



Operations Room



- **Weapons' smuggling attempt on the Dead Sea successfully foiled** - An unusual contraband of rifles, guns and large stocks of ammunition were seized on a boat on the Dead Sea in a successful joint operation involving the IDF and the Israeli Police. [READ MORE](#)
- **The Israel Navy successfully boarded the vessel "Al - Karama"** - Having exhausted all the avenues of warnings from sailing in the direction of Gaza Port, both directly to the vessel and through the various diplomatic channels, the Israeli Navy successfully and peacefully boarded the vessel "Al - Karama" with the purpose of intercepting it and towing it to Ashdod Port. No one was hurt. [READ MORE](#)
- **The IDF attacks targets in the Gaza Strip seven times in response to continuous shooting** - During the entire past month, numerous incidents of rocket shooting into sovereign Israel aimed at Israeli civilians, took place originating from the Gaza Strip. During the past week the IDF responded with seven attacks at specific terror targets in the North, Central and Southern Gaza Strip including the destruction of terror and smuggling tunnels. [READ MORE](#)

One on One



- **"For every mission, be it the furthest or most complicated, we require the best people available"** - An interview with Major General Ido Nechushtan, CO Israeli Air Force (IAF) who tells of critical decisions, the implications from the wave of changes in the Middle East, and the absolute focus on preserving the human quality of the Air Force so as to maintain the qualitative edge we have in the theatre. [READ MORE](#)

Challenges of the Moment



- **One could call the Ground Forces Technological Division the "Angel" that supports the Ground forces** - In its responsibilities to develop and improve a wide range of Support Equipment giving those ground forces the technological edge to win in the modern battle field. [READ MORE](#)

On the Agenda



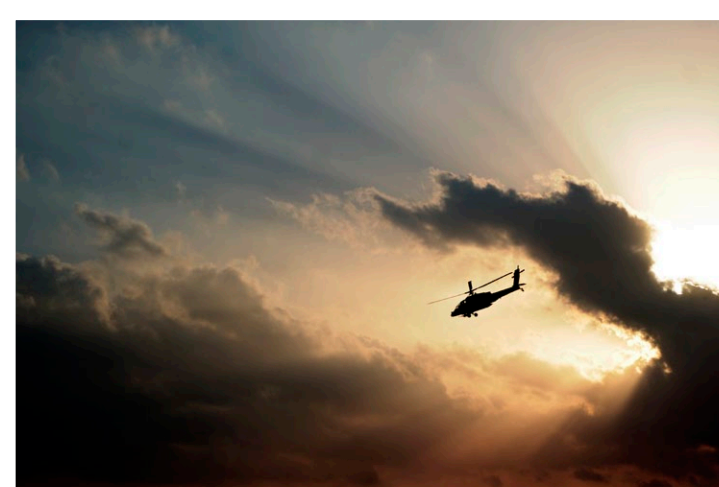
- **A bi-product of the McKinsey report – greater efficiency in Southern Ordnance** - The regional ordnance unit of Southern Command shows clear signs of efficiency in its efforts to fulfill the McKinsey report. The marked improvements are best noticed in equipment readiness and cost effective use of personnel. [READ MORE](#)

IDF Events



- **The August '11 Draft: a high motivation to serve in elite combat units** - 95% of the soldiers assigned to the field units, expressed a wish to serve in these positions. [READ MORE](#)
- **Senior IDF commanders hold workshop on "Halamish" plan** - Discussions will dwell on the IDF's Five Year Plan. Invited to participate in this workshop are members of the General Staff, Leading Branch Officers, Division Commanders as well as other senior leadership. [READ MORE](#)
- **U.S. military chief Michael Mullen visits Israel** - Admiral Michael Glenn Mullen visits Israel for the 6th time since assuming the role of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the US Armed Forces. [READ MORE](#)
- **IDF welcomes new immigrants** - Over 20% of IDF soldiers are new immigrants, as of July 2011. Some of these soldiers moved to Israel before the age of 16 while others immigrated later in life for the sole purpose of enlisting in the IDF. [READ MORE](#)
- **President Shimon Peres awards the Israel Security Prize** - The Prize was awarded to projects and operations that had an impact of the preservation of Israel's security, power and qualitative edge on the battle field, both from a technological and operational perspective. [READ MORE](#)
- **President Shimon Peres awards recognition to exemplary Reserve Units.** [READ MORE](#)

Pictures of the Month



IDF Spokesperson's Unit Public Affairs

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IDF foils weapons smuggling attempt in Dead Sea region

On Monday morning (July 25), the IDF and the Israel Police thwarted a weapons smuggling attempt in the Dead Sea region.

Israeli forces intercepted a boat aboard which there were two Palestinians in possession of a number of AK-47 assault rifles, magazines and additional weaponry.

The two suspects were questioned by security forces.



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IDF naval forces boarded "Al-Karame" vessel

Israeli naval forces on Tuesday afternoon (July 19) boarded the Al-Karame vessel. The boarding was conducted in accordance with the orders of the Israeli government after numerous appeals, delivered both directly to the ship and via diplomatic channels, for the ship not to attempt to reach the Gaza Strip were ignored.

After it became clear that the ship would not cooperate and accept Israel's invitation to dock at the Ashdod port, it was decided to intercept the ship and lead it to Ashdod.

IDF forces took all necessary measures to ensure the safety of the passengers on the deck of the ship.

After taking control of the ship, IDF forces checked the condition of the passengers and offered them food and drink.

Upon arrival at the Ashdod port, the passengers were turned over to officials from the Israel Police, the Immigration and Population Authority and the Interior Ministry.

The IDF wishes to emphasize that any country or organization seeking to send humanitarian aid to Gaza can do so in a legal and orderly manner at any time via land crossings, in coordination with Israeli authorities.



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IAF responds to rocket fire from Gaza Strip

In response to rockets that were fired at Israel over the past few days, IAF aircraft on early Wednesday morning (July 20) targeted a terrorist site in the northern Gaza Strip.

A direct hit was confirmed.

A number of attempts to harm Israeli citizens via rocket fire from the Gaza Strip have occurred in recent weeks.

In response to such attacks, the IAF struck terrorist targets in Gaza five times last week. Targets included smuggling and infiltration tunnels used by terrorists.

The IDF will not tolerate any attempt to harm IDF soldiers and Israeli civilians and will respond decisively at the appropriate time and place.

The IDF holds the Hamas terrorist organization solely responsible for all terrorist activity emanating from the Gaza Strip.



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IAF commander: We need to be prepared for all possible threats

"The changes occurring in the Middle East have increased the level of uncertainty and have required the IAF to broadly observe [the changes] and examine responses to a range of possible threats," IAF Commander Maj. Gen. Ido Nechushtan said in a recent interview. "We need to be very familiar with the capabilities and the assets of all the countries in the region."

"The IAF has a central role, both in deterrence and superiority," Maj. Gen. Nechushtan continued. "We certainly hope for stability but the uncertainty [in the Middle East] means that we must be prepared."



In order to be prepared, the IAF has carried out numerous tasks over the past year and adopted a variety of technology systems. Maj. Gen. Nechushtan characterized the past year as one of "professionalization and strengthening the foundations".

"The IAF's operations are based on quality intelligence, planning, precise control and flawless execution of all missions," Maj. Gen. Nechushtan said. "In the past decade, we have been dealing mainly with fighting terror. Fighting in urban areas presents challenges in terms of intelligence and in the ability to carry out precise strikes without harming noncombatants."

"But we need to know how to cope with all challenges. Aerial dogfights, for example. Despite the fact that there have not been dogfights since 1986, we train for them. Since there are other aircraft in the region, we need to know how to face them. Aerial superiority is the cornerstone of the IDF and it is a component of deterrence and decisive advantage over all enemies."

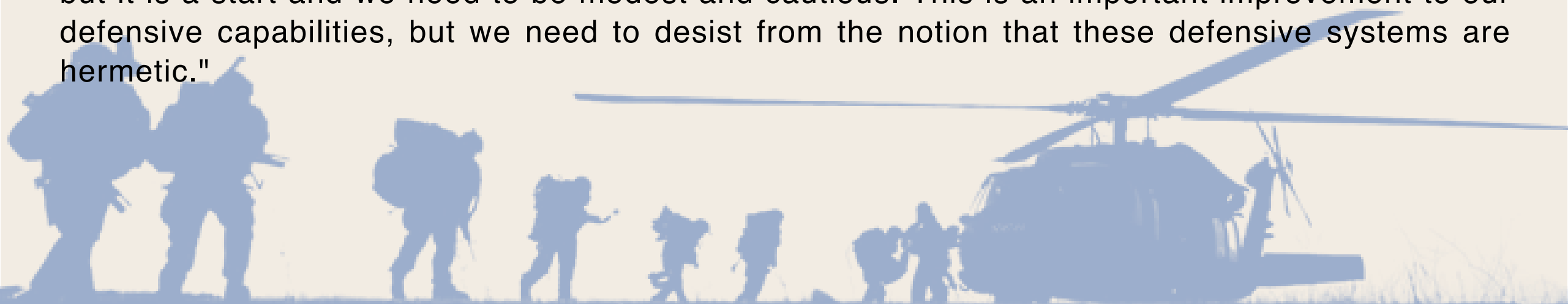
Five years have passed since the Second Lebanon War. Maj. Gen. Nechushtan attributes the quiet on the northern border to the deterrence established by the IDF against Hezbollah during that war. He does not delude himself, however, saying that even good deterrence does not last forever.

Maj. Gen. Nechushtan said that the IAF had achieved numerous accomplishments in the past year, including many he could not speak about.

One accomplishment Maj. Gen. Nechushtan did talk about was the operational success of the Iron Dome anti-missile system. Maj. Gen. Nechushtan said that four more Iron Dome batteries will be established within a year and a half.

Maj. Gen. Nechushtan also noted that the Magic Wand anti-missile system is in an advanced stage of development and that the Arrow anti-missile system will continue to be strengthened.

"It should be noted that we are global pioneers in this [aerial defense field] and we are learning it ourselves," Maj. Gen. Nechushtan said. "The Iron Dome has passed its first operational test, but it is a start and we need to be modest and cautious. This is an important improvement to our defensive capabilities, but we need to desist from the notion that these defensive systems are hermetic."



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Ground Forces Technological Division

Support equipment developed by the Division goes through all stages from invention, laboratory application and finally general use by the forces. Assuming the role of a Standards Institute within the IDF, the Division oversees production and quality control of all its products.

The objective of having the Ground Forces Technological Division is to be able to address challenges readily and in real time, fitting into the military schedule and meeting deadlines. The Division is not just limited to providing the right answers when problems or challenges arise, but to also develop shelf products in the eventuality of their need.

Engineers from within the Division conduct ongoing dialogue with operational units, thus being able to establish needs for new or improved products in a streamlined environment. Over the years, the Division has produced answers, both classified and open source, to almost all challenges put to the combat forces. This dialogue enables representatives of operational units to often present the specific requirements in real time.



The Division is made up of seven departments:

- **Electro Optical** – as the title implies, this covers all that relates to visual aids, guided systems, simulators, laser equipment, observation and photographic equipment. The counterparts of this department are usually the Military Industries.
- **Mobile Systems** – this department deals with a variety of motorized tactical equipment, both manned and unmanned, as well as robotics.
- **Advanced Ordnance Department** – this department deals with all that shoots as well as the projectiles that are shot, in the use of the Ground Forces. This ranges from developments of existing devices such as the M16 automatic sniper rifle, through to improvements in the 5.56mm projectiles, as well as guided ordnance. The entire IDF benefits from this Department's expertise in its fields.
- **Support Equipment Department** – this area covers radars, tactical communications, command and control systems (such as the Tsayad (Hebrew for Hunter) Digital army Program) and Electronic warfare.
- **Development Department** – as the name implies, this department works within other IDF units as well as security forces and specialize in offering technological solutions within short time spans, specifically fit to the needs of a particular operation or event.

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- The Department for Experimentation and Quality Control – all that the Division produces passes through this department including all types of ammunition. Experimentation primarily aims at guaranteeing the safety of the forces due to use the equipment. Furthermore, the Department houses a materials' laboratory including a chemical laboratory, one of its purposes being the verification and investigation of the materials used by the enemy such as IED's, Explosive Body Belts, home-made Qassam rockets and assembly-line Grad rockets as well as analyses of explosive and detonating materials used for example in the Gaza Strip.
- The Doctrine and Examination Department attends to the personnel needs, logistics, routine, work schedules and their control, IT and Database management, managing cross departmental technologies, technological cooperation with external industries as well as foreign armies and more.

Examples of past developments:

- **The Tavor rifle** - developed in 1995 developed from the combat experience acquired with a view to provide a suitable answer to the needs of particular ground forces. A short weapon (64cm) that maintains the accuracy of a long barreled weapon using a 38cm barrel.
- **The Roller Bridge** - dating from 1973 earned its inventors Generals Laskov and Tal the Israel Security Prize and saw real action during the 1973 Yom Kippur War when it enabled Israeli Armored Corps forces to surround Egyptian forces across the Suez Canal.
- **Sabotage Sandals** - by providing a wide soft base to spread the weight of the soldier wearing these sandals, forces can safely cross mine fields.


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- **The Sky Rider** - a portable drone weighing no more than 5KG controlled by forces moving among the infantry, providing live prior intelligence, with visuals of the immediate vicinity of our forces, identifying obstacles and threats in relative silence.



- **“Amit”** - Thermal Night Vision equipment of particularly high quality, compact, long life battery operation, providing quality visuals.



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First success for IDF's reorganization plan for Southern Command's ordnance unit

The first success to the IDF and Defense Ministry's multi-year reorganization plan for the Southern Command's ordnance unit has been achieved.

The plan includes points from the McKinsey Report which dealt with equipment, construction and maintenance.

The Southern Command was the first to adopt the report, which was published in November 2009. Since changes began to be implemented in 2010, there have been improvements in many fields, such as the utilization of manpower.

Following the Southern Command's success, the Northern Command is also adopting the plan.



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August draft: Enlistees highly motivated to serve in combat units

The August 2011 draft cycle got underway on Sunday (July 24) for enlistees born in 1993.

73.3 percent of qualified enlistees requested to serve in combat units, a similar rate to August 2010.

Enlistees will join the IDF as either fighters, combat support personnel or administrators.

Compared to previous drafts, the amount of enlistees brought into the IAF's air defense network increased, in order to allow for the establishment of an additional Iron Dome anti-rocket battery.



"This draft reflects a continuing high motivation of youth to serve in combat units, which is a source of encouragement and pride to us all," said Maj. Gen. Orna Barbiva, head of the Human Resources Directorate. "The special attention given in this draft to minority sectors of the population is an expression of our commitment to the model of a people's army."



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Senior IDF commanders hold workshop on "Halamish" plan

Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz met with senior IDF commanders for a two-day workshop on the subject of the IDF's multi-year "Halamish" plan.

The workshop took place at the Ordnance Corps training base. Members of the General Staff Forum as well as commanders from throughout the IDF participated.

The "Halamish" program is led by Deputy Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Yair Naveh.

One goal of the workshop was to include officers expected to be members of the General Staff Forum themselves in the future, including when the "Halamish" program is implemented.



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U.S. military chief Michael Mullen visits Israel

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen visited Israel on Monday (July 18).

The visit was likely Admiral Mullen's last to Israel as the head of the U.S. military. Admiral Mullen is retiring at the end of September.

Admiral Mullen was the guest of the Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz.

Lt. Gen. Gantz hosted a dinner party in honor of Admiral Mullen that was attended by senior IDF commanders.

This was Admiral Mullen's sixth visit to Israel as head of the U.S. military.

Throughout his tenure, Admiral Mullen contributed to the strengthening of the solid ties between the U.S. and Israel militaries and maintained close contacts with his IDF counterparts.

During Admiral Mullen's visit, Lt. Gen. Gantz and other IDF commanders expressed their feelings of deep respect and admiration for Admiral Mullen and his achievements.



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IDF welcomes new immigrants

Over 20% of IDF soldiers are new immigrants, as of July 2011. Some of these soldiers moved to Israel before the age of 16 while others immigrated later in life for the sole purpose of enlisting in the IDF.

Before officially joining in the IDF, the new "olim" (immigrants) must go through an enlistment process and cope with the endless questions and concerns it spurs. In response to these problems, the IDF Recruitment Office recently instated a new position: Coordinator for New Immigrants.

Pvt. Maya Liss who currently holds the position explained that "we help the new immigrants and answer any questions they have. They come from a different culture and when they come to enlist many don't even know where to begin and barely speak Hebrew."

Common issues include benefits for new immigrants, different positions in the army and how to get them, and the enlistment process in general.

"People come here just to draft from all over the world," Pvt. Liss said. "Many are much older than the average soldier and bursting with passion and motivation, they maintain a strong connection with Israel from miles and miles away."

Pvt. Liss said that the Recruitment Office commander and Benji Davis, the previous coordinator for new immigrants, noticed the problem approximately nine months ago and decided to create the position.

"I truly believe in this project," Pvt. Liss said. "I love being able to help people every day."

August 30th is the largest draft date for new immigrants, who then continue to the Mikve Alon base. The base belongs to the Education Corps and helps new immigrants become accustomed to Israeli culture, learn about Israeli history, and master the Hebrew language. Mikve Alon also offers programs for soldiers from minorities and disadvantaged backgrounds.



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President awards Israel Defense Prizes

The annual Israel Defense Prize ceremony was held on Tuesday (July 5) at the presidential residence in Jerusalem.

The ceremony was attended by President Shimon Peres, Defense Minister Ehud Barak, Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz and other senior defense officials.

The Defense Prize was awarded to participants of several projects and activities that have contributed to strengthening Israel's national security and maintaining Israel's strength and qualitative advantage in the battlefield, in terms of both technological and operational aspects.

"Thanks to you, Israel has achieved amazing accomplishments," President Peres said to the prize winners.

"Israel is aware of the overt threat to existence, first and foremost the threat from Iran and its subsidiaries," Peres said. "Responding to this threat requires the mobilization of the best forces and the concentration of the best minds. The nation's security, therefore, largely depends on you."

Defense Minister Barak said: "The world is changing, along with the nature of war. The home front has become the battle front after our enemies realized that they could not match the IDF's superiority in the air, on the ground and at sea."

Barak cited the Iron Dome and Magic Wand air defense systems as examples of the defense industry's response to the threat to the home front.

The defense minister also said that he soon intends to present a multi-layered national emergency defense plan against the threat of rockets and missiles.



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President Peres honors outstanding IDF reserve units

On Monday (July 4), President Shimon Peres presented certificates of excellence to 15 IDF reserve units.

The ceremony, which was held at the presidential residence in Jerusalem, was attended by Defense Minister Ehud Barak, Chief of the General Staff Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz, Chief Reserve Forces Officer Brig. Gen. Shuki Ben Anat and members of the General Staff Forum.

"Without the reserves, the IDF could not sustain itself both in terms of quality and quantity," Peres said. "Without the reserves, the balance of power in wars would be inclined against us. The reserves are a reflection of the unique makeup of Israeli society, in which citizens from different sectors are occasionally called to active service."

Lt. Gen. Gantz said: "The upheavals and turmoil in the region in which we live conceal historical changes whose full meaning and impact are still difficult to assess. They may open for us, in the long-term, opportunities for a better future. But in the foreseeable future, they present challenges and threats that are not simple."

"We need to fully plan and prepare for all missions and every threat," Lt. Gen. Gantz said. "It is necessary that we have a reserve force that is ready, set and honed - prepared for all missions. It is precisely for this reason that we attach such great importance to the example that you set for Israeli society. With you, I am confident that we can respond to and triumph over every threat and challenge."

