



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

OCT 31 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOD FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Travel Restrictions by DoD Senior Leaders and Other DoD-Supported Officials to Israel

I hereby restrict visits by DoD senior leaders to Israel effective immediately and until further notice. For the purposes of this policy, DoD senior leaders are civilian or military officials in Code 4 or more senior in the DoD Order of Precedence.

Senior leaders assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Defense Agencies, DoD Field Activities, and Offices of the Secretaries of the Military Departments should seek approval from me of any requested or proposed travel to Israel. Senior leaders assigned to the Joint Staff, Combatant Commands, Service staffs, and Commands should seek approval from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The restrictions of this memorandum are in addition to the existing requirement, established pursuant to DoD Directive 4500.54E and published in the DoD Foreign Clearance Manual, to obtain theater clearance requests through the DoD-required Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System for a determination of operational necessity by the Commander, U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM). If a theater clearance request is denied, personnel may submit appeals with compelling justification to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy for decision by me or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (according to the assignment categories above).

I further discourage visits to Israel requiring DoD support by members of Congress and their staffs. I hereby instruct the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs to inform the appropriate congressional leadership that DoD support to congressional delegation visits will be unavailable to Israel during this period, and no DoD support shall be made available for congressional travel to Israel without my approval.

This policy is not intended to inhibit the normal operational flow of personnel to the USCENTCOM area of responsibility. DoD will continue to support any desired visits by the President and Vice President of the United States. These restrictions also do not apply to travel by the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary of Defense, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretaries of the Military Departments, or Service Chiefs.

Please brief all civilian and military senior leaders within your Component on this policy.



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