



The Department of Empowering  
Zionist Identity Overseas  
Education and Community Division  
KKL-JNF



Educational Kit About the  
IDF and National Service



# Intelligence Corps

## Affiliation

Intelligence Division

## Year of Establishment

1976 (as independent corps within the  
division), Intelligence Division  
established in 1953



## The Story Behind the Beret and Badge

Dark green beret, symbol of a world that operates partly in shadows.

The badge, green and white, hints at a basic principle in intelligence: part visible, part hidden.

## What Does the Corps Do?

The Intelligence Corps is the organizational engine behind one of the smartest, most advanced, and secretive systems in the IDF.

It's responsible for recruiting and training intelligence personnel, managing manpower and resources, preserving knowledge, building support systems, and the conduit for operational intelligence.

## How Did it Start?

Following the failures of the Yom Kippur War, the Agranat Commission recommended establishing the corps to improve the organization and functioning of the military intelligence system.

The corps operates in cooperation with operational units and headquarters, ensuring every piece of information reaches the right ears at the right time.





The Department of Empowering  
Zionist Identity Overseas  
Education and Community Division  
KKL-JNF

# צבא העם ISRAEL'S ARMY

Educational Kit About the  
IDF and National Service



## Signal and C4I Corps

### Affiliation

C4I and Cyber Defense Division

### Year of Establishment:

1949 (as Signal Corps), in current format,  
from 2004



## The Story Behind the Beret and Badge

Dark turquoise beret – prominent, like the field in which C4I fighters operate.

The badge includes a sword, olive branch, lightning, and binary digits (0 and 1), hinting at a world connecting commands, computers, battlefield, and the internet.

## What Does the Corps Do?

The corps develops and operates communication, computing, control, and encryption systems, ensuring fast, reliable, and secure communication between all combat elements.

It's also responsible for communication infrastructure, frequency management, electronic warfare (cyber), and maintaining communication continuity in routine and in the heart of battle. Everything is done in professional cooperation with other corps like the Air Force, Navy, and Intelligence Division. When a commander speaks with forces in the field, when information passes in real-time, when a weapon system operates precisely, the Signal and C4I Corps enables all of this.

## How Did it Start?

The corps' roots are in the Haganah organization. In 1949, it became an official corps. Since then, it has undergone many changes, including integration into the Cyber Division, and today it's a significant force connecting the battlefield to the cloud.





The Department of Empowering  
Zionist Identity Overseas  
Education and Community Division  
KKL-JNF

# צבא העם ISRAEL'S ARMY

Educational Kit About the  
IDF and National Service



## Air Force

### Affiliation

Air and Space Force

### Year of Establishment 1948



## The Story Behind the Beret and Badge

Dark gray beret – color of power. The badge includes wings spread around a Star of David, symbolizing speed, power, and protection from the air.

## What Does the Corps Do?

The Air Force is the force that protects Israeli airspace and beyond. It's responsible for deep strikes, support for ground and naval forces, command and control, intelligence gathering, rescue, transport, and electronic warfare.

## The Corps Operates:

- Fighter aircraft (F-35, F-15, F-16)
- Combat and transport helicopters
- Advanced UAVs
- Defense systems (Iron Dome, Arrow, David's Sling)
- Rescue and electronic warfare units, air control array

## How Did it Start?

The Air Force was established days after the Declaration of Independence with pilots who were World War II volunteers and aircraft

purchased through efforts abroad. Since then, it has participated in all of Israel's wars and grown to become one of the world's leading air forces. Its advantage is a rare combination of high-level pilots and fighters, innovative technology, and breakthrough operational thinking.

## Did You Know?

The Israeli Air Force played a central role in Operation "Rising Lion," conducted deep in Iran in 2025. The operation's goal: to damage Iranian nuclear capabilities and reduce the strategic threat to the State of Israel. During the operation, the Air Force achieved air superiority, operated deep in enemy territory, and conducted precise strikes on strategic facilities alongside targeted eliminations of scientists and senior commanders.

The operation reflected Israel's deep capabilities to operate far from its borders and precise cooperation between the Air Force and intelligence and security branches.





The Department of Empowering  
Zionist Identity Overseas  
Education and Community Division  
KKL-JNF

# צבא העם ISRAEL'S ARMY

Educational Kit About the  
IDF and National Service



## Navy

### Affiliation

Naval Force

### Year of Establishment

1948 (as "Naval Service"), named  
"Navy" in 1949



## The Story Behind the Beret and Badge

Dark blue beret, like the color of the sea.

The badge varies among different units comprising the corps.

## What Does the Corps Do?

The Navy is the branch that defends the State of Israel from the sea, from nearby shores to distant waters.

## Among its missions:

- Defending national borders in the maritime arena
- Securing trade routes
- Fighting maritime terror
- Intelligence gathering and precise strikes
- Support for ground and air forces

## The Corps Operates:

- Missile ships
- Advanced submarines
- Shayetet 13 – IDF's naval commando
- Electronic warfare units, maritime intelligence gathering, and more

## How Did it Start?

On March 17, 1948, even before the establishment of the State, the Naval Service

was established – the fighting force of Israel-to-be. Veterans of the Palmach naval department (PALYAM), Haifa port personnel, volunteers from the British Navy, sailors, fishermen, youth from sailing organizations, and volunteers from abroad joined its ranks. The first ships came from the "Shadow Fleet" – immigrant ships converted for combat, as well as several coast guard ships received from the British.

## Did You Know?

Throughout the years, the Navy operated with power and audacity, from sinking the Egyptian flagship "Amir Farouk" in the War of Independence, through the Battle of Latakia in the Yom Kippur War where all Syrian vessels were destroyed, to secret operations the details of which remain confidential to this day. In the Battle of Latakia, incidentally, the Israeli Navy was the first in the world to conduct electronic anti-missile warfare.







The Department of Empowering  
Zionist Identity Overseas  
Education and Community Division  
KKL-JNF



Educational Kit About the  
IDF and National Service



# Home Front Command

## Affiliation

Independent regional command, directly  
subordinate to the Chief of Staff

## Year of Establishment 1992



## The Story Behind the Beret and Badge

Orange beret – an international color symbolizing rescue and relief.

The badge includes a blue triangle (international rescue symbol), door (protection), sword and olive branch (symbol of power, protection, and peace).

## What Does the Corps Do?

The corps was established following lessons from the Gulf War, and is designed to protect the home front, meaning all of us, civilians in the rear that suddenly becomes a front.

The command is divided into districts (North, Haifa, Dan, Center and Jerusalem, South), each with rescue, NBC (chemical-biological), and instruction units.

## Among its Missions:

- **Emergency preparedness** – information, instructions, shelters, civilian readiness
- **Life-saving** – rescue from ruins, handling dangerous incidents, medical aid
- **Rapid rehabilitation** – help after falls (missiles and UAVs), fires, contaminations, and more

## How Did it Start?

The unit was established out of a real need to integrate a professional and rapid array connecting the army to the home front in emergency and war situations.

The corps' essence is to save lives and maintain routine even under fire.





The Department of Empowering  
Zionist Identity Overseas  
Education and Community Division  
KKL-JNF

# צבא העם ISRAEL'S ARMY

Educational Kit About the  
IDF and National Service



## Unit 669

(Special Tactical Rescue Unit)

### Affiliation

Air Force

### Year of Establishment

1974 (following lessons from Yom  
Kippur War)



## The Story Behind the Beret and Badge

Dark gray beret with Air Force pin. The unit's symbol is a black cat with green eyes, symbolizing the ability to "land on one's feet" anywhere and in any situation.

## What Does the Unit Do?

Unit 669 – Air Force elite unit specializes in rescue under fire, secret rescue beyond enemy lines, field medical treatment, and casualty evacuation. By air, sea, land, in any weather, any situation, any risk level, 669 arrives. The soldiers sometimes join secret operations of other units, and sometimes operate alone.

Beyond military operations, the unit also participates in exceptional civilian rescues, like the Nahal Tzafit disaster where they rescued students caught in severe flash floods.



## How Did it Start?

669 was established following the need for a skilled force to evacuate casualties under fire and rescue soldiers from enemy territory. Quickly, it became one of the most famous elite units in the IDF, with fighters required to meet the highest levels of courage, precision, composure, and medical and combat skills.





The Department of Empowering  
Zionist Identity Overseas  
Education and Community Division  
KKL-JNF

# צבא העם ISRAEL'S ARMY

Educational Kit About the  
IDF and National Service



## Shayetet 13

**Affiliation** Navy

**Year of Establishment** 1950



## The Story Behind the Beret and Badge

Dark blue beret combined with a bat pin awarded upon completing the unit's tough course. It symbolizes excellence, determination, and secrecy, the three qualities Shayetet 13 fighters must demonstrate.

The badge includes a sword within a red triangle. "Like a bat emerging in darkness, like a blade cutting in silence, like a grenade exploding in thunder."

## What Does the Unit Do?

Shayetet 13 is the IDF's naval commando – one of the most secretive, sophisticated, and dangerous units. It specializes in raids from sea and land, maritime counter-terrorism, seizing vessels, penetrating enemy territory, sabotage, intelligence gathering, and rescuing fighters in the heart of the sea or deep in enemy territory.

## How Did it Start?

Shayetet 13 has operated since the 1950s in all of Israel's combat sectors, from Mediterranean shores to river depths. Among known operations: Spring of Youth, seizing the weapons ship "Karine A," and many daring operations that will remain classified for years. The course for Shayetet is considered among the toughest in the IDF because candidates are required to have diving skills and extraordinary physical and mental fitness.





The Department of Empowering  
Zionist Identity Overseas  
Education and Community Division  
KKL-JNF



Educational Kit About the  
IDF and National Service



# Shaldag Unit

(Unit 5101)

## Affiliation

Air Force

## Year of Establishment

1974 as reserve unit, became regular  
in 1977



## The Story Behind the Beret and Badge

Dark gray beret combined with a pin given only to course graduates, featuring the Shaldag bird (kingfisher), a fast and precise predator, like the fighters it represents.

## What Does the Unit Do?

Shaldag is one of the most secretive and powerful units in the IDF. It operates quietly, deep in enemy territory – to locate, gather intelligence, mark targets, conduct sabotage, rescue soldiers, and return without leaving a trace. The unit operates in cooperation with Air Force squadrons.

## How Did it Start?

The unit was established following lessons from Yom Kippur War, when the IDF understood that the Air Force needs its own commando arm – independent, smart, lethal. It was inspired by the British SAS and became a military legend that very few know about. Most unit operations are classified. It is currently known that the unit protected "Operation Moses" and "Operation Solomon" for bringing Ethiopian Jews to Israel, and took a central role in humanitarian aid operations after disasters around the world. The unit's motto was borrowed from Sayeret Matkal: "The Bold Wins."







The Department of Empowering  
Zionist Identity Overseas  
Education and Community Division  
KKL-JNF



Educational Kit About the  
IDF and National Service



# Sayeret Matkal

(General Staff Reconnaissance) (Unit 767),  
also called "The Unit"

## Affiliation

Intelligence Division (AMAN), under Special  
Operations Array

**Year of Establishment** 1957



## The Story Behind the Beret and Badge

Red beret like all commando units, but you won't find the unit badge on uniforms. The unique fighter pin is also hidden. That's how it is in a unit based entirely on secrecy.

## What Does the Unit Do?

Matkal is the Intelligence Division's special commando unit, among the most secretive in the IDF. Its fighters go deep into enemy territory to gather intelligence, conduct secret patrols, capture terrorists, rescue hostages, and perform secret missions. They move by land, air, and sea and are trained in all types of combat.

## How Did it Start?

Sayeret Matkal was established from the need for an elite unit to perform special intelligence missions and operations beyond enemy lines. The unit was involved in historical operations like Operation Entebbe (hostage rescue), Operation Crate (kidnapping senior Syrian army officers), and many others that won't be revealed for years. Among its prominent commanders: Yoni Netanyahu, Ehud Barak, Moshe Ya'alon, Omer Bar Lev, and Hertzi Halevi. The motto accompanying them in every mission: "The Bold - Wins."





The Department of Empowering  
Zionist Identity Overseas  
Education and Community Division  
KKL-JNF



Educational Kit About the  
IDF and National Service



# Military Rabbinate Corps

## Affiliation

Independent corps, subordinate to Chief  
of Staff

**Year of Establishment** 1948



## The Story Behind the Beret and Badge

Military rabbis wear the beret of the corps to which they're assigned combined with a beret symbol displaying Jewish motifs representing the corps' mission – spirit, identity, and ethical guidance.

## What Does the Corps Do?

The Rabbinate Corps provides spiritual accompaniment, religious services, and halachic counseling to all IDF soldiers, Jews and non-Jews.

## Among its Missions:

- Managing religious ceremonies
- Identification and treatment of fallen soldiers and conducting military funerals
- Halachic counseling for commanders and soldiers
- Training kashrut supervisors and religious inspectors
- Handling marriage, conversion, and kashrut matters

## How Did it Start?

The Military Rabbinate Corps began its path with establishing the "Religious Affairs Department" by Haganah commander Israel Galili. After the State's establishment, at the request of Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog, the Military Rabbinate unit was established. Shortly after, the two frameworks were unified into a central corps. Since then, the Rabbinate has been with the soldiers in routine, in battle, and in returning bodies home. It serves as a bridge between tradition and the Israeli army.

