**Teaching National Defense in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities**

**Academic Workshop**

General

The Israel Institute will support an academic workshop to be held at Israel’s National Defense College where Israeli and American counterparts would discuss the role and nature of their institutions in educating senior command officers.

Since their inception, military educational institutions (academies, colleges and university) have continuously provided professional education to military officers, government officials and international fellows. During that time their curriculum and focus have changed to reflect the geopolitical realities within which the states operate.

The geostrategic landscape of the 21st century poses a major challenge from both an operational and political perspective and mandates reconsidering the role military educational institutions play in informing the next generation of senior command officers.

Objective

The suggested workshop at Israel’s National Defense College will bring together prominent figures from various military colleges and universities across the US to discuss how the mission, methodology and curriculum of such institutions are adjusted to stay relevant and accommodate the challenges posed by ongoing and novel geostrategic challenges both Israel and the US are facing in training the next generation of senior command officers. Some of the key topics this workshop will address include but are not limited to:

1. Maintaining academic rigor in a dynamic security environment
2. Striking the faculty’s academic-practice balance
3. Making the case for advanced education over operational experience
4. Combining military and non-military components in the curriculum
5. New technologies and methodologies in teaching national defense and security
6. Teaching national security and defense in an interdependent world
7. Teaching leadership and critical thinking within a hierarchic environment
8. Educating against the clock: teaching the shift from a tactical or operational focus to a strategic one within a year.
9. Academic training and professional promotions
10. War colleges as drivers of original scholarship?

List of Potential Partners in the US:

1. Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)
2. National Defense University (NDU)
3. United States Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC)
4. Marine Corps University
5. United States Army War College (USAWC)
6. Naval War College
7. Air Force Academy