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For the first time in the sport of sailing, disabled veterans of the armed forces from Israel and the United States of America will collaborate on a one-week educational and rehabilitation program in Newport, Rhode Island, with the assistance of [Israelis RI](#). Disabled veterans from [Sail To Prevail – The National Disabled Sailing Program](#) (Newport, Rhode Island), and their counterparts from [YamTov](#) and [Tikvot](#) (Herzliya, Israel), will come together to share the challenges of their military experiences with the goal to re-enter civilian life as contributing members of society. The delegation of nine Israelis includes six Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a sibling of a fallen soldier from a terrorist attack, and two coaches. The intention is that, next year, a Rhode Island team of veterans with disabilities will visit Israel.

Israel and the USA already share a strong relationship through many cultural, economic and social interests. By participating in a series of on- and off-the-water, educational experiences with specific

goals, these warriors from both countries will share and learn unique, cross-cultural, rehabilitative techniques.

[Israelis RI](#) is facilitating much of this pioneering program, as one of the many initiatives between Israel and the state of Rhode Island. Avi Nevel, co-founder of Israelis RI, stated “This is part of the effort in strengthening the already strong relationship between Israel and Rhode Island.”

[Sail To Prevail – The National Disabled Sailing Program](#) has four locations in the United States of America and has served more than 19,000 children and veterans with disabilities since inception. CEO Paul Callahan states, “The organization’s ultimate goal is for people with disabilities to learn how to overcome their daily challenges through therapeutic sailing.”

[YamTov](#) helps people make a change through targeted and result-oriented sea sport activities. Empowering people with physical and emotional wounds through personal and group activities, along with leadership training, YamTov has set a goal for its Veterans to return to productive life and give back to the community. For the past decade, YamTov has been supporting and training the Israeli Sailing Paralympics team, working with Veterans with PTSD, orphans of war, disabled civilians, and children with autism.

[Tikvot](#) is a non-profit, which empowers and rehabilitates Israel's victims of terror and wounded soldiers through sports.

Other partners supporting this special program include [ELAL Airline](#), [Discover Newport](#), [Howard Johnson Hotel in Middletown](#), Rhode Island, historic [Touro Synagogue](#) and the Jewish Community of Newport. Rabbi Mandel of Touro Synagogue stated, “Touro Synagogue is proud to be part of this joint venture between Israel and Rhode Island, and we are confident that we will share other important ventures with Israel in the future.”

In addition to sailing together with American Veterans with disabilities, the YamTov Israeli delegation will receive coaching and leadership training, and visit points of interest throughout the state of Rhode Island. Their itinerary will include visiting the [Rhode Island State House](#), arranged and greeted by Mia Ackerman, (Deputy Majority Leader, Vice Chair, House Municipal Government), and the [Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island in Providence](#).

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