

Anna Sobol Levy (ASL) Fellowship

2018 – 2019



Final Report & Activity Summaries

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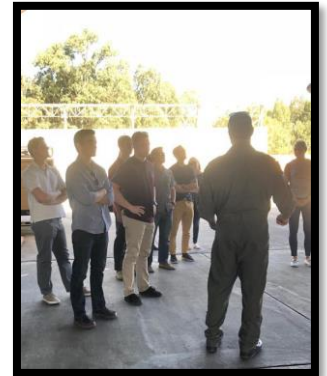
Tel Nof Air Force Base

30 October 2018



On the day of the local municipality elections, we got a chance to go to the Tel Nof Air Force base near Rehovot, one of the three principal bases for the Israeli Air Force. While there, we toured around the base and got to see the F-15 planes and the interceptor shelter. In addition, we received a briefing of the tasks usually assigned to the pilots and the air force in the modern day. In our briefing with LT A', one of the squadron

pilots, we discussed current challenges in the air force, how much air time they have to do, and we delved into the similarities and differences between Israeli and US air force strategy. This was a unique experience in that we got to see an air force base and speak with people working in the field. It was a good look into the daily routine of the soldiers, and interesting to hear the perspectives of experienced pilots.



Lecture with Prof. Boaz Ganor

16 December 2018

A few weeks into the semester we had the chance to sit with the Dean of the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy, Prof. Boaz Ganor. As many of us had a class with him, the lecture was an opportunity to speak with him one-on-one to better understand the developments in the academic field of counter-terrorism. Not only did we get a more in-depth look at the subject, we were able to ask specific questions as relates to our future job positions in the military and governmental organizations. One of the more unique aspects of this lecture was also that Prof. Ganor opened up to us about his personal experiences in both academia and in the field, giving us years of relevant perspective from a professional in the field.



Visit to the Gaza Border & Tour of Hamas Tunnels

14 January 2019

Whether you had the privilege of taking the research seminar in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict or not, studying at the IDC affords you vast opportunities to discuss and analyze topics regarding the Gaza Strip. Both in the Diplomacy and Counter Terrorism tracks for the Master's program, each graduate is sure to leave with a richer understanding of the regional politics especially with regards to the Gaza Strip and its security considerations.



However, as ASL Fellows, we were fortunate enough to take that conversation out of the classroom by visiting the Gaza border and underground tunnels dug by the Hamas terrorist organization. Our first stop was to a lookout from the Jacob Menashe Monument (pictured left) with a clear view of the northern part of the Gaza border and 1950 Armistice Agreement Line. Accompanying us was Marine Corps Officer, Major Meadows out of the Defense Attaché Office of the United States Embassy in Israel. He was able to offer insight into border security operations of the IDF where he explained Israel's ability to prevent illegal crossings without the use of large physical barriers. Through surveillance, technology, and IDF patrols, our group was able to see first-hand how our allies in the Middle East keep their southern region secure from Hamas terrorists penetrating into Israel.

After witnessing the success of the IDF's efforts in border security, we moved to a nearby Kibbutz to tour Hamas' efforts to counter the IDF through the construction of underground tunnels. Personally accompanied by IDF commanders, our group was able to walk into one of the tunnels built by Hamas engineers where they elaborated on the costs, efforts, and dangers associated with building these tunnels. As ASL fellows, this experience was



particularly eye opening into the commitment of terrorist organizations and the extent they are willing to go to attack the state of Israel and its citizens. Surely, no matter how much one studies the Gaza border in the classroom, having the opportunity experience it first-hand alongside experts was invaluable to the group.

Intelligence Information & Commemoration Center

6 March 2019

Our third fellowship excursion was to the Israel Intelligence Heritage and Commemoration Center in Ramat Hasharon. This center is a memorial for those who lost their lives while on duty as members of the intelligence community; while simultaneously serving as a library and research institute. The IICC is a non-profit organization that works to commemorate the lives of the fallen and store their values and heritage in the community with educational programs. This excursion was an amazing opportunity for the fellows to understand the historical power of intelligence collection within Israel and from enemy territories. The library would also be very useful for primary source reading to conduct research while in Israel. The institute also offers online services that the fellows will continue to utilize in their careers. The Ana Sobol Levy Fellows heard many amazing stories of those working within the intelligence community of Israel such as the Mossad, Shin Bet, Shabak, and the Israeli Defense Intelligence agency. This excursion was a great introduction to the Israeli intelligence gathering process and analysis. Many of the fellows on this trip are going into the field of intelligence and this trip will be valuable for their career going



forward. This trip highlighted the hardship of those who sacrifice themselves to help protect the State of Israel. The students all learned a lot about the different levels of intelligence process and the hardships that policymakers and agents have to make. This trip offered a great overview of Israeli security services and intelligence gathering and analysis. The trip to the IICC also provided an outline of how many people have given their lives to protect the people and the state of Israel.

Lecture with Col. John Kenkel

12 March 2019

On 12 March 2019 Colonel John Kenkel, the Army Attaché at the US Embassy, spoke to the fellows about American-Israeli relations and professional development. He discussed the unique relationship that the US and Israeli military have. Israel is one of the few countries in the world where the US military learns lessons from and doesn't just leach to. This relationship is robust and do not change in significant ways between administrations.

On the subject of professional development, he brought up a number of points. He suggested that the fellows spend their time in Israel getting a tactile feel for things in the country. The best way to do this is simply by doing what you enjoy here to get anecdotal touch points by interacting with the locals. Beyond this, he also highlighted the importance of finding a balance between personal and professional life. While we should dedicate ourselves to being a leader and mentor as an officer, we should also have a stable home life with our families.



North Trip I with Dr. Eitan Azani

18 March 2019



In mid-March, the ASL fellowship traveled with Mr. Edan Landau and Dr. Eitan Azani to travel to the north of Israel in order to learn about both the 1973 Yom Kippur war as well as both Lebanon conflicts. The first stop was Mount Bental where the group had a view of the UN security positions and much of Syria near Al Qunitra. The Fellows had a chance to explore the historic fortifications that once served to guard the border. Dr. Azani explained the history of Mount Bental itself and that of the surrounding area

during the Yom Kippur War. The stop allowed the Fellows to learn more about the defensive stand that Israeli armored and artillery units took against numerically superior Syrian armored units advancing into Israel. From the vantage point on Mount Bental, Dr. Azani pointed out the primary avenues of approach into Israel and the steps that the IDF has taken to best defend the area.

In addition to history, the Fellows used the opportunity on Mount Bental to observe the current situation in Syria. Until just recently, the area closest to the Israeli border had been sharply contested by the Assad Government and Syrian rebels. Dr. Azani's insights into the situation highlighted how such a small area can have several stakeholders in it. The Fellows gained an appreciation for the overwhelming problem that UN forces face in the area.

After a brief stop in the Golan Heights at a particularly scenic waterfall, the group proceeded on to visit Metula, Israel's northernmost town. While there, the Fellows briefly visited an IDF observation post that is responsible for monitoring the situation in Lebanese towns surrounding Metula. Due to Dr. Azani's previous position as a battalion level intelligence officer serving in the region, he was able to share both the strategic and tactical implications of the area.

Dr. Azani's accounts informed the Fellows of the constant threat that Hezbollah operations pose to the area and provided insights on how to operate in an unwelcoming civilian environment. Dr. Azani instructed the Fellows on the challenges he faced as a leader in that operational environment and how they could best address similar situations when they are in command.



Lecture with Dr. Daphne Richemond-Barak

25 March 2019



On 25 March 2019 Dr. Daphné Richemond-Barak met with the fellows and had an excellent discussion on the complexities of tunnels and subterranean warfare. Tunnel warfare is a reemerging trend on the battlefields and is often used as an equalizer used by the weaker and less capable side. In recent years, tunneling has been experienced by Israel on its northern border with Lebanon and on its border with Gaza. Tunneling has also been seen in Iraq and Syria. There are many precedents to the use of

tunnels such as in Korea, Vietnam, World War One, and other conflicts through history.

She described how tunnel warfare complicates the battlefield in a number of ways. Most immediately, it is hard to attack tunnels. They further complicate an already complex urban battlefield, and there hasn't been a solution found to deal with them. Fighting through tunnels and destroying them is brutal and damaging. It has a huge cost to both the environment and to people. Beyond this the complicate any invasion by allowing enemy troops to remain or emerge in the rear of an advance.

Dealing with tunnels is a combined intelligence-technology issue. Even with advances in technology, tunnels are still difficult to find. During the Israeli operation to destroy Hezbollah tunnels on the northern border, it took five weeks to find six tunnels – under peacetime conditions. This process of seeking and destroying tunnel infrastructure would be even more difficult in a shooting war.



"Anti-Terrorist Barrier" Trip with Jonathan Davis

31 March 2019

On April 31st the fellows visited the security barrier, also known as the anti-terrorist fence. We were accompanied and lectured by Jonathan Davis on the barrier's significance in protecting Israeli civilians against suicide attacks among other forms of terror.

We learned that Israel's security border was constructed to counter the growing number of suicide attacks occurring between 2000-2005. The fence was built to run between Israel and the West bank. Most of the fence today runs along the Green Line. The construction of this fence was not unusual or revolutionary as Israel has created physical borders separating them from Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. Since construction of the fence began, the number of attacks on Israeli citizens have decreased by nearly 90%. In the law enforcement arena, Israel utilizes a police circular response to respond to suicide attacks. This entails the target area of an attack to be completely covered by security forces at 360 degrees. In the first circular layer enclosing the target area of an attack (pre-target area), a large number of security forces including some undercover would remain. In the outermost layer in this response (non-target area), control points would be manned by uniformed personnel set up with recording devices to monitor activity.



Lecture with Prof. Chaim Weizmann

30 May 2019

On 30 May 2019 Dr. Chaim Weizmann (no relation) held a lecture and discussion with the fellows on the Israeli political system and recent elections. He began by describing the history of the Israeli political system and Basic Laws. Following the 1950 Hariri decision, it was decided that a constitution would not be adopted but instead Basic Laws would be implemented in a piecemeal fashion and later be incorporated into a constitution. There incorporation into a formal constitution has not happened largely due to the tension between the religious and non-religious in defining what the basic nature of the state of Israel is or should be. Structurally, he talked about how the party-list proportional representation system is set up in Israel and how the parties function. Additionally, he talked about the functioning of the government and the power of various offices such as that of the Prime Minister, President and various ministers.



We also discussed the recent Israeli elections, as well as the prospects for the next round of elections in September. He discussed the reasons why Netanyahu was unable to form a governing coalition and the reason for low Arab turnout in the election. Beyond this we discussed the power of religious courts in Israel and the power they have over personal matters such as marriage and divorce.

North Trip II with Dr. Eitan Azani

11 June 2019



The ASL fellows followed Dr. Eitan Azani to the Lebanese Border to discuss Hezbollah's operations along the wall. The first place that the fellows visited was Adir Mountain. After climbing to the IDF Northern Command outpost, Azani explained the conflicting tensions between Arab Christians and Sunni villages on the Lebanese side of the border. He described how the religious differences of the region manifested themselves historically

with the South Lebanon Army (SLA) and Hezbollah. Today, Christian-Muslim relations and Hezbollah's ambition for national power continue to drive conflict along the border. The biggest threat that faces Israel today continues to be Hezbollah's tunnel construction underneath the border. Azani claims that if the IDF were to withdraw from the southern Lebanese security zone that Hezbollah would enter and seize the area almost immediately.

The fellows also had the opportunity to see the IDF's Division 91 that monitors border activities. They also learned that the second IDF division that works with Division 91 is concerned with the activities on the Lebanese side of the border – primarily the villages' cultures and mindsets.

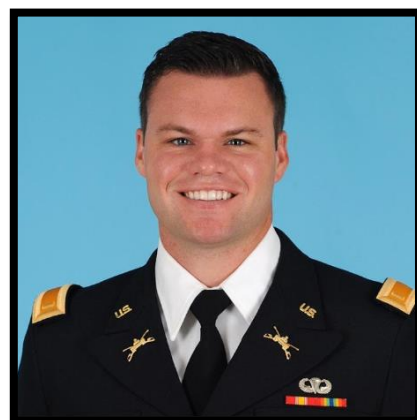
Following Adir Mountain, the ASL fellows traveled to Rosh Hanikra. In Israel's north-western most tip, Azani described the border wall and pointed out a Hezbollah observation post. This example of Hezbollah's presence on the Lebanese border indicates the organization's strength and prevalence in the nation's national security apparatus.



2018-2019 Fellow Bios

Scott Buchanan

Scott is a native of Belmar, New Jersey and graduate of the United States Military Academy with the Class of 2018. During his time at West Point, Scott served as the Cadet in Charge of the Combatting Terrorism Center at West Point where he oversaw the cadets within the Terrorism Studies Minor. Scott Commissioned as a Military Intelligence officer with a Branch Detail in Armor. Since enlisting in the NJ Army National Guard as a Military Police officer and his acceptance to West Point, Scott has focused his academics on law enforcement policies and counterterrorism, majoring in Economics and minoring in Terrorism Studies. Currently, Scott is the recipient of the Ana Sobel Levy Foundation Scholarship where he is studying Government, specializing in Counter Terrorism and Homeland Security at the IDC School in Herzliya.



Maya Carlin

Maya Carlin graduated from Occidental College in 2017 with a degree in History. At Occidental her studies focused on the Middle East region and the Arabic language. Maya continued her Arabic studies in an intensive immersion program in Amman Jordan. For the last year she has worked at a national security think tank in Washington D.C. as an Associate. She is very excited to be an ASL fellow!



Mackenzie Dulleck

Mackenzie Dulleck is originally from Castle Rock, Colorado. She went to college at the University of San Diego and was in the NROTC San Diego program as a Marine Option Midshipman. She completed Officer Candidate School in August 2017 and graduated college in May 2018. She is in the Diplomacy track here at IDC and after her time in Israel she will be going to The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia. She am interested in becoming a Logistics officer in the Marine Corps.



Lexie Johnson

Lexie Johnson serves as a Cyber Army officer for the United States. She graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point with two bachelor's degrees in International Relations and Russian Language. During her time at West Point, Lexie played volleyball for the school's NCAA program, competed in two Sandhurst military skills competitions with her company team, and served as the President of the Yoga club. Internationally, she studied Russian language and culture in eight eastern European countries and especially enjoyed her long-term stay with her host family in Moldova. Following graduation, Lexie joined the IDC team and continued her studies in its Master's Government Program in Counterterrorism and Homeland Security with a focus on cyberterrorism.



Sean O'Brien

Sean is a U.S. Army officer currently assigned to the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry). He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy where he studied Chemical Engineering and Terrorism Studies. While at IDC Herzliya as an Anna Sobol Levy Fellow, he pursued his MA in Government focused on Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security and a certificate in International Development, Sustainability, & Entrepreneurship. In addition to serving in the Army, Sean's long-term interests include international energy commodities markets, sustainable fuels, and critical infrastructure hardening government policy.



Alex Petroy

Alex Petroy was raised in Boulder, Colorado USA. He attended the University of Southern California in Los Angeles on a Naval ROTC Scholarship where he received a B.S. in Civil Engineering. He selected the Diplomacy and Conflict track for the MA in Government at IDC Herzliya. He is currently contracted to Naval Aviation and will begin flight school in Pensacola upon commissioning in August 2019.



Caleb Robertson

Caleb Robertson is originally from Whidbey Island, WA and is an Ensign in the United States Navy. He is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and holds a B.S. in History. Caleb focused his undergraduate studies on the impact of evolving technology in the Vietnam War. He was also a member of the Navy Heavyweight Crew team for four years. Caleb was an ASL Fellow for the 2018-2019 academic year and chose to pursue a Master's in Government with an emphasis on Counter Terrorism and Homeland Security.



Connor Schueler

Connor Schueler is from Coralville, Iowa. He graduated Iowa State University with degrees in history and political science and minors in religious studies and military science. He was a member to the Marine NROTC program there. At IDC Herzliya, Connor completed his MA Government in Diplomacy and Strategy with a cluster in Middle Eastern Politics. He also studied Arabic there. Upon commission, Connor will report to The Basic School where he intends to become a Ground Intelligence or Infantry Officer.



Dalton Weintraub

Dalton Weintraub is from Fayetteville, North Carolina. He graduated from the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, summa cum laude and as a distinguished military graduate in 2018. He completed his undergraduate degree in Political Science and Criminology with a minor in Intelligence and Homeland Security. While at the Citadel, Dalton interned with the office of Conor Burns MP for Bournemouth West and Private Parliamentary Secretary to Foreign Minister Boris Johnson. He assisted the office with research on a variety of topics including challenges that the United Kingdom is facing around the globe, particularly in the Middle East. At Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, Israel, Dalton completed his MA Government in Counter-terrorism and Homeland Security with a Cluster in Cyber Terrorism. After leaving Israel in 2019, Dalton will serve as an Officer in the U.S. Army National Guard with the District of Columbia.



Connor Wills

Connor Wills grew up in Kiowa, Colorado. After graduating from high school, Connor attended Norwich University in Vermont majoring in International Studies. While at Norwich, Connor participated in the Army ROTC program and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in May 2018. While being at IDC Herzliya, Connor received his MA in Government with a focus in Counterterrorism and a specialization in Cyber-terrorism. Connor will attend the Infantry Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Benning where he will become an Infantry Officer.

