



## **Keeping American Soldiers Safe**

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veteran's Day, we have the occasion to honor and thank our soldiers for their service. This is our chance to express our gratitude to the brave men and women who risk their lives in order to keep America safe.

As they do their jobs in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, American troops are supported by innovations that reduce the risks they face. Many of the technologies and knowhow that they use are the result of the deep strategic partnership between the United States and Israel, which includes extensive cooperation in defense and security.

One example of such an innovation is the reactive armor system developed by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems for the Bradley armored personnel carrier. Insurgents have used rockets and roadside bombs against armored carriers in Iraq and Afghanistan, killing hundreds of U.S. soldiers. Reactive tiles protect carriers from this threat by overlaying the vehicle's armor with embedded explosives that blast outwards to suppress incoming fire. The reactive armor system, which has been in use for a number of years, has already saved countless lives on the battlefield.

Another technology used by the U.S. military around the world is the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). Israel supplied the U.S. Army with its first UAV, known as the Hunter. This pilotless remote-controlled airplane collects real-time video intelligence and targets enemy combatants with laser-guided precision. Israeli UAV technology has reduced the number of piloted missions, leading to fewer American casualties.

Missile defense is a central pillar of U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation. With both nations increasingly under threat from long- and short-range missiles, Israel and the United States have developed some of the world's most sophisticated missile defense systems.

One of these, the Arrow, is the first operational system specifically designed and built to intercept ballistic missiles. The Iron Dome, which intercepts short-range rockets and artillery shells, has already proven itself by shooting down Hamas rockets fired into Israel from the Gaza Strip. It will also be critical in protecting U.S. troops serving in areas like the Persian Gulf and South Korea.

American-Israeli cooperation in defense issues extends beyond the development of technologies to intelligence sharing, joint exercises and daily contact. As we take time to recognize American soldiers for their sacrifice, it is also important to acknowledge the crucial role that this cooperation plays in protecting our troops and making their lives easier.