



**(U) Lost in Jerusalem After Dark**

FROM: Cindy Farkus  
Assistant Deputy Director for Analysis & Production (S2)  
Run Date: 03/27/2006

---

*(TS//SI) NSA group travels to Israel; SID's relationship with ISNU is probably its most important Third Party tie.*

---

(TS//SI) Many of you are probably aware that NSA has conducted a sensitive, unique, and productive SIGINT relationship with the Israeli SIGINT National Unit (ISNU), a segment of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), for several decades. Like most SIGINT relationships, the NSA-ISNU partnership is not without its intricate technical problems and sensitive political issues. But over the years the exchange has evolved into probably the most important relationship within NSA's Third Party program. For example, approximately 20 percent of the SIGINT product produced by NSA's Office of Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has been, in some fashion, enabled by ISNU. It is viewed as the most productive and beneficial Third-Party partnership conducted within the US Intelligence Community.

(TS//SI) The first week in March, a group of us (see footnote) traveled to Israel for our first annual Strategic Conference with ISNU.

(U) The preparation we did in advance enabled all of us to gain a broader understanding of the intricacies of this relationship. The blend of S3, S2, SSG, and FAD participants in the conference enhanced collaboration across Agency elements.

(TS//SI) After a very long flight, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I arrived in Tel Aviv early on 26 February. We didn't want to fall asleep, so we walked to the city of Jaffa and were awakened by the sense of history and beautiful landscape. Jaffa is a port city on the Mediterranean Sea and the historic gateway into Israel. It is mentioned twice in the Hebrew Bible, once as the port-of-entry for the cedars of Lebanon for Solomon's Temple and once as the place from where the prophet Jonah embarked for Tarshish. After exploring the Jaffa museum, we stumbled upon a quaint Middle Eastern restaurant, Aladdin, set in a 600-year old building overlooking the sea with a spectacular view of the Tel Aviv coastline. Later that day other members with our party arrived, and our Senior Liaison Officer (SLO), [REDACTED] graciously hosted us at her apartment. We enjoyed a wonderful view of the city, great food and fellowship, and were "entertained" by [REDACTED] two rambunctious kittens.



*(U) Port city of Jaffa*

(TS//SI) We walked up to the U.S. Embassy on Monday to give our team an opportunity to discuss the conference and iron out any last minute details. That evening, our ISNU counterparts hosted a dinner at El-Hambra, a local restaurant, where we dined on typical Israeli cuisine. The food was delicious and abundant, so it was good that we walked back to our hotel.

(TS//SI) The conference opened on 28 February with remarks from the ISNU Deputy Director, followed by discussions on their SIGINT doctrine, requirements, structural changes within ISNU, and challenges facing their nation. The teams discussed the US/IS partnership and CP, MENA, and CT gave their presentations. The second day of the conference consisted of briefings on the infrastructure and drafting our declaration of the SIGINT strategies we will focus on in the coming year. At the end of the second day, ISNU Commander BG Dani Harari, joined us and thanked NSA for the partnership. He commented that to achieve the best communication means better collaboration. He stated that a lot of progress has been made and thanked the team for coming to the conference.

(TS//SI) Before our return, we were hosted by our partners on a cultural tour. Four of the ISNU members, with M-16's in tow, picked us up at our hotel and took us to a place called Mini-Israel. A tour of this park gave us a bird's eye view of all the outstanding locations in Israel. The park was made up of miniature buildings, people, and scenery - even down to moving airplanes at the little airport.

[REDACTED]

*(U) Tour of Mini-Israel*

(TS//SI) After this they took us to Yad Vashem, Israel's national institution of Holocaust commemoration, where our tour guide gave us an excellent and sobering tour of their newest museum. We had obtained permission from the Embassy to be in old-town Jerusalem "after dark." We had been driving for a bit and you could tell our hosts were a bit upset about something. We were lost in the Arab sector - and after several stops to ask for directions we found our next stop - a restaurant called Anna Ticho.

(TS//SI) After our meal they took us to the Jewish sector of Old Jerusalem - the Western (Wailing) Wall. Because of our delay getting to dinner, we missed our English-speaking tour of the tunnels under the Western Wall. But we were able to catch the last Hebrew-speaking tour and our ISNU guides translated for us as we went along. It was an amazing, indescribable opportunity and we were in awe of the ancient ruins and the traditions that to this day honor the individual faiths and beliefs all held in that one place.

[REDACTED]

*(U) Visiting the Western Wall*

(TS//SI) Rick Ledgett will hold an NSA/SID-ISNU forum in the Friedman Auditorium on 29 March, 0900-1030. This session will introduce Rick's efforts to understand the totality of SID's involvement with various aspects of the ISNU, in an effort to document where we are corporately in the relationship. See the [announcement](#) on SID *today* . You are all invited to attend the Friedman session.

Thanks for reading!

---

(TS//SI) Footnote:  
Our party included:

- Acting Deputy Director for Data Acquisition/ISNU SID representative, **Rick Ledgett**
- Assistant Deputy Director for Analysis and Production/Senior Intelligence Authority, **Cindy Farkus**
- FAD Deputy Assistant for SIGINT Operations, **Dave Sherman**
- Combating Proliferation (CP) Global Capabilities Manger (GCM), **Jon Darby**
- MENA Primary Production Center Manager (PPCM) [REDACTED]
- Counterterrorism (CT) PPCM, [REDACTED]
- Chief of the Target Analysis Center, [REDACTED]
- Israel Country Desk Officer (CDO), [REDACTED]
- Acting DDDA's Executive Assistant, [REDACTED]
- A/DDAP's Executive Assistant, [REDACTED]

ISNU Participants:

- Bgen. Dani Harari - Commander, ISNU
- Col. Nadav Zafir - Deputy Commander, ISNU
- Col. Moti Ben Mocha - Head of the COMINT Center
- [REDACTED] - Head of the CSE Center
- Col. Jacob Shama - Head of the CA Center
- [REDACTED] - Head of Location Based SIGINT Center
- [REDACTED] - Head of the Foreign Relations Branch
- Lt. Yochai Bar Zakai - ISNU Washington Liaison
- [REDACTED] - Head of Foreign Relations Section in COMINT Center
- [REDACTED] - Head of Foreign Relations Section

**"(U//FOUO) SIDtoday articles may not be republished or reposted outside NSANet without the consent of S0121 ([DL sid comms](#))."**

---

DYNAMIC PAGE -- HIGHEST POSSIBLE CLASSIFICATION IS  
TOP SECRET // SI / TK // REL TO USA AUS CAN GBR NZL  
DERIVED FROM: NSA/CSSM 1-52, DATED 08 JAN 2007 DECLASSIFY ON: 20320108