



ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES  
**J3, OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE**

*December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018*

**Rear Admiral Samuel Paparo**

Director of Operations, U.S Central Command

Dear Admiral Paparo,


I am writing this letter with great sadness, disbelief and shock. We are extremely saddened and are in shock, after learning of the tragic and unexpected passing of VADM Stearney.

When a family member passes away, it is hard to see how we are supposed to move on. VADM Stearney was like family to the Israel Defense Forces, and will be remembered by all of us here in the IDF J3, as a fearless and courageous warrior and as a great friend and ally. He will be tremendously missed.

Please convey our condolences to the entire staff at CENTCOM and the 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet, and know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

"May the Almighty comfort you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem"

"Fair winds and following seas"

  
**Major General Aharon Haliva**  
Head, Operations Directorate  
Israel Defense Forces