tamir interceptor missiles utilized in the Iron Dome system and tour of the manufacturing line.

16:30-18:00 Drive to Ritz Carlton, Herzliya.

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

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

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

06:30 Breakfast Available

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

09:00-09:30 Executive time.

09:30-10:15 Meeting with **Mirel Eilon Shahar, Deputy Director General and Head of the Strategic Affairs Division, at the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs** at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: Briefing on the Iranian nuclear program over the years, Operation Rising Lion (the 12-day war with Iran), and considerations for next steps moving forward to prevent the Iranians from rebuilding their nuclear program.

10:15-11:15 Meeting with **Alon Simhayoff, Director for Middle East Affairs at the Center for Policy Research, at the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs** at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: Briefing on Israel's perspective of the Middle East and the current state of relations with countries including Egypt, Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco.

11:15-12:00 Meeting with **Lior Haiat, Deputy Director General, Head of North America Division, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** at Kiryat HaLeom, Jerusalem.
Topic: Briefing of U.S.-Israeli relations from the Israeli perspective, including a challenges and opportunities presented by the current ongoing conflict between Israel and Iran and its proxies Hamas and Hezbollah, and the upcoming need to negotiate a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States.

12:15-13:00 Depart for IDF Central Command, Jerusalem. Lunch on the bus.

13:00-13:30 Executive time.

13:30-14:30 Briefing at Central Command by **Lt. Col. Nissim Ben Efraim**, Intelligence Officer for Judea and Samaria.
Topic: Briefing on recent security developments in Judea and Samaria (AKA the West Bank) and prospects and potential impediments to improving relations with the Palestinians.

14:30-15:30 Depart for the U.S. Embassy in Israel, **14 David Flusser** St., Talpiot, Jerusalem

15:30-16:30 Meeting with **Mike Huckabee, U.S. Ambassador to Israel**, at the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.
Topic: "The State of U.S. / Israel Relations," a strategic overview of current high priority issues between the United States and Israel from the American perspective.

16:30-17:00 Depart for the Prime Minister's office, Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem.

17:00-18:30 Meeting with **Dr. Uri Resnick, National Security Council Senior Director for Foreign Policy,** at Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem
Topic: Briefing on the value of the strategic relationship between the United States and Israel and insight into how that relationship impacts the decision-making process of Israeli senior leadership in the context of Israel's conflict with Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran.

18:30-19:00 Drive to Naura Restaurant, Abu Ghosh, Old City, Jerusalem.

19:00-20:00 Dinner and Briefing by **Mr. Khaled Abu Toameh,** an Israeli Arab Journalist at Naura Restaurant, Abu Ghosh, Old City, Jerusalem..
Topic: Perspective on how the Arab world, (including Palestinian Arabs, Jordanians, Egyptians and others), understands and perceives Israel, how perceptions and misperceptions impact public opinion and government decision-making, and how this in turn impacts the regional security environment.

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

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

**Day 6: Friday, August 21st**

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

06:30 Breakfast Available

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

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

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

11:30-14:00 Tour of the **City of David, Jerusalem**
Background: The United States Embassy in Jerusalem, together with the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, have recognized the City of David as a testament to America's Judeo-Christian heritage and founding principles. The archeological discoveries at the City of David bring Biblical Jerusalem back to life and reaffirm the prophetic messages of freedom, justice and peace that inspired America's founders. The City of David is an archaeological excavation of the city of ancient Jerusalem, prior to the Jewish–Roman wars and the destruction and the Second Temple in 70

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

14:00-17:00 Guided tour of the Old City, Jerusalem with **Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide Ibgy Eliyahu**, Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide #022114755
Background: Participants will be exposed to Jerusalem as city of continuing vital importance to three of the world's great faiths. The walk through of the Old City will include an overview of government administration of the West Bank and a discussion of the current political dynamics in the West Bank, specifically the relationship between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority and the ongoing security challenges that affect Israelis and Palestinians, and how this impacts the broader security environment in the Middle East.

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

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

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

19:00-19:30 Executive Time.

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

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

**Day 7: Saturday, August 22nd**
**Day of Departure / Israel's Roots & Heritage, the Impact on National Security**

02:00 Departure of Sami Araboghli to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.

05:05 Departure of Sami Araboghli from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel to Kyiv, Ukraine

06:30 Breakfast Available

08:00-10:00 Drive to the city **Tiberias**, founded in 20 CE and named after the Roman Emperor Tiberius.
Topic: Briefing by **Ibgy Eliyahu, Israeli Ministry of Tourism Certified Guide** #022114755 on the importance Christians have placed on the Holy Land over the centuries and how this has impacted military and political decision making from diverse groups including Jewish revolutionaries in the Roman Era, Crusaders in the Middle Ages, and Great Britain in World War I.

10:00-12:00 **Tour of Capernaum and key Christian churches near the Sea of Galilee.**
Topic: Exploration of the Sea of Galilee region with Ibgy Eliyahu by visiting Christian holy sites including the Mount of Beatitudes, site of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount; and Capernaum, one of the first villages where Jesus taught to gain a fuller understanding of the importance of the Holy Land to the Christian world, the security implications of the religious importance of the region, and how this impacts the global political landscape.

12:00-13:00 Tour of the **Kinneret,** also known as the Sea of Galilee.
Topic: Briefing by Ibgy Eliyahu on the importance of the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River as both a border and a key water source for Israel and Jordan and the impact this plays in Israeli national security strategy. Discussion of the sea's historic importance, including to Christians for its connection to Jesus, who spent much of his life on or near it, and to late 19th century Zionists, who's dream of settling the Land of Israel became reality as pioneers and their families returned to the land and created a new form of agricultural settlement, the kibbutz.

13:00-13:15 Drive to **Magdala Home**, Migdal Junction, Magala Center Migdal.

13:15-14:15 **Tour of Magdala Home,** Migdal Junction, Magala Center Migdal
Topic: Tour with Ibgy Eliyahu to allow participants to gain a fuller understanding of the importance of the Holy Land to Christians and Jews today and how this impacts the global political landscape, by touring the Magdala Home of Mary Magdalen and recently uncovered 2,000-year-old city which provides a window into the world of Jesus and his disciples in Magdala, Galilee. Magdala is a unique Holy Land site with a first century city where the Jewish residents gathered in a synagogue where Jesus visited and taught. Discussion will also provide an overview of the vibrant Christian community in Israel, the only place in the Middle East with a growing Christian population.

14:15-15:15 Lunch, Hermitage Galilee Restaurant, Yagal Alon Promenade, Tiberias 12312 Israel (no speakers).

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

15:30-16:00 **Briefing at Yardenit, Jordan River Baptismal Site of Jesus**, Kibbutz Kinneret, one of Israel's most sacred religious sites for Christians and the second oldest kibbutz in Israel.
Topic: Briefing by Ibgy Eliyahu on the significance the Christian community has placed on this historic site, and the intimate relationship Christians have with Israel's biblical history.

END OF OFFICIAL PROGRAM

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

18:00-20:00 Executive Time

20:00-21:00 Dinner, no speakers

21:00-23:00 Executive Time

23:00 Departure of Group 1 (Reggie Harris, Daniel Thayer, Caroline Campbell, Patrick Herrera, Jack Robinson, Haley Tran) to Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv.

*No overnight* *Total Hours of Programming: 6+*

**TRAVEL: Sunday, August 23rd**

04:50 Departure of Group 1 from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv, Israel

10:00 Arrival of Group 1 at Munich Airport, Munich, Germany

12:00 Departure of Group 1 from Munich Airport, Munich, Germany

15:05 Arrival of Group 1 in Washington Dulles Airport, Washington, D.C., USA

###

**Tab A**
**2026 JINSA Congressional National Security Program to Israel**
**Participant List**

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

1. **Zev Siegfeld,** Military Legislative Assistant to Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY)
2. **Reggie Harris,** Chief of Staff to Rep. Greg Landsman (D-OH)
3. **Sami Araboghli,** National Security Advisor to Rep. Greg Steube (R-FL)
4. **Daniel Thayer,** Military Legislative Assistant to Rep. Mark Messmer (R-IN)
5. **Caroline Campbell,** Foreign Affairs & Intelligence Legislative Aide to Rep. Ronny Jackson (R-TX)
6. **Patrick Herrera,** Senior Legislative Assistant to Rep. Keith Self (R-TX)
7. **Jack Robinson**, Legislative Correspondent to Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D-WA)
8. **Haley Tran,** Legislative Assistant to Rep. Zach Nunn (R-IA)