# Meeting of U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis &



## JINSA Task Force on U.S.-Israel Strategic Cooperation



Pentagon April 17, 2018













### U.S.-Israel Strategic Cooperation Task Force



- Commissioned by Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA).
- **Mission**: update the bilateral security relationship to meet growing dangers in the Middle East and capitalize on new opportunities.
- Chaired by former SACEUR Adm. James Stavridis, USN (ret.), with members:
  - **Gen. Chuck Wald**, USAF (ret.), JINSA Distinguished Fellow and former deputy commander, EUCOM.
  - Lt. Gen. Trey Obering, USAF (ret.), former head of Missile Defense Agency, with extensive experience working with IDF.
  - LTG Jack Gardner, USA (ret.), Stavridis' former deputy EUCOM commander.
- Directed by JINSA CEO Michael Makovsky.
- Findings partly informed by extensive meetings with Israeli security officials.





## Strategic Background

- Iran's ascending regional hegemony is largest challenge to U.S. and Israel, while America remains reluctant to further engage in Middle East.
- Israeli actions are pushing back against Iran, and are advancing U.S. interests.
- Greater convergence of interests and nascent cooperation between Israel and Sunni Arabs, yet they need U.S. leadership to advance effort.



### 5 Recommendations

- U.S. has much to gain from further bolstering the bilateral partnership by:
  - Improving Israeli capabilities to defend its own and U.S. regional interests.
  - Leading Israeli-Arab cooperation.
- Five overarching recommendations

# 1. Strengthen Israel's Official Standing as U.S. Ally



- New executive order creating presumption of approval to sharing intel, info, technology and weapons systems.
- Re-examine possibility of stand-alone mutual security treaty, without constraints on either party.
- Upgrade Israel to "all but Article V" NATO



# Move two *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyers from Spain to new homeport in Haifa







# 2. Ensure Israel's Qualitative Military Edge

- MoU on defense assistance to Israel to address rising Iranian competition and arms sales to Arabs.
- Could allow Israel to acquire more readily:
  - Air attack capabilities: prioritizing F-35s, with F-15s/-16s in the interim;
  - Airlift capabilities: CH-53K, C-47 or V-22;
  - Air refueling tankers: prioritizing KC-46s, with KC-135s in the interim;
  - Precision munitions, incl. GBU-39, Hellfires and JDAM kits;
  - UAVs with EW capabilities;
  - Alligator semi-submersible naval vessels and amphibious landing craft.









- Replenish WRSA-I stockpiles to reflect intensity of prospective future conflicts:
  - GPS-guided munitions whose protocols are interoperable with Israel;
  - Critical munitions such as THAAD, PAC-3 and SM-3 interceptors.
- Make WRSA-I into regional prepositioning hub to support EUCOM, Israel, CENTCOM and potentially operations of U.S. Arab allies.



# 3. Enable Greater Israel-Arab Cooperation

- Make U.S. a hub for shared early warning between Israel and Arabs including potentially linking Israel to CENTCOM's Air & Space Ops Center.
- Facilitate Israeli intel-sharing and operational coordination with Saudi Arabia and UAE against Iranian arms transfers and Hezbollah operations in Yemen.
- Encourage greater military interoperability between Israel, Egypt and Jordan, and greater Israeli-Egyptian maritime security coordination in the Red Sea.
- Provide full \$1.3 billion in prescribed annual military aid to Egypt.



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- Articulate clear support for Israel's redlines and right to self-defense.
- Authorize relevant COCOMs to formulate joint objectives with Israel for Syria.
- Coordinate cyber and special ops contingencies against Iran in Syria.
- Exploit Russia's and Iran's divergent goals in Syria.



### 5. Undertake Hi-Tech Joint Ventur What's the next "Arrow?"

- Jointly develop miniaturized, relatively low-cost hyperspectral satellites.
  - Crucial in a world where "hard to find, easy to kill" has replaced "easy to find, hard to kill."
- Explore additional such partnerships in:
  - Artificial intelligence;
  - Unmanned vehicles;
  - Cyber and special ops;
  - Maritime ops (esp. littoral defense of critical infrastructure).

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