



**Israel National Defense College
44th Class 2016-2017**

Record of Mid-Term Feedback

Team Instructor: Dr. Haim Waxman

Submitted by: Ng Wei How

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Record of Main Points of Discussion

On 9 Mar 17, I had a feedback session with Team Instructor, Dr Haim Waxman, to discuss my personal growth and development as a senior student in the Israel National Defense College. The discussion focused on areas such as academic achievements, working at the team level and strategic perception in the field of National Defense. This record summarized the key points of discussion and formed the basis for the continuation of my learning and growth journey.

I started with a reflection of my learning progress in INDC thus far. I shared that the Political Simulation exercise was an apt culmination point for strategic thinking. It was also a very useful platform that generated a lot of richness in the quality of my learning and thoughts on national security issues. Due to the multi-sided nature of the exercise, the inherent tension created during the strategizing process forced my mind to operate at a higher plane than what I had used to do in military strategizing. I also reflected that I had learned much more and deeper about the various pillars of Israel's national security due to the well-structured and organized curriculum up to the first half of the course, such as the dialogues with distinguished speakers, academic lectures, seminars and in-country tours.

Dr Haim shared with me the observations the college instructors had with respect to my performance and behavior as a senior student. He noted that I was able to write well academically and articulate my thoughts with clarity. He observed that I was a very meticulous and methodical person, something which he derived from the gantt chart that I develop to keep track of the progress of my final annual paper.

In terms of team-level meetings, Dr Haim said that I had participated actively and contributed positively as a team player and as an exemplary senior leader. I was able to bring useful perspectives and insights to share with the team. He understood that I had a unique learning method. In response, I shared that I used mind-mapping to distill and synthesize key concepts and ideas from the volume of information and details presented to me by distinguished speakers, professors and lecturers. I said that I learned better by organizing my thoughts in a visual manner (like a mind-map) instead of the classic way of listing points down. Dr Haim added that I should also be more proactive and speak up during the plenary session with the whole class as the perspectives I would bring up could be very useful for other students. I acknowledged that this was an area of improvement I should work on.

Before concluding, Dr Haim asked if I had any other feedback for himself or the college. I shared that I appreciated his approach towards the facilitation of our learning. During discussions, Dr Haim would allow space for students to express their ideas freely and openly. Thereafter, he would sum up the main points of discussion and generate some insights for us to think about and forge the necessary connections. It was then up to us to explore further to acquire new knowledge about the topic under discussion. This, to me, was one of the best way to encourage adult and peer learning, and I expressed my desire for him to continue doing this.