In order to improve both nations’ homeland security efforts, the United States and Israel signed an agreement in May 2008 to increase their science and technology cooperation. The agreement covers a broad range of areas. Washington and Jerusalem have increased their information and personnel exchanges so that experts from both nations can learn from each other. They also work together to enhance the security of physical and online infrastructure. The two nations have also conducted research together in order to better protect themselves against the threat of nuclear, chemical and biological attacks.

**DISCOVERING NEW SOLUTIONS**

In May 2010, 50 retired generals and admirals wrote to President Obama, highlighting the value of U.S.-Israeli cooperation. “American police and law enforcement officials have reaped the benefit of close cooperation with Israeli professionals in the areas of domestic counter-terrorism practices and first response to terrorist attacks,” the letter read.

The answer to that broad question is very clear of course. There is no other country that shares the same values and overarching goal to allow others to live in peace. We share the same threats where nations wish to obliterate our way of life and our very lives from the face of the earth. We are both democracies with the messy argumentative style government that allow all persons to have a voice and a vote. Our only friend in a very dangerous part of the world. We share many bonds and each needs the other.”

— SHERIFF LARRY AMERSON
Calhoun County, Alabama

Our exchange of ideas and information with the [Israeli] Home Front Command is of substantial benefit to the National Guard in exercising its responsibilities for homeland defense.”

— AIR FORCE GENERAL CRAIG MCKINLEY
Chief of the National Guard Bureau

**SECURING OUR AIRPORTS**

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) works with world-renowned security experts at Israel’s Ben-Gurion International Airport in order to learn how to efficiently improve airline security. In addition to the Israeli-developed Screening Passengers by Observation Techniques (SPOT) that TSA has used for several years, Israel and the United States continue to expand their cooperation.

To enhance civil aviation security and cooperation, Israel, the United States and Canada conducted an unprecedented joint aviation drill in the summer of 2014. Intended to protect against aerial terror attacks, the drill helped ensure efficient response procedures for the three countries.

Another Israeli innovation protecting our skies is an optical-radar system called FODetect, which protects airport runways from birds and other foreign objects. This system is already operational at Israel’s Ben-Gurion Airport and Boston’s Logan International Airport.

We should move even closer to an Israeli model where there’s more engagement with passengers… We’ve just started to do that at TSA…”

— MAJ. GEN. (RET.) ROBERT HARDING, Security Consultant

Israel has emerged as a leader in developing techniques and technologies for homeland security and counterterrorism. Today, Israel is working with the U.S. government and the private sector to design systems and equipment aimed at thwarting terrorism and safeguarding citizens from both nations.
WORKING TOGETHER AS ALLIES

PREPAREDNESS
American observers from FEMA and the National Guard often travel to Israel to participate in Israeli homeland security drills. In January 2010, Israel conducted a large-scale bio-terrorism drill simulating a smallpox outbreak caused by a terrorist attack. Since then, FEMA and the Israeli National Emergency Authority have signed a formal agreement to conduct more joint-training drills and exercises.

BORDER SECURITY
Israel’s vast experience protecting its borders from terrorists, and the technologies developed as a result, has been put to use in the United States. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security hired Israeli defense firm Elbit to build surveillance towers for the Arizona-Mexico border equipped with radar and cameras that detect human movement.

PORT SECURITY
The Port of Miami is using Israeli company NICE Systems to improve its video monitoring equipment. The new Israeli system protects the four million travelers who come through the port annually, as well as the 7.4 million tons of goods delivered through the port. In 2014, the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) hosted its first-ever port security mission to Israel, bringing experts from both nations together to improve their work.

BOMB DETECTION
Professors Ehud Keinan of the Technion and Philip Dawson of the Scripps Research Institute in California invented a $25 explosive testing device that can detect miniscule traces of bomb-related substances by performing a quick, on-the-spot chemical test. The compact terrorism-fighting tool, which looks like a pen, can be applied to a wide variety of fields such as airport security and police activities.

POLICE COOPERATION
Israeli police forces train international peers in security procedures ranging from fighting terrorism to preparing for mass casualty emergencies. Israel has worked with multiple elite American law enforcement agencies to provide counterterrorism training techniques. In 2014, AIEF conducted two successful training missions to Israel for American law enforcement officials.

MASS TRANSPORTATION
Verint, an American company with extensive operations in Israel, has developed a video surveillance security system that is being used at LaGuardia, JFK and Newark Airports and the Port of Beaumont in Texas. The technology has been certified as an anti-terrorism technology by the Department of Homeland Security.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
A delegation of firefighters from the U.S., including Sept. 11 first responders, traveled to Israel in 2014 to assist their Israeli counterparts in extinguishing fires sparked by barrages of Hamas rockets. The American firefighters brought relief and support to the Israelis combating fires in Sderot and throughout southern Israel, providing much-needed assistance during a critical time.

PORT SECURITY
With the threat of cyber attacks growing every day, Israel and the United States are teaming up to bolster the security of each country’s computer networks. Government agencies and private companies from both nations are working together to protect against the constant threat of hackers and cyber-attacks. These collaborative efforts ensure that the national online infrastructures of Israel and the United States are secure.

CYBER DEFENSE
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Israel has become a laboratory for developing the best tactics and indigenous technologies. U.S. law enforcement can only benefit from this expertise and innovation.”
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