



## Police Training by Israeli Security Forces Five Localities in Virginia

Assembled by the Virginia Coalition for Human Rights

In 2002, just months after 9/11, American police officers held their first official training expedition to Israel to learn about “counter-terrorism.” Since then, hundreds of law enforcement officials and government agents from across the country have been sent to Israel to meet with military and police forces, and thousands more have participated in conferences, trainings, and workshops with Israeli officials in the United States.

The American and Israeli governments justify these exchanges on the grounds that the United States and Israel share the mission of the War on Terror. American facilitators and participants of these programs similarly argue that the United States and Israel are allied democracies whose law enforcement agencies play a crucial role in preserving national security.

While framed as an opportunity for US law enforcement to learn policing strategies from a closely aligned democracy with counter-terror experience, in fact these are trainings with an occupying force that rules a population deprived of human and civil rights. Rather than promoting security for all, these programs facilitate an exchange of methods of state violence and control, including mass surveillance, racial profiling, and suppression of protest and dissent.

One of the organizations that organize and sponsor these trainings is the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA). JINSA is a think tank that advocates for US-Israeli security cooperation, increased domestic military spending, and military aid to Israel, and has board members with [close ties](#) to US defense contractors. JINSA [launched](#) its Law Enforcement Exchange Program (LEEP) shortly after 9/11, and since 2002 has run annual trips to Israel for US federal, state, and local law enforcement. Over 11,000 additional American law enforcement officials have attended [LEEP conferences](#) nationwide, which bring in Israeli security officials as experts.

Another organization that sponsors these trainings is the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). The ADL is a non-profit that works to combat anti-Semitism and advocate for Israel. In this context, the ADL runs a [National Counter-Terrorism Seminar](#) that has sent hundreds of top ranking officials to Israel to learn about combatting terror since 2003. That same year the ADL established an [Advanced Training School](#) that brings delegations of Israeli law enforcement to speak to American law enforcement officials, involving over 1,000 U.S. participants since the program began.

### **Fairfax County Police Department** Fairfax, Virginia, United States

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The Police Department of Fairfax County, Virginia, is among the departments that have sent delegates to Israel for training sponsored by JINSA. Colonel Edwin C. Roessler Jr., who has served as Chief since 2013, attended JINSA training in Israel as a delegate of the LEEP program in June 2011.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://palestineishere.org/places/united-states/pennsylvania/philadelphia/police/fairfax-county-police-department/>

## **Richmond Police Department**

Richmond, Virginia, United States

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The Police Department of Richmond, Virginia, is among the departments that have sent delegates to Israel for training sponsored by the ADL. Officials serving in the Richmond Police Department attended a training program in Israel with the ADL as delegates of the National Counter-Terrorism Seminar (NCTS) in 2011. <sup>2</sup>

## **Smithfield Police Department**

Smithfield, Virginia, United States

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The Police Department of Smithfield, Virginia, is among the departments that have sent delegates to Israel. Mark Marshall [served](#) as Chief of Smithfield Police Department until 2012, and he attended a JINSA training program in Israel as a delegate of the LEEP program in February 2008. Chief Mark Marshall, Fourth Vice President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police ([IACP](#)), also served as the Sheriff of Isle of Wight County, Virginia from 2012 – 2018. He served as President of IACP between 2010 and 2011. He is currently listed as Chairman of [LinX](#), a regional information-sharing project. This initiative includes the sharing of data between local, state and federal agencies.<sup>3</sup>

## **Prince William County Police Department**

Woodbridge, Virginia

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The Police Department of Prince William County, Virginia, encompassing Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia, is among the departments that have sent delegates to Israel under the auspices of JINSA. Charles Deane, who served as Chief of Prince William County Police Department between 1988 and 2012, attended training with JINSA as a delegate of the LEEP program in 2005.

Chief Deane also hosted Simon Perry, an Israeli National Police Attaché and Liaison Officer to the USA and Canada and Ministry of Public Security at the rank of Brigadier General. According to his [CV](#), Simon Perry is responsible for cooperation and coordination between the Israeli National Police and law enforcement and intelligence agencies on the federal, state and local levels, primarily in the areas of fighting international organized crime and “terrorism.” He is also responsible for cooperation between the Ministry of Public Security in Israel and the Department of Homeland Security and Homeland Security Agencies on state and local level. He was involved in many operational cases as well as in exchanging information and training many law enforcement units and commanding officers.<sup>4</sup>

## **Virginia Beach Police Department**

Virginia Beach, Virginia, United States

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The Police Department of Virginia Beach, Virginia, is among the departments that have sent delegates to Israel. The Deputy Chief of Virginia Beach Police Department attended a training in Israel with the ADL as a delegate of the National Counter-Terrorism Seminar in September 2008.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://palestineishere.org/places/united-states/pennsylvania/philadelphia/police/richmond-police-department/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://palestineishere.org/places/united-states/pennsylvania/philadelphia/police/smithfield-police-department/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://palestineishere.org/places/united-states/pennsylvania/philadelphia/police/prince-william-county-police-department/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://palestineishere.org/places/united-states/pennsylvania/philadelphia/police/virginia-beach-police-department/>