



Defence Academy
of the United Kingdom



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HIGHER COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE 20 VISIT REQUEST 10-11 FEBRUARY 2020

As the Commandant of the UK Defence Academy, I write to formally request the Israel Defence Force's support in facilitating visits by the UK Higher Command and Staff Course (HCSC) 20. HCSC aims to prepare future strategic leaders from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force for high command appointments not only within their own Service but across the wider Defence and Security environment.

In parallel to Royal College of Defence Studies, HCSC is the pinnacle Defence Academy course which is run once a year for a maximum of 40 members who represent the top 2% of their professions at or rapidly approaching 1 star rank. The course is focused on warfighting at the combined, joint, inter agency, intergovernment and multinational level. Attendance is by competitive selection with those selected having the potential to reach the highest ranks of their services. Of note, all current heads of the UK single services are HCSC alumni. Although the core of the student body comprises 24 UK military officers destined for operational command and staff positions, the addition of 6 civil servants with a security focus and international partners¹ bring breadth and depth to the course.

The aim of the requested visit is to improve course members understanding of the Israel Defence Force's approach to warfighting at the operational level and if possible to learn from your experience of operating the Iron Dome Missile Defence System (noting that the UK does not currently possess this type of capability). If you have any queries or questions relating to the proposed visit, please contact Group Captain Andrew Dickens (+44 (0) 1793 788127 andrew.dickens@da.mod.uk) who is coordinating the strategy phase for HCSC 20.

Andrew

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¹ Officers from Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, New Zealand and the United States.