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. And, the two nations have conducted research together in order to better protect themselves against the threat of nuclear, chemical and biological attacks.

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

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. For several years, the TSA has employed the Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques (SPOT) program, using methods developed by Israeli airport officials. Behavior Detection Officers (BDO) are trained to detect behaviors that a person exhibits in response to the fear of being discovered. TSA deployed SPOT as an added layer of security to help deter and detect terrorists attempting to outsmart or circumvent the aviation security system. Because of SPOT, BDOs have identified illegal activities that have resulted in thousands of arrests at airports and other transportation hubs around the United States.

We went to the country that’s been dealing with the issue for the past 30 years. We were there to learn from them.”

— PAUL E. EVANS
Boston Police Commissioner
Praising Israel’s Homeland Security Expertise

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

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…”

— MAJOR GENERAL (RET) ROBERT HARDING
Security Consultant
WORKING TOGETHER AS ALLIES

BIOTERRORISM
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.

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.

BORDER SECURITY
Israel’s vast experience in protecting its borders from terrorists, and the technologies developed as a result, have been put to use in the United States. The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection has been operating Israeli-designed unmanned aerial reconnaissance vehicles (UAVs) along the U.S. border with Mexico as part of the Arizona Border Coordination Initiative.

CYBER DEFENSE
Israel and the United States are two of 15 nations that are working together to reduce the threat of attacks on computer networks. The collaborative efforts of these countries will help ensure that each nation’s online infrastructure is secure.

BOMB DETECTION
Professor Ehud Keinan of the Technion and Professor Philip Dawson of the Scripps Research Institute in California invented an explosive testing device, which was partially funded by the U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF). The $25 device can detect miniscule amounts of peroxide bombs-related substances by performing a quick on-the-spot chemical test. The 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 combating terrorism to preparing for mass casualty emergencies. Israel has worked with multiple American agencies, including the FBI, NYPD, LAPD, and the Washington, D.C. Police Department. The U.S. Capitol Police have also undergone training in Israeli counterterrorism techniques.

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
A delegation of Israelis traveled to the United States after Hurricane Sandy to help with the relief efforts. The group spread out among the devastated areas of New York and New Jersey and aided local emergency management forces. Israelis shared their invaluable experience, knowledge, and sheer man-power to contribute to the efforts already underway and worked closely with local officials.

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