

March 31, 2008

The United States and Israel: Working Together for the Common Defense

For decades, the United States and Israel have shared a deep strategic and military relationship aimed at confronting the common threats to both nations. During the Cold War, the United States and Israel formed a buffer against the spread of Communism. Today, in the post-9/11 world, the two allies are working closely to defeat the threats posed by extremism and terrorism in the Middle East. To combat such threats, the United States and Israel have worked closely together to develop and share innovative technologies and techniques that are protecting American and Israeli lives -- whether on the battlefield or at the mall or airport.

- The United States and Israel have formed a unique strategic partnership to meet the growing dangers in one of the world's most volatile regions.
- To support the U.S. war on terror since September 11, the U.S. and Israel share vital intelligence on terrorism, weapons proliferation and other threats, at a level of sensitivity almost unparalleled among American allies.
- Thousands of U.S. armed forces personnel have utilized Israeli training facilities, and Israeli officials have shared "lessons learned" from their extensive combat experience with their counter-parts at the Department of Defense.
- Strategic cooperation is a mutual undertaking with significant benefits for both the U.S. and Israel. Just a few of the every day tangible examples of how this strategic relationship saves American lives:
 - **Bradley Reactive Armor Tiles** - Hundreds of U.S. soldiers have been saved by the Israeli-developed armor plating that explodes outward, diffusing the impact of incoming fire.
 - **The Emergency Bandage** - Used widely in Iraq, this state-of-the-art Israeli bandage enables medics to dress a wound while simultaneously stemming bleeding.
 - **Litening Pod** - Israeli-developed and American-produced, this sophisticated system has revolutionized the targeting and navigation capabilities of American aircraft. The Pod has also proved to be a conduit for counter IED detection and targeting.

- **Urban Combat Training** - U.S. troops operating in the Middle East have benefited from Israeli urban combat training techniques.
- **Hunter Unmanned Aerial Vehicle** - This Israeli-origin U.S. Army system is one of the most widely used unmanned reconnaissance platforms in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- Israel's expertise in defense and security technology has had a significant impact on U.S. counter-terrorism and homeland security efforts.
- With U.S. help, Israel is able to maintain its qualitative military edge for deterring aggression by its potential enemies. By collaborating with Israel, the U.S. has a reliable, democratic and technologically advanced partner in securing American strategic interests.
- This partnership includes: bilateral strategic agreements on military planning; ballistic missile defense and counter-terrorism; joint development of weapons and technologies; intelligence sharing; and combined military exercises.
- The U.S. and Israel have established a cost-effective partnership in the research and development of military technologies and know-how, and in identifying solutions to some of the most vexing technical problems facing both countries' military planners.
- The Arrow anti-missile defense system, co-funded and co-developed by the U.S. and Israel, is the world's most advanced operational missile defense system, and represents a promising example of strategic cooperation today.
- Despite its small size, Israel is recognized as a world leader in the quality of its indigenously developed military technology. As such, the U.S. has incorporated Israeli equipment and technology into its armed forces.