30 Aug 18

Rafi Schutz (Tutor - Mabal 46 Team 2)

**MABAL 46 PERSPECTIVES – COL J S R PRIEST**

Reference:

A. WhatsApp Message dated 27 Aug 18.

1. **Introduction.** Following Reference A, I offer perspectives on my goals, personal objectives and expectations during Mabal 46. The course does have added relevance for me, given that I will become the British Defence Attaché in Tel Aviv on completion. Therefore, the knowledge and experience accrued from both the summer preparation and Mabal will also provide an excellent baseline of understanding.

2. **Goals.** I have a number of targets I wish to achieve. Taking a holistic view over the next 11 months, I hope to better understand Israeli society and culture, as well as the interdependencies with the IDF and wider government. Key to this is gaining an insight into Israeli geopolitical issues. I would also like to improve my Hebrew to an extent that I can engage in (basic) conversations. I regard these aspects as fundamental to my professional development.

3. **Personal Objectives.** In order to achieve my goals, there are specific topics that require consideration. Firstly, establishing a comprehensive understanding of current and future National Security Challenges. This will provide valuable context. Equally, is an awareness of the Government's decision making process and its (National) priorities. From a military (IDF) perspective, I am keen to learn how their cross-Ministry/Department planning is used to deal with existential threats. In addition, gaining an insight into the National strategy for Foreign Policy and International Diplomacy will be extremely useful. I am genuinely interested to understand how the country perceives (and positions) itself on the global stage. Underpinning all these themes, is developing a sound knowledge of Israeli political and military history.

4. **Expectations.** I hope I can add some value through contributions, *inter alia,* to debates, papers, and wider professional and social events. My aim is to use my broad array of experience to provide additional insights and perspectives, whilst endeavouring to use intellectual rigour to reinforce research, discussions and course work. Without doubt, I am looking forward to experiencing and exchanging some innovative, open and balanced views on a range of issues. I am also sure the plenums will provide an excellent mechanism for some cerebral sparring! Finally, of utmost importance to me is the establishment of enduring friendships.

**JSRP**