

# FIDF

## National Rabbinic Cabinet

### MISSION TO ISRAEL

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**December 20th - 24th, 2009**

**Rabbi Isaac Jeret, Chairman**

**Sunday, December 20th**

### **Welcome to Israel!** **JERUSALEM BY NIGHT**

**A UNIQUE VIEW OF THE CENTERPLACE OF OUR JEWISH HERITAGE**

Afternoon Arrival in Israel and transfer to Jerusalem.

**\*\*8:00 pm Welcome reception at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem.**

**Special Guest: Maj. Gen. (Res) Yitzhak Jerry Gershon, Friends of IDF National Director.** Major General (Res.) Gershon has more than 32 years of military experience. General Gershon served in the top combat units in the I.D.F. Most of his service was on the front lines in Lebanon and Judea/Samaria. General Gershon commanded troops in various special operations, as well as during the first and the second Lebanon War, and the "Defense Shield" operation during the second Intifada.

Friends of IDF welcomes you to Israel. Receive final updates on the exciting week ahead.

9:30 pm Ma'ariv Service (optional)

10:00 pm Nighttime Tour of old Jerusalem (optional)

**Hotel: Sheraton Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem**

**\*\* Important note for West coast participants – the only flight available Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup> is Air France 073 departing LAX at 9:45pm and arriving TLV on Monday Dec 21 at 12:10am**

**Monday, December 21st**

## **The Southern Frontier**

### **DEFENDING ISRAEL FROM TERROR BASED IN THE GAZA STRIP THE CHALLENGES OF TERROR TO DAILY LIFE & THE IDF'S RESPONSE**

7:00 am Shacharit Services (optional)

8:00 am **Opening breakfast** at the **Sheraton Moriah Jerusalem Hotel**.

**Special Guest:** **Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, IDF Chief of Staff.** Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi has served with great distinction in a series of senior positions in the IDF, including Commander of the Golani Infantry Brigade, Commander of an Armored Division, Operations Directorate Chief and General of the IDF's Northern Command. He serves currently the Chief of the General Staff of the IDF – the highest ranking officer and the Commander of the IDF.

9:15 am **Travel to Gaza Border Region:**

- ☆ Visit **Re'im Base**, the new home of the **Gaza Division Headquarters**. High-level **briefing by Senior Intelligence and Operations Officers** on current threats facing the area.
- ☆ **Closer to the Gaza Border:** Meet with soldiers at outposts along the Gaza border. Peer into Gaza to see first-hand the IDF's challenges in protecting Israeli civilians from Gaza-based terrorists.
- ☆ **Visit the now-secured site of Gilad Schalit's kidnapping** and recite Tehilim (Psalms) on his behalf.
- ☆ **Lunch with IDF Soldiers and Officers** at their IDF Base near the Gaza Strip.
- ☆ Mincha Services (optional)

3:00 pm **Meetings with the Municipal Leadership of the Gaza Region:**

Visit with the **Mayor of S'derot** and with **leaders and civilians of other towns and communities** in range of Palestinian missile and rocket fire emanating from the Gaza Strip. Learn first-hand how everyone, from shop-keepers to school-children, copes with the constant threat of terror.

5:30 pm Free Time

7:00 pm Depart for dinner.

7:20 pm **Dinner at Lavan restaurant**

**Special Guest:** **Danny Ayalon**, Deputy Foreign Minister and Former Ambassador of the State of Israel to the United States.<sup>1</sup> Deputy Minister Ayalon will address the topic:

#### **MAKING THE CASE FOR ISRAEL** **THE FOUR MOST IMPORTANT TALKING POINTS** **FOR AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS**

9:30 pm Ma'ariv Services (optional)

10:00 pm Late night lobby talk (optional)

**Hotel:** Sheraton Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem

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**Tuesday, December 22nd**

## **Identity & Purpose**

### **MORAL DILEMMAS & ETHICAL CHALLENGES WHY AND HOW THE IDF MAINTAINS THE HIGHEST MORAL AND ETHICAL STANDARDS OF ANY ARMY IN THE WORLD**

7:00 am Shacharit Services (optional)

8:15 am Depart to **Beit Morasha**, an IDF educational facility in Jerusalem.

- ✧ **Overview of IDF education programs** for soldiers in training and in the course of their service, for officers, and for senior IDF staff. **High-Level briefing** will include consideration of the IDF's range of educational objectives, including those related to strengthening the core values, skills, and capacities of the next generation of Israelis.
- ✧ Joint participation in education seminars (conducted in English) with IDF soldiers and officers.
- ✧ Joint participation with IDF officers in a **high-level session** (conducted in English) **regarding moral and ethical issues** facing soldiers and officers in the field.
- ✧ **Lunch with IDF instructors** serving at the **Beit Morasha**.

1:30 pm Mincha Services (optional)

2:00 pm **Jerusalem Through the Eyes of the Border Police:**

Soldiers serving in Israel's Border Police units balance the imperative to protect Israeli citizens from terror with ensuring that Palestinians are treated fairly. This visit will include a tour of the Border Police's patrol-facility, understanding the unique methods and technologies deployed to secure the Old City while avoiding as much as possible confrontation with Palestinians.

4:30 pm Free Time

7:00 pm Depart hotel for dinner

7:30 pm **CHAIRMAN'S DINNER**

*Hosted by: Rabbi Isaac Jeret  
Chairman of The IDF Rabbinic Cabinet*

**Special Guest: Moshe (Bugie) Yaalon**, Israel's **Minister for Strategic Affairs**. Maj. General Yaalon served as Commander of the IDF's Paratroopers Brigade, Head of IDF Intelligence, and IDF Chief of Staff in the course of a distinguished career in the IDF.

General Yaalon will address participants regarding the topic:

***Beyond The Politics of Negotiations:***

***What are Israel's real prospects for peace with the Palestinians?***

9:30 pm Ma'ariv Services (optional)

10:00 pm Late night lobby talk (optional)

**Hotel: Sheraton Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem**

Wednesday, December 23rd

## **Nurturing Israel's Future, One Soldier at a Time**

### **UNDERSTANDING THE IDF AS A CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL ARM OF ISRAELI SOCIETY TOWARD THE ADVANCEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF ISRAEL AND ITS CITIZENS**

6:30 am Shacharit Services (optional)

8:00 am Depart to North.

10:30 am **Visit Paratroopers Combat Unit:** The Paratroopers Infantry Brigade undertakes vital security missions and special operations.

- ✧ **Meet with soldiers and officers**, learning how the unit contributes to defense and counterterrorism endeavors.
- ✧ **High-level briefing** on recent missions.
- ✧ **Meet with IDF Officers / Social Workers** assigned to the Paratroopers Brigade who serve to ensure that Lone Soldiers and indigent soldiers and their families receive the assistance they need.
- ✧ **Meet with Lone Soldiers** to learn first-hand of their unique contribution to the IDF and Israeli society and of their unique needs for IDF support.
- ✧ **Lunch** with Paratroopers officers and Soldiers.

2:30 pm Surveying the Lebanese Border

- ✧ **Visit with a Druze Unit** guarding Israel's northern border, opposite Hezbollah – \*The Druze are an ethnic and religious minority residing in Israel who enjoy full citizenship and serve willingly and often with distinction in the IDF.
- ✧ **High level Briefing** regarding **Hezbollah's operations** in Southern Lebanon.
- ✧ **Memorial Service** for IDF reservists, **Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser**, at the site of their kidnapping along the Lebanese Border in the summer of 2006.

6:30 pm **Dinner at Terassa Restaurant** with Col. **Tzachi Ein Gal**, head of the IDF's Welfare Department, and several staff Social Workers who work directly with Lone Soldiers and Indigent Soldiers and their families.

8:30 pm Return to Jerusalem

9:30 pm Ma'ariv Services (optional)

10:00 pm Late night lobby talk (optional)

Hotel: Sheraton Plaza Hotel, Jerusalem

Thursday, December 24th

**Top Secret:**  
**STRATEGIC CHALLENGES FACING ISRAEL**  
**AND SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO SERVE TO MEET THEM**

6:30 am Shacharit Services (optional)

8:00 am Depart to Base Visit.

10:30 am **Visit The IDF's 8200 Intelligence Base:** This base serves as home to Israel's equivalent to the USA's National Security Agency (NSA). This base is the primary source of intelligence information to the IDF's forces on all fronts, to the IDF general command, and to the Israeli government. Sophisticated technology and daring means are employed to ensure that decision-makers are informed as much as possible with the best information available. This visit will include:

- ✧ **High-level briefings** from senior intelligence officers regarding the strategic threats that Israel encounters on all fronts.
- ✧ **A unique behind-the-scenes peek** into a world rarely discussed in the media.
- ✧ **Lunch** with Intelligence Officers and Soldiers.

Afternoon / Reception with **Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu**

Evening

8:00 pm Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport

Evening / Return Flight to USA

Nighttime

*\*Itinerary is subject to change based on IDF activities and availability of locations and presenters/hosts.*

ידידי צה"ל בארה"ב

