

MEMMO

Oct. 18, 2016

U.S. Missile Defense Cooperation with Israel Enhances U.S. Security and Objectives

Through annual defense appropriations, the United States has provided billions of dollars in funding for U.S.-Israel missile defense cooperation. This year Congress is considering more than \$600 million in support for U.S.-Israel missile defense programs. This assistance helps the Jewish state defend itself—a key U.S. interest. In addition, U.S. support of joint programs with Israel helps America enhance its own missile defense systems and strengthen U.S. industry. Congress has consistently asserted leadership in funding these essential programs and must continue to do so going forward.

Missile defense cooperation supports U.S. objectives in the Middle East.

- U.S.-Israel missile defense cooperation helps Israel defend itself while reinforcing America's unshakable commitment to Israel's security.
- Missile defenses promote stability by deterring Israel's foes from aggression.
- Israeli systems provide intelligence and protection for U.S. forces and allies in the Middle East.
- America's investment reduces the need for the direct involvement of America's military in
- Israel's defense—freeing resources to be employed in other regions.

America benefits from access to cutting edge, battle-proven technology.

- “[We] have learned a lot from the performance and the design of [Israeli] interceptors...we need the technical data package...for David's Sling so we can take that information and use it to our advantage for our systems and our interceptors...their testing has been extremely successful...Not just the weapons system itself but we've learned a lot from what they're doing with targets as well.”
 - *Vice Adm. James Syring, Director, Missile Defense Agency, [Testimony](#) before the Senate Armed Services Committee, April 13, 2016.*
- Israeli systems provide important technology and know-how to help improve U.S. systems that protect U.S. forces. Israeli missile defense programs have a proven record of successful testing and rapid fielding, with Iron Dome as the best known example. Israeli engineers conceptualized the system in 2007, taking it from the drawing board to initial operational capability in just four years.
- Israel has provided the United States access to Iron Dome's technology. In April 2016, the U.S. Army test-launched an Iron Dome interceptor from the Multi-Mission Launcher (MML), successfully destroying an airborne target. Iron Dome's functionality with a U.S. launcher paves the way for future U.S. military use.
- Since its inception, the David's Sling Weapon System (DSWS) has been a U.S.-Israel co-developed missile defense program. DSWS has enjoyed numerous successful interception tests. The program will begin production later this year.

Cooperation generates American jobs and boosts U.S. industry.

- “[Funds] you have appropriated ... have resulted in significant work share for U.S. companies...that's a great value to them. We also learn a lot from what they've done in terms of choosing components in the engineering they've done on their interceptors. They've done a fantastic job of achieving good performance.”
 - Vice Adm. James Syring, Director, Missile Defense Agency, [Testimony](#) before the Senate Armed Services Committee, April 13, 2016.
- Raytheon and Israel’s Rafael Advanced Defense Systems signed a co-production agreement for Iron Dome in 2012. U.S. contractors performed 55 percent of the co-production work in FY15. The MDA [touted](#) the agreement in 2014 as a “model for the future,” stating that “under this agreement, the United States focus shifts toward maximizing economic activity in the United States while ensuring that Israel’s security needs are met.”
- The two countries are currently negotiating co-production agreements on David’s Sling and the Arrow-3 system. David Sling interceptors will be built in Tucson, Arizona by Raytheon and Arrow-3 components will be produced in Huntsville, Alabama by Boeing.

Cooperation enhances U.S.-Israel military interoperability.

- The U.S. has long recognized the value of interoperability with Israel systems. In 1996, the U.S. official in charge of ballistic missile defense stated, “The Arrow Weapon System (AWS), developed jointly by the United States and Israel, provides Israel a capability to defend against short- to medium-range ballistic missiles. The Arrow Deployability Program allows Israel's acquisition of a third Arrow battery and Arrow's interoperability with U.S. systems.”
 - U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish, Director, Missile Defense Agency, [Testimony](#) before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, Feb. 28, 2002.
- In recent years, the two allies have stepped up operational collaboration, agreeing to conduct biannual exercises known as “Juniper Cobra” to practice defending against shared threats. This and other cooperation provides a key political signal and helps both countries improve their ability to jointly operate active multilayered defenses while under ballistic missile attack.
- The United States and Israel recently concluded this year’s iteration of Juniper Cobra, which brought 1,700 personnel from U.S. European Command to work with 2,000 of their Israeli counterparts. The drill won praise from Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, who said the American side “felt pretty good about where they are.”

Congress, on a bipartisan basis, has supported robust U.S.-Israel missile defense funding for decades.

- Through annual defense appropriations, the United States has provided billions of dollars in funding for U.S.-Israel missile defense cooperation.
- During the 2014 Gaza War, Congress approved \$225 million in vital emergency funding to replenish Israel’s arsenal of Iron Dome interceptor missiles.
- Congress is continuing its strong support for key U.S.-Israel missile and rocket defense programs, including Iron Dome, David’s Sling, Arrow-2 and Arrow-3. The House of Representatives has demonstrated its strong commitment to these programs on a bipartisan basis by providing over \$600 million in its FY 17 Defense appropriations bills. The Senate Appropriations Committee also adopted the \$600 million in its version of the legislation. Final passage of the legislation remains pending.