



Middle East Spotlight

Homeland Security: A Joint American-Israeli Venture

With the growing complexity and capability of terror networks such as ISIS, the international community is grappling with a rapidly evolving terrorist threat. Israel has significant experience successfully countering such challenges, and thus has much to share with the United States. Today, the two countries are working together to safeguard their citizens by creating innovative approaches to thwart terrorism at their ports, in the air, and in the cyber domain.

The U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration's "Megaports Initiative" is one example of this close cooperation. In Israel, this initiative is helping to equip the Port of Haifa with radiation detection equipment and specialized training for port personnel. Stateside, the Port of Miami is employing Israeli video monitoring equipment to help protect the 4 million travelers and 7.4 million tons of goods that transit the port annually.

The U.S.-Israel security relationship also manifests in the aviation sector. Today, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is working with world-renowned security experts at Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport to improve airline security. And stateside, both Boston's Logan Airport and the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport have adopted FODetect, an Israeli optical-radar system that protects airport runways from both birds and foreign objects.

Both the United States and Israel recognize the potential vulnerabilities posed by cyberattacks on critical infrastructure, and are working together to combat the threat. On March 14, 2016, U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and then Israeli Minister of Defense Moshe Ya'alon agreed to increase U.S.-Israel ties in the cyber domain. And on May 3, 2016, Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas addressed the George Washington University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security, highlighting the importance of U.S.-Israel cooperation.

"Our office of Science and Technology has just entered into an agreement with the Government of Israel to pool funding for R&D in the cybersecurity realm. This is a matter where the community is not only a public-private partnership domestically, but a public-to-public and private-to-private around the world," Mayorkas said.

As the United States and Israel face increasing homeland security threats, the two countries continue their crucial collaboration to help keep their citizens safe.

To learn more about U.S.-Israel homeland security cooperation, visit www.aipac.org.