



Israel: A U.S. Strategic Asset

The United States and Israel each face a variety of threats in the Middle East, from radical Islam and nuclear proliferation, to cyber warfare and counterfeiting. Israel is a reliable fellow democracy that shares America's values and worldview in a region dominated by authoritarian regimes.

With no other country in the region—and few in the entire world—does the United States share the same high level of strategic cooperation that it does with Israel. The historic alliance between the United States and Israel is a stabilizing force in an otherwise unstable region of the world. Indeed, U.S.-Israel military cooperation is a powerful deterrent to those in the Middle East who seek to harm either country.

Israel's presence in the region provides a de-facto guarantee of security—well beyond its borders—that would be costly to replace. Despite Israel's small size, its military strength and geostrategic location in the eastern Mediterranean provide a strong deterrent against Iran and other radical forces that threaten U.S. interests.

As a result of this strong strategic partnership, the United States is currently putting Israeli military innovations to use in the Middle East and elsewhere to save American lives on the battlefield. Examples range from basic items such as a unique emergency bandage to high-tech solutions like reactive armor tiles, mine-resistant vehicles and equipment to counter roadside bombs.

Israel has provided U.S. forces with emergency equipment, including armor for troop carriers and munitions for American forces in Iraq. After 9/11, Israel delayed taking a delivery of armored Humvees being produced for it in the United States so the U.S. military could quickly ship the completed vehicles to Afghanistan.

Israel appreciates America's pledge that it would help defend Israel in the case of a major assault. However, Israelis are proud of the fact that, when threatened or attacked, they fight their own battles. Israel has never asked American troops to risk their lives to defend the Jewish state. At the same time, unlike many areas of the Middle East, U.S. troops are always welcome to visit Israel, where they are free to tour the Holy Land and practice their faith as they see fit.

America's investment in Israel has been returned in the form of a reliable, cooperative pro-American ally that helps the U.S. respond to serious threats, saves American lives at home and abroad, trains and supplies its soldiers, helps defend American interests, provides invaluable intelligence about its enemies and support its values and overall foreign policy objectives. Israel is and will remain an invaluable strategic asset of the United States.