

# New bill calls to merge US and Israeli militaries

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal and Aaron Mates on Section 224 in the 2027 NDAA, which will integrate the US and Israeli militaries, and how it represents a greater boon for the Israel lobby than all the aid provided by America to Tel Aviv since 1948. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

## #Aaron Mates

If you thought we were super tied to Israel at the hip, well, wait till you hear what people in Congress are trying to do to make us even more immersed.

## #Max

And this is Tom Cotton's initiative. Tom Cotton being our AIPAC, but he's also from Arkansas, a state that isn't one of the biggest job producers, has a large, not very wealthy rural population, and he wants to basically bring Israel into the American defense production base, which would create jobs in Arkansas and make Israel and the U.S., the relationship, even more inextricable than it currently is, because it would mean denying jobs to people who need them in Arkansas. It's even more dangerous, possibly, than the \$300 billion of aid or so that's been sent to Israel since 1948. Responsible Statecraft has some of the best coverage of this initiative, which is part of the NDAA and is known as Section 224. The House NDAA passed without this being stripped out. The AIPAC faction defeated an effort to strip it out, which I think Ro Khanna was leading.

Buried in the House's version of the 2027 National Defense Authorization Act is the U.S.-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative. It lays the groundwork for bilateral research and development, co-production of weapons, joint ventures, licensing agreements, and seemingly every manner of U.S.-Israeli military-industrial complex cooperation. Moving ahead, if fully enacted, this proposal would provide a higher level of military-industrial integration than the U.S. has with any other country in the world. It would fuse the U.S. and Israeli defense sectors in multiple areas vital to battlefields of the future, like autonomous systems and cyber. It would bring extraordinary Israeli influence to the U.S. beyond what it already has through the Israel lobby and its robust network of social media influencers.

It would give the Israeli government the opportunity to greatly expand one of the most powerful levers of influence in U.S. politics — jobs in the U.S. By expanding or starting new co-production facilities like it has in Mississippi and Arkansas, the Israeli government could boast of providing jobs on U.S. soil, thereby securing allies among members of Congress who represent the districts where those jobs lie. And also, it's completely opaque. I mean, it exists outside the realm of transparency. It can be concealed. All these deals can be concealed behind national security initiatives. But I think the key point is jobs will be contingent on cooperation with Israel, and suspending weapons to Israel or pulling back from the special relationship will then be tantamount to denying thousands and thousands of Americans jobs, especially in poor red states. Which is the whole point. That's the point.

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It's basically taking U.S. workers and their livelihoods hostage, saying that if you want to have a district that survives economically, you have to be Israel-first. And it's a recognition that they've lost full public support. So the only way to keep U.S. assistance to Israel going, to keep Israel's death machine running, is to tie it to the livelihoods of American workers. I guess this was inevitable. And it also means that whereas now there are some performative votes every year where Israel can only get assistance if it's meeting U.S. obligations and U.S. human rights laws, now that's—forget it. That won't even be necessary anymore because Israel will basically be an official appendage of the U.S. government.

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I mean, there's been this debate over the years — who controls who? And I think since October 7th, it's increasingly clear that it's Israel and its various cutouts and proxies in the U.S. that are, in so many ways, occupying the U.S. government and U.S. institutions. But I'm increasingly of the mind that you can't separate the two, that they've been integrated. The power elite that controls the United States has been sort of integrated into this system of Zionist hegemony. And now this will be formalized through the NDAA in 2027, through Section 224 and another section which hasn't been given the same level of scrutiny, which is Section 662. Again, this is Responsible Statecraft.

The bill — this is Section 662 of the NDAA — put forward by Tom Cotton, you know, recipient of massive donations from Miriam Adelson, Paul Singer, and the usual suspects, who's also the chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, would prohibit any suspension, reduction, or limitation of such sharing except on the basis of a specific and identifiable national security concern determined by the president. Any such exception would require a report to Congress within 50 days detailing not only the reason for the change, but also the categories of information involved. The same report would require an assessment of the anticipated impact on regional security and various other matters. So it's sort of like impossible to suspend the sharing of U.S. intelligence with Israel.

This proposal is one of several recent moves by those in Washington who carry the Israeli government's water to keep the U.S. tied to Israel despite plummeting support. The most salient form of U.S. support has been more than \$300 billion in U.S. aid. But Netanyahu is trying to get ahead of the declining public support and avoid embarrassing losses by suggesting it would be fine with him to phase out the military aid. And Aaron, you've been hearing likely Democratic presidential candidates like Rahm Emanuel or Josh Shapiro, who are very closely tied to Israel, saying, yeah, we should stop directly giving aid to Israel to make it seem like they're actually taking a sensible, more critical view, at least of Netanyahu.

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Yeah, well, it didn't help their case to pretend that they're distancing themselves from Israel when Netanyahu said that this was his idea. That's what he called Major Garrett, or what did Anya call him, Major Goyet?

## **#Max**

Major Garrett.

## **#Aaron Mates**

Major Garrett, and in the 60 Minutes interview where Netanyahu handpicked Major to interview him, Netanyahu said, yeah, this is great. I don't want U.S. assistance. This is actually my idea. So, yeah, good luck marketing that as some break from Israel when even Netanyahu is taking credit for it.