



TZEVET MIKEY



THE LONE SOLDIER
EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

GUIDE TO COMBAT UNITS OF THE IDF

המדריך ליחידות הקרביות של צה"ל

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Infantry Brigades

חטיבות חי"ר

Regular infantry brigades (חי"ר) are open to males only. Infantry brigades do most of the "routine grunt work" of the IDF, composed of operational duty on the different borders around and within Israel, as well as entering war zones to fight in times of war. Each Infantry Brigade contains a forward reconnaissance battalion (גדוד סיור/גדס"ר) as well, to which you can be accepted after passing a gibbush (physical tryout).

Machal Eligibility: Those drafting through Machal can serve in infantry brigades while serving a minimum of 18 months.

In order to serve in their respective reconnaissance battalions, you must sign on full IDF service of 2 years and 8 months.

Medical Profile Service time

Minimum 82 2.8 years

Thinking of drafting? Sign up for free @ tzevetmikey.com/register



Infantry Brigades

חטיבות חי"ר



Nachal

נחל



Givati

גבעתי



Tzanchanim

צנחנים
(requires tryout)



Kfir

כפיר



Golani

גולני

נחל	גבעתי	צנחנים	כפיר	גולני
50	שקד	101	נצח יהודה	12
931	צבר	202	שמשון	13
932	רותם	890	דוכיפת	51
גדס"ר	גדס"ר	גדס"ר	נחשון	גדס"ר
סיירת חרוב				

Combat Corps. Units

יחידות חיל קרביים



Armored Corps. חיל השיריון

The Armored Corps. provides tanks to the IDF and serves on all of the borders of Israel, while fighting alongside infantry and commando units during wartime. The Armored Corps. also trains and fields specific organic infantry battalions (O7 חי"רמש) which provide fire support and protection for tanks in urban environments.

Machal Eligibility Those drafting through Machal can draft to Shirion for a minimum of 18 months.

Medical Profile

Minimum 72

Service time

2.8 years



Combat Engineering Corps. חיל הנדסה קרבית

Combat engineers serve in a wide range of infantry and mechanized roles. In addition to full infantry training, combat engineers undergo basic combat engineering training in which they learn to operate as well as dismantle a wide range of explosives. Combat engineers also field tactical armored construction machinery, such as the D9 bulldozer, which work alongside standard infantry and commando units.

Machal Eligibility Those drafting through Machal can serve in the Combat Engineering Corps. for a minimum of 18 months.

Medical Profile

Minimum 82

Service Time

2.8 Years

Mixed Combat Units

יחידות מעורבות - חי"ר גבולות

These units, containing males and females, are under the command of the Border Defense Corps. (חיל הגנת הגבולות) and undergo infantry training. They are deployed in the Jordanian, Egyptian, and West Bank areas of operation, where they carry out a variety of missions to protect the state of Israel including anti-smuggling, border patrols, field intelligence gathering, and anti-terror operations. There is also an option for women to draft to "Plugat Perah" which is an all-female tank company that is under the command of the Border Defense Corps.

Machal Eligibility Those drafting through Machal can draft to these units and serve the minimum of 18 months.

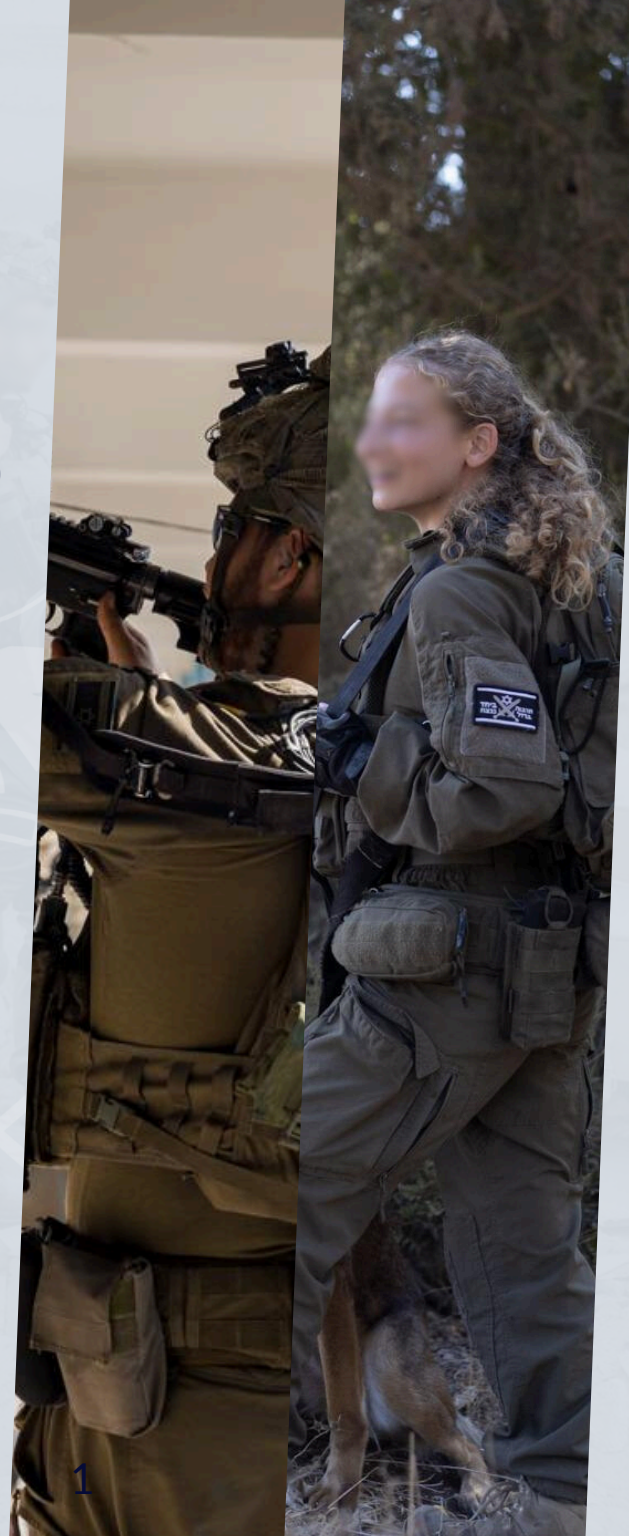
Medical Profile

Minimum 72

(Both males & females)

Service Time

2.8 years



Border Infantry Battalions

חי"ר גבולות - גדודים מעורבים



Paran Brigade

חטיבת פארן



Karakal
קרקל

Egyptian Border
גבול מצריים



Bardelas
ברדלס

Dead Sea to Eilat
גזרת הערבה



Jordan Valley Brigade

חטיבת הבקעה



Arayot Hayarden
אריות הירדן

Northern Jordan Valley and the Central Mountain Ridge, along the Jordanian border
גבול ירדן



Levi Ha'Bika
לביא הבקעה



Ephraim Brigade

חטיבת אפרים



Panther
פנתר

Judea and Samaria



Combat Intelligence

איסוף קרבי

This unit undergoes infantry training (O5) and specializes in gathering field intelligence. Their work often entails long stakeouts and the use of advanced technological tools such as drones and specialized observation devices to gather information on the enemy. In addition to intelligence gathering, these soldiers learn a high level of camouflage and concealment techniques.

Combat intelligence units also have their own specialized units with internal tryout processes.

Machal Eligibility Those drafting through Machal can serve in Combat Intelligence for a minimum of 18 months.

Medical Profile

Minimum 72 for
women and men

Service Time

2.8 Years

Thinking of drafting? Sign up for free @ tzevetmikey.com/register



Additional Mixed Combat Units

יחידות קרביות מעורבות נוספות



Artillery
תותחנים



Search & Rescue
פלח"ץ



Border Police
מגב



Air Defense Force
לוחם הגנה אווירית



Checkpoint Security
מצ מעברים



Artillery Corps. תותחנים

This Corps. specializes in Artillery warfare, and additionally operates elite units that utilize classified drones and missiles. Since Artillery is not routinely utilized outside of large scale wars, artillery soldiers also receive basic infantry training (O3) and regularly act as infantry on security missions on the towns, villages, and borders of Israel and Judea and Samaria that are considered "lower risk" but still require a security presence.

Machal Eligibility Those drafting through Machal can serve in the Artillery Corps. for a minimum of 18 months.

Medical Profile

Minimum 72 for
basic battalions

Service Time

2.8 Years



Search & Rescue פלח"ץ

This brigade specializes in Search and Rescue missions during emergency times as part of the Homefront Command. These missions include searching for civilians and soldiers under collapsed buildings, identifying dangerous structures for combat units to avoid, Homefront defense during wars, & more. They also go through basic infantry training (O7) and in the absence of wars or disasters, the unit performs infantry missions, and assists in demolitions alongside standard infantry and commando units, usually in Judea and Samaria.

Machal Eligibility Those drafting through Machal can serve in the Search & Rescue for a minimum of 18 months.

Medical Profile

Minimum 72

Service Time

2.8 Years



Checkpoint Security (M. P.)

לוחמי מעברים

This unit falls under the Military Police Corps. and is stationed at the different checkpoints located on the borders of the country, most commonly in Judea and Samaria, but also Gaza and Jordan. Soldiers are trained as basic infantrymen (O3) and as military police. They are responsible for interrogating the vehicles & people travelling in and out of these areas for contraband, weapons, or wanted persons.

Machal Eligibility Those drafting through Machal can serve in the M.P. Checkpoints for a minimum of 18 months.

Medical Profile
72 for women and men

Service time
2.8 Years for women and men



Border Police (Magav)

מג"ב

Magav is a paramilitary unit under the Israeli Police, not the IDF. However, new draftees to the IDF are routinely assigned to Magav. Soldiers undergo police training, as well as infantry training (O5), with their mission being to prevent terror attacks, assist with policing and routine security in population centers, fight crime, crack down on illegal residency, prevent illegal riots, and more. A high level of Hebrew is a prerequisite for serving in Magav. For those interested Magav also has a robust career path within the unit following mandatory service, unlike most other infantry roles.

Machal Eligibility Those drafting through Machal can serve in Magav for a minimum of 18 months.

Medical Profile
82 for women and men

Service time
2.8 Years for women and men



Air Defense Operator

לוחם/ת הגנה אווירית

The Israeli Air Defense Force protects the country from aerial threats such as rockets, missiles, drones, and enemy aircraft. Air defense batteries are deployed nationwide and operate in coordination with Air Force radar systems. Soldiers from the unit are deployed together with the defense batteries and protect and maintain them.

In the event of an aerial rocket or missile attack on Israel, these soldiers activate the defense systems to protect the country.

Machal Eligibility Those drafting through Machal can serve in Air Defense Force for a minimum of 18 months.

Medical Profile

72 for both
women and
men

Service time

2.8 years

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Religious Units

יחידות חרדיות



Chashmonaim

חשמונאים



Chetz

חץ



Netzach Yehuda

נצח יהודה



Hashmonaim

חשמונאים

The first Ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) Infantry Brigade in the IDF was founded in 2024. Their purpose is to enable Haredi soldier to serve in a framework that aligns with their way of life and preserves their Haredi identity. The brigade is staffed with commanders who define themselves as G-D fearing. The Brigade also has a team of recruiters who can help soldiers with complicated medical or personal backgrounds overcome bureaucratic issues to draft.

Machal Eligibility Those drafting through Machal can serve in Hashmonaim for a minimum of 18 months.

Medical Profile

82

Service Time

For soldiers drafting under the age of 21

2.8 year service.

For all drafting at 21+ **2 year service.**

13



Chetz is a religious company within the Paratroopers 202nd Battalion. The company is a regular infantry company like all others, but they also receive food with a higher level of Kosher supervision, less contact with female Combat Support soldiers, and set times to pray and study Torah among other things. The unique quality of Chetz is that it requires a Gibbush for entry; separating it from Netzach and Chashmonaim.

Machal Eligibility Those drafting through Machal can serve in Chetz for a minimum of 18 months.

Medical Profile

82

Service time

Two years



Netzach Yehuda is an infantry battalion that belongs to the Kfir Brigade of the IDF's Infantry Corps. The unit is a regular infantry unit like all others, but they also receive food with a higher level of Kosher supervision, less contact with female Combat Support soldiers, and set times to pray and study Torah, among other religious practices. Previously they served primarily in Judea and Samaria, this is no longer the case.

Machal Eligibility Those drafting through Machal can serve in Netzach Yehuda for a minimum of 18 months.

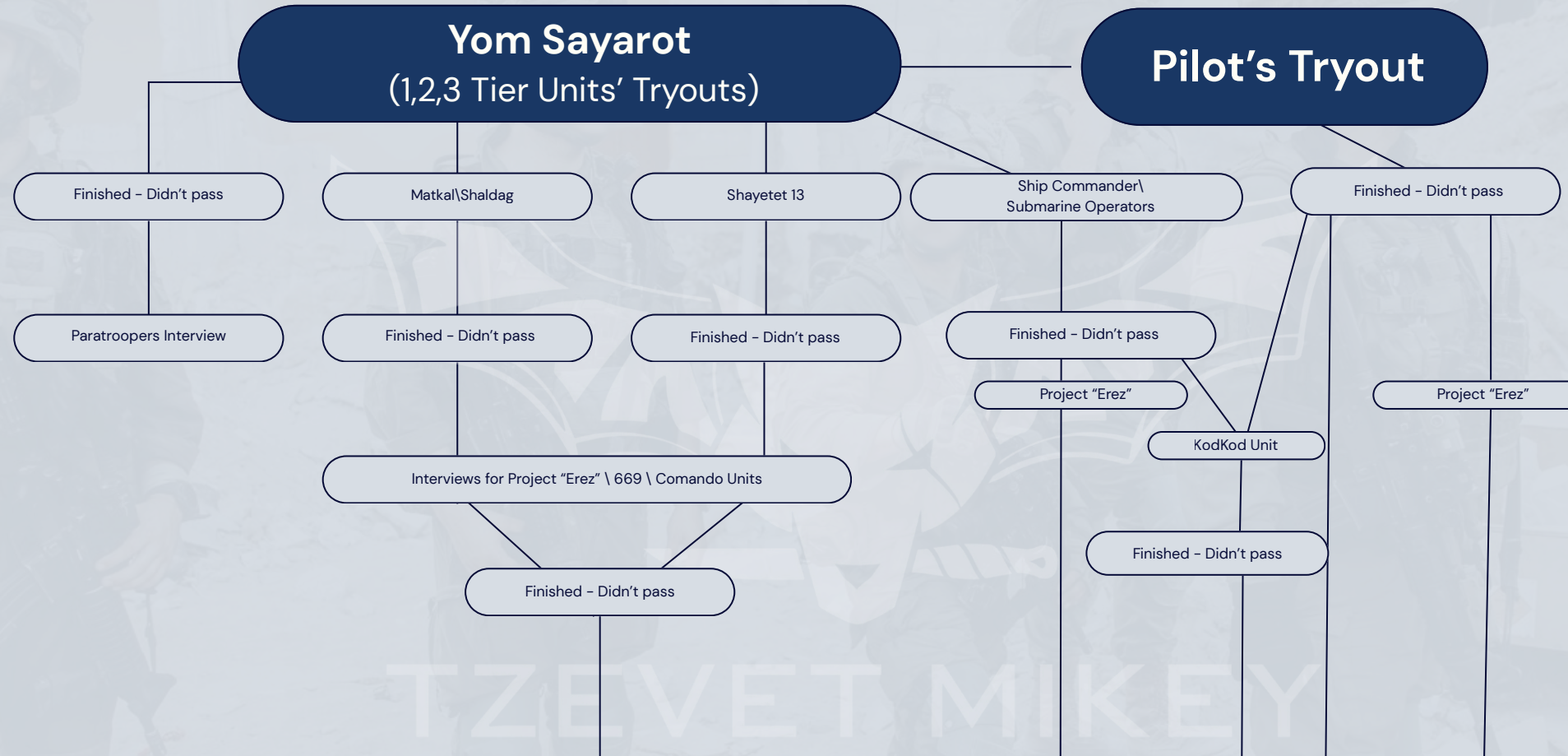
Medical Profile

82

Service time

Two years

Special Units Flowchart



Interview Week For Various Special Units:

Intelligence, Cyber, Lotar (Counterterrorism), Balnam (Operational drivers), Paratroopers Recon, Givati Recon, Golani Recon, Armored Corps Recon, Nahal Recon, Kfir Recon, Oketz, Yahalom, Moran\Rochash, Refaim, Yamas, 504 (Human Intelligence), and others.

*Keep in mind that if you draft through Machal (without having Israeli Citizenship) you will not be eligible to serve in any unit that requires a government issued Security clearance.
Almost all Special Units require a security clearance check.

Tier Three Special Units

יחידות מיוחדות בדרג שלישי



לוט"ר

Lotar Counterterrorism Unit

יחידה מיוחדת - לוחמה בטרור



מורן/ רוכ"ש

Artillery Corps. Special Units

סיירות של תותחנים

(Mixed)



בלנ"מ

Combat Mobility Unit

לוחם ניווד מבצעי (בלנ"מ)



Counterterror (Lotar) Instructor

לוט"ר

This special unit specializes in counterterror warfare instruction. They can be used as combat soldiers, but this occurs rarely. Mostly they focus on training combat units throughout the army in CQB, shooting, and counter terror tactics and techniques.

Acceptance Through

- Pass tryout within Kfir
- Interview week (see flowchart p.16)
- Fail out of a more elite units training pipeline

Medical Profile

Minimum 82

Service time

2.8 years



Artillery Corps. Special Units

מורן/רוכ"ש

Moran (מורן) and Rochev Shamayim (רוכ"ש) are special units within the Artillery brigade and are open to females and males. רוכב שמיים specializes in operating UAV's while מורן specializes in operating classified and highly accurate missiles. **Full service and security clearance required. These units are not open to Machal volunteers.**

Acceptance Through:

- Pass tryout within Artillery
- Interview week (see flowchart p.16)
- Fail out of a more elite units training pipeline

Medical Profile

Minimum 72

Service Time

2.8 years



Combat Mobility Unit

לוחם ניווד מבצעי (בלנ"מ)

A vehicular combat driving force that uses an assortment of vehicles to evacuate casualties, transport supplies, and move troops in the field. Fighters are trained in professional combat driving and operational mobility. The training includes four months of basic training and eight months of professional instruction (07). Soldiers can advance to command, instructional, or officer roles.

Acceptance Through:

- Asking for an interview from Meitav and passing the interview stage.
- Interview week (see flowchart p.16)
- Need a manual (stick shift) drivers license

Medical Profile

82

Service time

2.8 years

Tier Two Special Units

יחידות דרגה 2



OKETZ

עוקץ

Special Forces K9 Unit
(Mixed)



YAHALOM

יהל"ם

Special Operations Engineering Unit
(Mixed)



YAMAS

ימ"ס

Elite Counterterror Unit



504

Elite Combat Unit in the
Intelligence Corps.



REFA'IM

רפאים

Elite Multi-Domain Combat Unit



Open to both males & females. Soldiers in Oketz do not operate as an organic unit but rather allocate canine handlers to other units who need their specialty. Oketz dogs have a wide variety of specialties including attack dogs, bomb sniffing dogs, tracking dogs, and much much more. **Israeli citizenship and security clearance is required to serve here.**

Acceptance Through

- Men: Fall from Elite Unit or Gadnat Oketz
- Interview week (see flowchart p.16)
- Females: Pass tryout from within Mixed Infantry



Elite unit of the Combat Engineering Corps. Open to both males & females. Responsible for special engineering missions. The unit works with many different advanced technologies including -but not limited to- robots, drones, high explosives, mines, tunnel warfare, and much more. Women can serve as combat soldiers in Yahalom, but in specific roles.

Israeli citizenship and security clearance is required to serve here.

Acceptance Through

- Pass tryouts within Engineering Corps.
- Fall from Elite Unit
- Interview week (see flowchart p.16)



Medical Profile

Minimum 82

Service time

Minimum of 3 years,
depending on your role
within the unit



Medical Profile

Minimum 82

Service time

Minimum of 3 years,
depending on your role
within the unit

19



Unit 504

יחידת 504

Elite combat unit within The Intelligence Corps. Open to both males & females. Unit 504 performs clandestine and covert operations, gathers military intelligence, and performs special operations outside the borders of Israel.

Not much more can be said about this unit, due to security constraints.

Acceptance Through

- Falling from an elite unit
- Interview week (see flowchart p.16)



Yamas

ימ"ס - יחידת המסתערבים

Elite counter terror unit within the Border Police, often placed under IDF command. Emphasis on urban warfare, CQB, marksmanship, hostage rescue, working undercover in enemy territory, and more. Yamas often works in the West Bank, and specializes in undercover missions and high value target arrests. They also have high level SWAT training, however their training does not focus on large scale war fighting.

Acceptance Through

- Pass a tryout inside of Magav
- Fall from an elite unit
- Interview week (see flowchart p.16)



Medical Profile

82 minimum

Service Time

Unknown



Medical Profile

82 minimum

Service time

Minimum of 3 years,
depending on your
role within the unit

20



Refa'im (Ghost)

רפאים

Elite multi-domain combat unit, founded to lead future battlefield innovations. Also known as the "Ghost" unit or the "Multi-dimensional" unit (יחידה הרב מימדי). Operates in all terrains and fronts, specializing in locating and eliminating threats and developing new battlefield technologies and techniques.

Acceptance Through

- Yachatiot tryout (tryout within infantry units)
- Fall from an elite unit
- Interview week (see flowchart p.16)



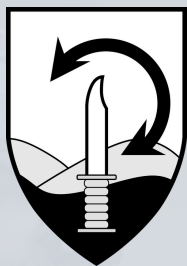
Medical Profile

82

Service time

Minimum of 3 years,
depending on your
role within the unit

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The Commando Brigade

חטיבות קומנדו

Duvdevan

דובדבן



Urban warfare specialists,
undercover missions and arrests
in the West Bank and Gaza

Egoz

אגוז



Specializes in guerilla warfare
behind enemy lines, especially
in heavy brush and forrests.

Maglan

מגלן



Specializes in missile warfare,
intelligence gathering, and
deep strike missions.

The Commando Brigade is the tip of the spear of the IDF. They receive the most difficult and dangerous conventional missions, and are also frequently called upon for unconventional missions.

Israeli citizenship and security clearance is required to serve here.

Acceptance Through

- Passing Matkal/Shayetet tryout
- Falling from an elite unit
- Yachatiot tryout (tryout within infantry units)

Medical Profile

Minimum 82

Service time

Minimum of three years,
it can be more
depending on your role
within the unit

Tier One Elite Units

יחידות עילית דרגה 1



669



סיירת מטכ"ל

Sayeret Matkal



שלדג

Shaldag



שייטת 13

Shayetet 13

The above units are considered the elite of the elite of the IDF. Service in these units requires Israeli citizenship – it is often difficult for Olim Chadashim to reach these units as they are not always able to pass the security clearance and intensive screening that's required before and during training. A high level of Hebrew language, teamwork ability, and social skills are required to finish training in these elite units.

Medical Profile

97

Service time

Minimum 4.6 years,
can be more

669

Elite Pararescue Unit that deals with combat rescue during the IDF's most complex combat missions and in high risk civilian scenarios.

Sayeret Matkal

Elite unit that deals with the highest level of missions relating to field intelligence gathering around the world.

Shaldag

Elite air commandos that deals with high level raids and classified missions around the world.

Shayetet 13

The Israeli Navy Seals, they are an elite team of Navy Commandos that operates around the world.

Acceptance Through

- Passing Matkal/Shayetet tryout
- Possibility of gaining acceptance after dropping from Pilot's Course

Thinking of drafting? Sign up for free @ tzevetmikey.com/register

Navy

חיל הים

The Israeli Navy is the maritime branch of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), responsible for protecting Israel's coastline, territorial waters, and maritime trade routes. It conducts defense, intelligence, and special operations—both above and below the sea—to prevent threats and ensure national security. Despite its small size, the Navy is highly advanced and works closely with other IDF branches to safeguard Israel's interests at sea.

Acceptance through

Completing a 2 day tryout. Once accepted into the navy, you can request any of the units listed and go through a series of interviews to get in.

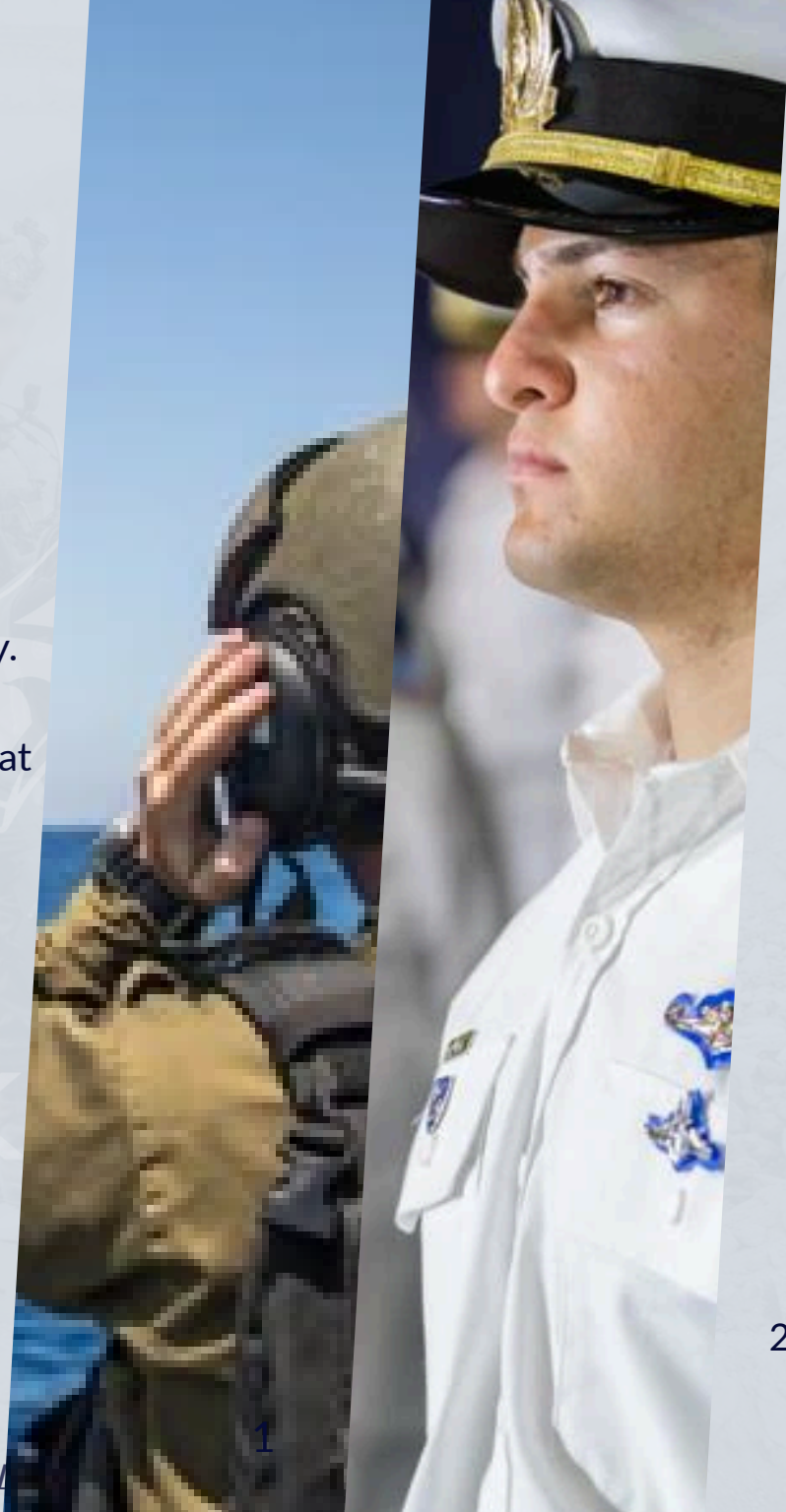
Medical Profile

Minimum 82

(Both males & females)

Service Time

2.8 years



Missile Boat Sailor

לוחם סטי"ל

Missile Boat Sailors serve as part of a tightknit, professional crew operating advanced missile ships at sea. Their mission combines combat, navigation, and the operation of cutting-edge weapon, radar, and defense systems while executing complex and classified missions in Israel's maritime arena.

They provide Israel with a powerful and precise strike capability, protecting strategic maritime assets, trade routes, and national sovereignty. Service aboard these ships demands teamwork, discipline, and technical excellence under challenging conditions.

Snapir Unit

יחידת סנפיר

The Snapir Unit is a unique naval security force responsible for protecting Israel's ports and nearby maritime areas. Its fighters prevent hostile infiltrations, underwater and surface attacks, and secure both military and civilian vessels in the ports of Haifa, Ashdod, and Eilat.

Operating in small teams aboard fast, agile boats called Tzar'a, Snapir soldiers react instantly to threats and perform both routine and emergency missions. Training includes navigation, diving, vessel operation, maritime shooting, and close cooperation with other security forces.



Medical Profile

Minimum 82 (men and women)

Service time

2.8 Years



Medical Profile

Minimum 82 (men and women)

Service time

2.8 Years

25

Underwater Missions Unit

ילת"ם

The sailors of the Underwater Missions Unit (YALTAM) specialize in diving and carrying out special underwater operations in deep-sea environments. Their missions include underwater demolition, installing and testing maritime systems, and performing complex technical tasks in challenging conditions.

They also conduct rescue and recovery dives, joint exercises with foreign navies, and operate advanced underwater technologies in cooperation with other Navy units.



Medical Profile

Minimum 82

Service time

2.8 Years

Naval Security Flotillas

פלגות הבט"ש

These combat sailors serve on Navy patrol ships, carrying out key and often classified missions to defend Israel's maritime borders. They operate advanced combat systems, navigate vessels, and work closely with air and ground forces to prevent threats at sea.

Training is intense, both physically and mentally, focusing on weapon operation, navigation, and teamwork under pressure.



Medical Profile

Minimum 82

Service time

2.8 Years

Submarine Fighters

שייטת הצוללות

The Submarine Flotilla is an elite, highly classified unit of the Israeli Navy. Its submarines serve as a strategic and deterrent force, capable of carrying out covert missions deep in enemy territory and across the globe. These operations ensure Israel's security and strategic advantage at sea.

Submarine Fighters operate advanced systems under extreme pressure and in complete secrecy. The role demands resilience, precision, technical expertise, and teamwork in confined and challenging environments.

Those with foreign non-Israeli citizenships will need to renounce their foreign citizenship(s) to serve in this unit because of the sensitive nature of their work.

Machal Eligibility

Those drafting through Machal cannot serve in this unit.

Ship Captain

חובלים

Naval Ship Commanders course. In 3 years of training you learn to be the captain of a naval vessel. After finishing training, you are required to serve an additional 4 years. They have their own tryout that can be reached through Yom Sayeorot. An extremely high level of Hebrew is needed, often even Israelis can not pass their Hebrew exam.

Acceptance Through

- Pass Gibbush Chovlim



Medical Profile

Minimum 82

Service time

2.8 Years



Medical Profile

97

Service time

7 years

Academic Officer Combat Courses

מסלולי עתודאי קרביים



**Communications
Officer**
קשריג



**Battalion Intelligence
Officer**
קמ"ן



Medical Officer
רופא קרבי



Paramedic
פרמדק



Pilot
קורס טייס



"Erez" Program
תוכנית "ארז"

Combat Communications Officer (Kashrag)

קשר"ג

The Combat Communications Officer (Kashrag) is a combat officer specializing in operating and managing advanced electronics and communication software and hardware systems on the battlefield. The role combines leadership, technology, and field operations. Soldiers draft to the course, finish as officers, and then are assigned to a combat unit to serve with in.



Medical Profile

72 for women and men

Service time

4 years

Operational Intelligence Officer (Kaman)

קמ"ן

The Battalion Intelligence Officer is responsible for managing the intelligence operations within a combat battalion. This unique role combines leadership, technology, and combat, directly influencing the unit's operational activity during routine missions, field deployments, and wartime operations.



Medical Profile

72 for men and women

Service time

4 years



Combat Paramedic

פרמדיק

Combat Paramedics are trained to provide advanced emergency medical care in the field — on the front lines, in special units, and during operational missions. They operate in high-pressure environments, saving lives and supporting combat troops during routine and emergency situations alike. It is a difficult role to be accepted to. Those accepted go through a year and a half course prior to their draft, are trained as basic infantry (O3) and are then assigned to a combat unit.

Medical Profile

72

Service time

3 years



Tzameret Program – Combat Doctor

רופא קרבי - מסלול צמרת

The Tzameret Program trains future IDF Doctors who serve as combat physicians in combat units (including the possibility of serving in elite units), combining medicine, leadership, and command.

Participants study medicine in Israeli universities with a focus on military and trauma care, emergency medicine, and occupational health, alongside enrichment in leadership, management, and Israeli history. The program offers full tuition, housing, and living expenses throughout the degree.

Graduates earn an M.D., with the option of completing a PhD during their education, and join the IDF as Battalion Medical Officers. These doctors lead medical teams in the field and on base and provide critical care under combat and non-combat conditions.

After they finish their time in the IDF, they can begin their career as a Doctor in Israel.

Service Time

7 years of civilian medical school, then 4 years of IDF service



“Erez” Program– Elite Officer Leadership Track

תוכנית “ארז”

The Erez Program develops the IDF’s future infantry and Special Forces combat officers and leaders. It combines commando level training, officer qualification, and a dual-major academic degree at Tel Aviv University.

Graduates earn the rank of Lieutenant (סגן) and serve as combat commanders across all ground forces.

The selection process is among the most elite in the IDF, pulling the most qualified participants from Yom Sayarot, special forces tryouts, and further academic screening.

Program commitment: 4 years of permanent service after training.

Designed for exceptional, motivated candidates with strong leadership and resilience



Pilots Course

קורס טיס

Pilots Course is one of the most prestigious courses and jobs the IDF offers. After finishing the course of three years, you receive a Bachelors Degree, and are assigned a plane or helicopter type with which to train and carry out missions inside Israel and around the world. Very few are accepted to training, and even fewer finish. Alongside Chovlim, likely the most difficult role for an immigrant to be accepted to and complete.

Acceptance Through

- Pass Gibbush Ta’yis (Pilots)



Medical Profile

97

Service time

3 years of
training and then

7 years of
service

31

About Tzevet Mikey

צוות מייקי

Tzevet Mikey prepares future lone soldiers for a successful army service through physical training, teaching Hebrew, IDF education, mentorship, and helping build community. The program is completely free, and you can register on our website.

Online, we publish articles, share tips, personal stories, and guidance on IDF life while connecting and inspiring the lone soldier community. You can find our work on our website tzevetmikey.com or on our Instagram [@tzevetmikey](https://www.instagram.com/tzevetmikey)



For more about Tzevet Mikey

ליותר מידע על צוות מייקי



Sign up now

להרשמה עכשיו