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For example:

- Through joint training and exercises as well as exchanges on military doctrine, the United States has benefited in the areas of counterterrorism cooperation, tactical intelligence, and experience in urban warfare. The largest-ever US-Israel joint exercise is scheduled for spring 2012.
- Israeli technology promotes American interests. Increasingly, US homeland security and military agencies are turning to Israeli technology to solve some of their most vexing technical problems. This support ranges from advice and expertise on behavioral screening techniques for airport security to acquiring an Israeli-produced tactical radar system to enhance force protection. Israel has been a world leader in the development of unmanned aerial systems, for both intelligence collection and combat, and it has shared with the US military the technology, the doctrine, and its experience regarding these systems. Israel is also a global pacesetter in active measures for armored vehicle protection, defense against short-range rocket threats, and the techniques and procedures of robotics, all of which it has shared with the United States.
- In the vital realm of missile defense cooperation, the United States has a broad and multifaceted relationship with Israel, its most sophisticated and experienced partner in this preeminent domain for the United States. Israel's national missile defenses—including the US deployment in Israel of an advanced X-band radar system and the more than 100 American military personnel who man it—will be an integral part of a larger missile defense architecture spanning Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the Persian Gulf that will help protect US forces and allies throughout this vast area. For this reason, the director of the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency recently praised the specific contribution that Israel's integrated, multi-layered command-and-control

D4. FORMER U.S. OFFICIALS ROBERT D. BLACKWELL AND WALTER B. SLOCOMBE, "ISRAEL: A STRATEGIC ASSET FOR THE U.S.," JERUSALEM POST, 3 NOVEMBER 2011 (EXCERPTS).

Veteran U.S. foreign policy experts Robert Blackwell (a former senior State Department official and National Security Council aide) and Walter Slocombe (a former Pentagon official) wrote the following feature piece in the Jerusalem Post at a time when regional instability generated by the Arab Spring revived debate over whether Israel was a strategic asset or liability to the United States. The authors argue for maintaining the U.S.-Israel special relationship not only on the grounds of "shared values and morality" but also because of the benefits derived from bilateral security coordination. The excerpts below highlight the deep military and intelligence ties existing between Israel and the United States. The full article is available online at www.jpost.com.

Israeli contributions to US national interests

In addition to and outside of the peace process, history provides numerous examples of specific Israeli actions that have benefited US national interests. . . . Today, Israeli contributions to US national interests range across a broad spectrum.

network makes to the US military's ability to defend against the Iranian missile threat.

- While it is certainly true that Israel gains significantly from generous US financial assistance to its military—most of it spent in America—Israel's defense industries have certain unique competencies that benefit the United States. One result is the growing importance to the US military of Israeli defense goods, as the United States has taken advantage of access to unique Israeli capabilities in key “niche” areas of military technology.

OVERALL, THE value of annual US purchases of Israeli defense articles has increased steadily over the past decade, from less than a half billion dollars in the early 2000s to about \$1.5 billion today. Among the Israeli-developed defense equipment used by the US military are short-range unmanned aircraft systems that have seen service in Iraq and Afghanistan; targeting pods on hundreds of Air Force, Navy, and Marine strike aircraft; a revolutionary helmet-mounted sight that is standard in nearly all frontline Air Force and Navy fighter aircraft; lifesaving armor installed in thousands of MRAP [mine resistant ambush protected] armored vehicles used in Iraq and Afghanistan; and a gun system for close-in defense of naval vessels against terrorist dinghies and small-boat swarms. Moreover, American and Israeli companies are working together to jointly produce Israel's Iron Dome—the world's first combat-proven counter-rocket system.

- Counter-terrorism and intelligence cooperation is deep and extensive, with the United States and Israel working to advance their common interest in defeating the terrorism of Hamas, Hezbollah, and al-Qaida and its affiliate groups by sharing information, supporting preventive actions, deterring challenges, and coordinating overall strategy. Joint Special Forces training and exercises, collaboration on shared targets, and close cooperation among the relevant US and Israeli security agencies testify to the value of this relationship.
- More broadly, Israel is a full partner in intelligence operations that benefit both countries, such as efforts to interdict the supply of parts to Iran's nuclear program or to prevent weapons smuggling in the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. This intimate relationship reinforces overall US intelligence efforts by providing Washington with access to Israel's unique set of capabilities for collection and assessments on key countries and issues in the region, since Israel is able to focus resources and attention on certain targets of central importance to the United States. Such was the case, for example, when Israel passed to the United States conclusive photographic evidence that Syria, with North Korean assistance, had made enormous strides toward “going hot” with a plutonium-producing reactor. As Israel's strategic intelligence collection capabilities (e.g., satellite and unmanned aerial systems) mature and improve, this cooperation and exchange of intelligence information and analysis will increasingly serve US national interests.
- Given that Iran and its allies in the greater Middle East represent clear and present dangers to US interests, Israel's military—the most powerful in the region—plays an important role in addressing those threats posed especially by Syria, Hezbollah, and to some extent, Iran itself. The ability of the Israeli armed forces to deter the military ambitions of destabilizing regional actors promotes American national interests because it presents our common enemies with an additional—and potent—military capability to resist their aggression.
- Looking to the future, Israel's world-class expertise in two cutting-edge areas of national security—cyber defense and national resilience planning and implementation—will increasingly redound to the benefit of the United States. Israel is a primary place where the United States can build an enduring partnership to try to secure the cyber commons, as enunciated in the administration's International Strategy for Cyberspace. With its world-class

information technology, R&D, and cyber security capabilities, Israel will be an ever more important player in efforts to secure cyberspace and to protect critical US national infrastructure from cyber attack.

Through the Israel-based activities of major US companies or the licensing in the United States of Israeli technologies, Israel's excellence in cyber security already benefits critical US infrastructure such as banking, communications, utilities, transportation, and general Internet connectivity. And if security concerns of both parties can be managed, Israel can become a major partner in efforts to exploit the military applications of cyber power, in the same way that the two countries have established collaborative relationships in intelligence and counter-terrorism.

Finally, drawing on its experience in building a flourishing economy and vibrant democracy despite decades of conflict and terrorism, Israel has a role to play in helping the United States deepen its own internal resilience in dealing with terrorist threats against the homeland and the impact of natural disasters.

...

We do not argue that Israel's assistance to the United States is more valuable to the United States than American support of Israel is to Israel. Nor do we deny that there are costs to the United States, in the Arab world and elsewhere, for its support of Israel, as there are costs to US support of other beleaguered—and sometime imperfect—friends, from West Berlin in the Cold War to Kuwait in 1990–91 to Taiwan today.

We are, however, convinced that in a net assessment those real costs are markedly outweighed by the many ways in which Israel bolsters US national interests and the benefits that Israel provides to those interests.

In particular, we believe that the United States can have strong and productive relations with Arab and other Muslim nations while sustaining its

intimate collaboration with Israel and that US support for Israel is not the primary—and probably not even a dominant—reason Islamist terrorists target the United States. The long-standing US commitment to Israel has not prevented development of close ties with Arab nations who understand that however much they disagree with US support for Israel, they benefit from a good relationship with the United States on other issues.

...

Toward deeper US-Israel cooperation

The conclusion of our analysis is that the US-Israel relationship is a significant asset to US national interests. And the potential for even greater US benefits from deeper cooperation is substantial.

In this context:

- US political leaders, from the White House to Congress, should expand the national discussion on US Middle East policy to include the role of the US-Israel relationship as a strategic asset to US national interests. "US national interests" deserve equal billing with "shared values" and "moral responsibility" as fundamental rationales for the bilateral relationship.
- The US government should seek to maximize the advantages the United States can derive from cooperation with Israel and to expand partnerships both in traditional areas (e.g., military, intelligence) and in new areas (e.g., cyber warfare, homeland resilience).
- US security, strategy, and policy communities should more seriously engage on the strategic aspects of the US-Israel relationship: how to further develop bilateral ties and how to leverage this relationship to advance broader US national interests.

Taken together, these measures will ensure that US-Israel relations are seen not only as a diplomatic vehicle to express deep-seated values and fulfill America's moral responsibility, but also as an important means to advance US national interests.