



IDF/ICD/SMIS - FOUO



WELCOME!

2021

ISRAEL & THE IDF

AN INTRODUCTION



WELCOME

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AN INTRODUCTION



Strategic Military Information Section

Sources: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IDF's Spokesperson

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ISRAEL



“ In Israel, in order to be a realist,
you must believe in miracles.”

David Ben Gurion
Israel's First Prime Minister



Population
9.1+ million



Capital
Jerusalem



Languages
Hebrew, Arabic



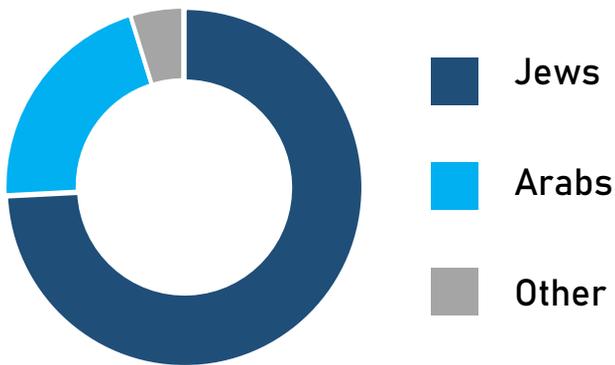
Currency
New Shekel (NIS)



Israel is a small, narrow, semi-arid country on the south-eastern coastline of the Mediterranean Sea. It lies at the **junction of three continents**: Europe, Asia and Africa.



Israel has a thriving, vibrant and innovative society, home to over nine million citizens from diverse ethnic, religious, cultural and social backgrounds. A country that emerged from the desert sands with no natural resources, Israel has managed to beat the odds and become a global leader in technological innovation. Equality, human rights and fundamental freedoms are the cornerstones of Israel's democracy, both in law and in practice.



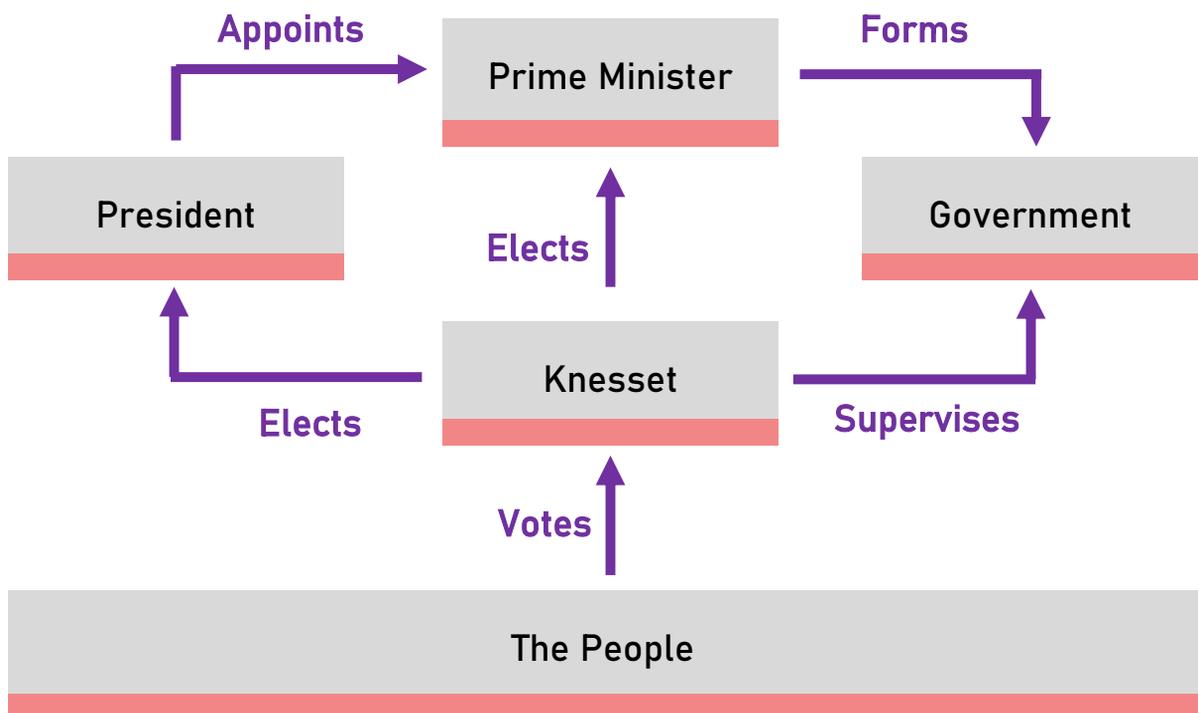
A history of thousands of years, the ingathering of Jewish people from all over the world, and an unending flow of international input have contributed to the development of an **Israeli culture** which reflects worldwide elements while striving for an identity of its own.



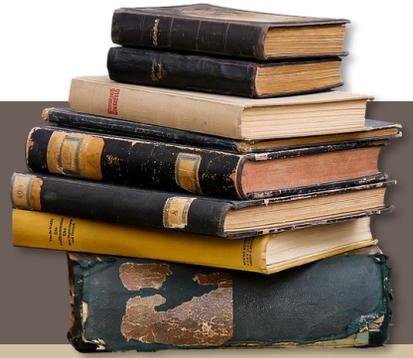
THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

Israel is a **parliamentary democracy** with legislative, executive and judicial branches.

- The head of the state is the **President**, whose duties are mostly ceremonial and formal.
- The **Knesset**, Israel's legislative authority, is a 120-member unicameral parliament. Its members are elected in universal nationwide elections.
- The **Government** (cabinet of ministers) is charged with administering internal and foreign affairs. It is headed by a Prime Minister.



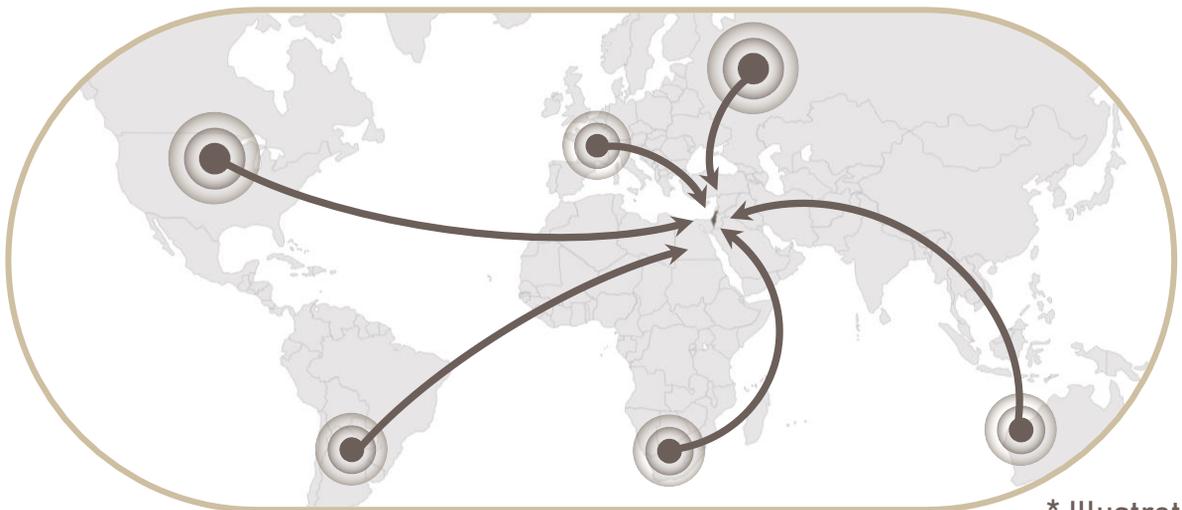
HISTORY



“INGATHERING OF EXILES”

Israel is a land and a people. It is in the land of Israel that the Jewish people's cultural, national and religious identity was first formed.

Judea and its capital Jerusalem were destroyed by the Roman Empire in 70 CE and **most of the Jews were expelled** and dispersed all over the world, adapting themselves to local cultures while preserving their distinctive identity. Through the ages, belief in **"the ingathering of the exiles"** inspired Jews to return to their ancestral homeland; this yearning further increased in the 19th century.



* Illustration

Jewish independence was once again realized in 1948 with the establishment of the State of Israel. Individuals as well as entire communities returned bearing their unique customs and cuisines, integrating into a modern culture.

STRIVING FOR PEACE

“

Israel was not created in order to disappear - Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child of hope and the home of the brave. It can neither be broken by adversity nor demoralized by success. It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom.

”

John F. Kennedy

Throughout the years, Israel faced numerous existential threats, as Arab states have jointly waged several full-scale wars against it. Despite being out-numbered by the Arab armies, Israel managed to successfully defend itself each time.



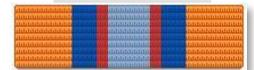
War of Independence (1947-49)



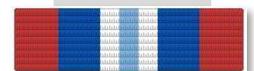
Israel Joins the UN (1949)



Sinai Campaign (1956)



Six Day War (1967)



War of Attrition (1968-70)



Yom Kippur War (1973)



Peace
with Egypt (1979)



First Lebanon War (1982)



Oslo Accords (Israel- PLO) (1993-95)



Peace
with Jordan (1994)



Second Lebanon War (2006)



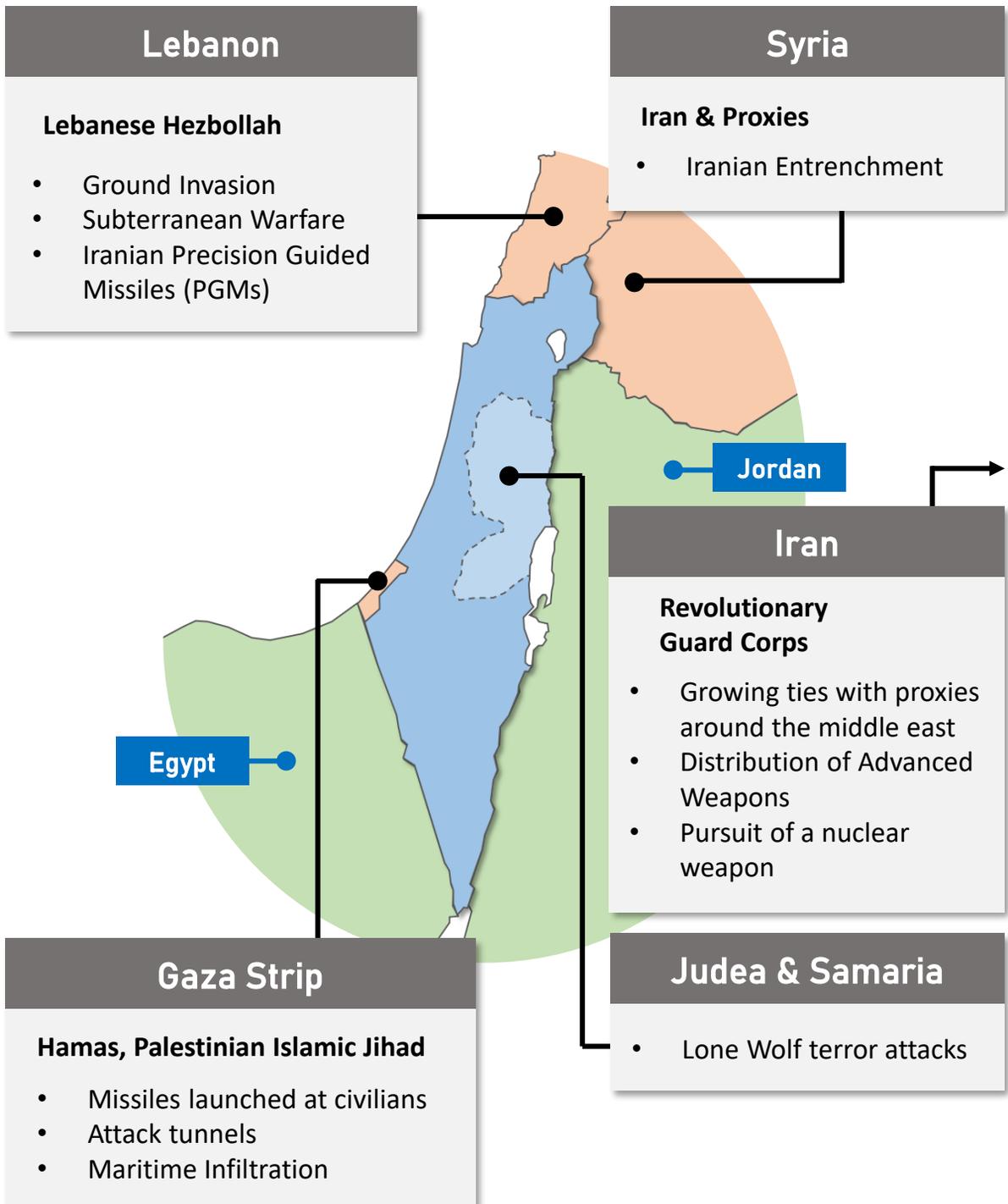
Gaza Operations (2008-present)



Abraham
Accords (2020)



SECURITY CHALLENGES



A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF ISRAEL



Although small in size, Israel **encompasses varied topographical features**. From the snowy peak of Mt. Hermon in the north, through the forested evergreen highlands and valleys of the Galilee to mountainous deserts, coastal plains, the semitropical Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth all the way down to Eilat and the coral reefs of the Red Sea.



Jerusalem



Israel's capital Jerusalem is bustling metropolis, seat of the government and the country's largest city. It is a unique meeting point between ancient constructions and creative tech hubs, spiritual sanctuaries and culinary hot spots and of course, houses of worship and holy sites for Christians, Jews and Muslims everywhere.

Tel Aviv



The first Hebrew city to be built outside the walls of Jaffa, Tel Aviv is known for its Bauhaus architecture, technological and artistic creative spirit as well as numerous restaurants, bars, clubs and sporadic parties. Tel Aviv is also home to the IDF's Head Quarters – “HaKirya”.

Haifa



An important Mediterranean port since the 12th century, Haifa today is the industrial, commercial and administrative capital of Northern Israel. Home to the stunning Bahai Gardens; lavish churches, synagogues and Mosques as well as interesting flea markets and popping bars, Haifa is a beacon of coexistence and center of cultural enrichment.

Be'er-Sheva



As the largest city in southern Israel, the campsite of the patriarchs in ancient times is today not only a thriving urban center providing services for the entire southern region but also home to some of the most cutting-edge cyber technology out there today.

INNOVATION



“

In Israel, a land lacking in natural resources, we learned to appreciate our greatest national advantage: our minds. Through creativity and innovation, we transformed barren deserts into flourishing fields and pioneered new frontiers in science and technology. ”

Shimon Peres
9th President of Israel



Israel consistently ranks as one of the most innovative countries in the world.



Drip Irrigation



Digital Printing



PillCam



Flash Drives

Israel's entrepreneurial spirit is rooted in its history of overcoming obstacles, and today it is home to myriad pioneering startups, backed by robust publicsector support, strategic partnerships, and extensive domestic and international investment. Israeli innovators today are pushing the technological envelope in practically every sector, including cyber, medtech, autonomous driving, energy, machine learning, agritech, drones, aerospace and more.



First PC CPU



Waze



Cherry Tomatoes



Iron Dome



Israel is home to over 300 multinational R&D centers



MOTOROLA



USEFUL INFORMATION



Officially called the **New Israeli Shekel (NIS)**, the currency is referred to as the Shekel. You can bring Shekels into Israel, or exchange your own currency at banks, exchange bureaus, the airport and post offices.



Israel offers a wide variety of public transportation options including taxis, trains and buses as well as public sharing options including electric cars, bikes and scooters – at your disposal in almost every street corner. These come in handy as in many areas across the country, buses and trains are limited from Friday afternoons until Saturday sundown.



English

Hebrew

Arabic

Thank You

Todah

Shukran

How Are You?

Ma Nishma

Kif Halek



All street signs are in Hebrew, English and Arabic, and Google Maps and Waze are available locally, so finding your way around should be a breeze.

Must-have Apps in Israel



Whatsapp

Messaging and calling for free.
Everyone is using it here.

Get Directions



Moovit



Waze



Gett

Find Stuff



Trip Advisor



Wolt



Easy

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police

100

Ambulance

101

Fire Department

102

Electric Company

103

Home Front
Command

104

Local Municipality

106

THE IDF



The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is the military of the State of Israel.

The IDF's security objectives are to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State of Israel, deter all enemies, and curb all forms of terrorism that threaten daily life. Soldiers of the IDF act according to the values of the IDF and its commands, while abiding to the law, upholding human dignity, and respecting the values of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.



The Spirit of the IDF draws on four sources:

- The tradition of the IDF and its military heritage
- The tradition of the State of Israel, its democratic principles and laws and institutions
- The tradition of the Jewish People throughout their history
- Universal moral values based on the value and dignity of human life

The IDF's doctrine at the strategic level is **defensive**, while its tactics are **offensive**. Given the country's lack of territorial depth, the IDF must take the initiative when deemed necessary and quickly transfer the battleground to the enemy's land. Though it has always been outnumbered by its enemies, the IDF maintains a **qualitative advantage** by deploying advanced weapons systems, many of which are developed and manufactured in Israel for its specific needs. The IDF's main resource, however, is the **high caliber of its soldiers**.

IDF deploys a **small standing army** (made up of conscripts and career personnel) with early warning capability, and a **regular air force and navy**. The majority of its forces is reservists, who are called up regularly for training and service and who, in time of war or crisis, are quickly mobilized into their units from all parts of the country.

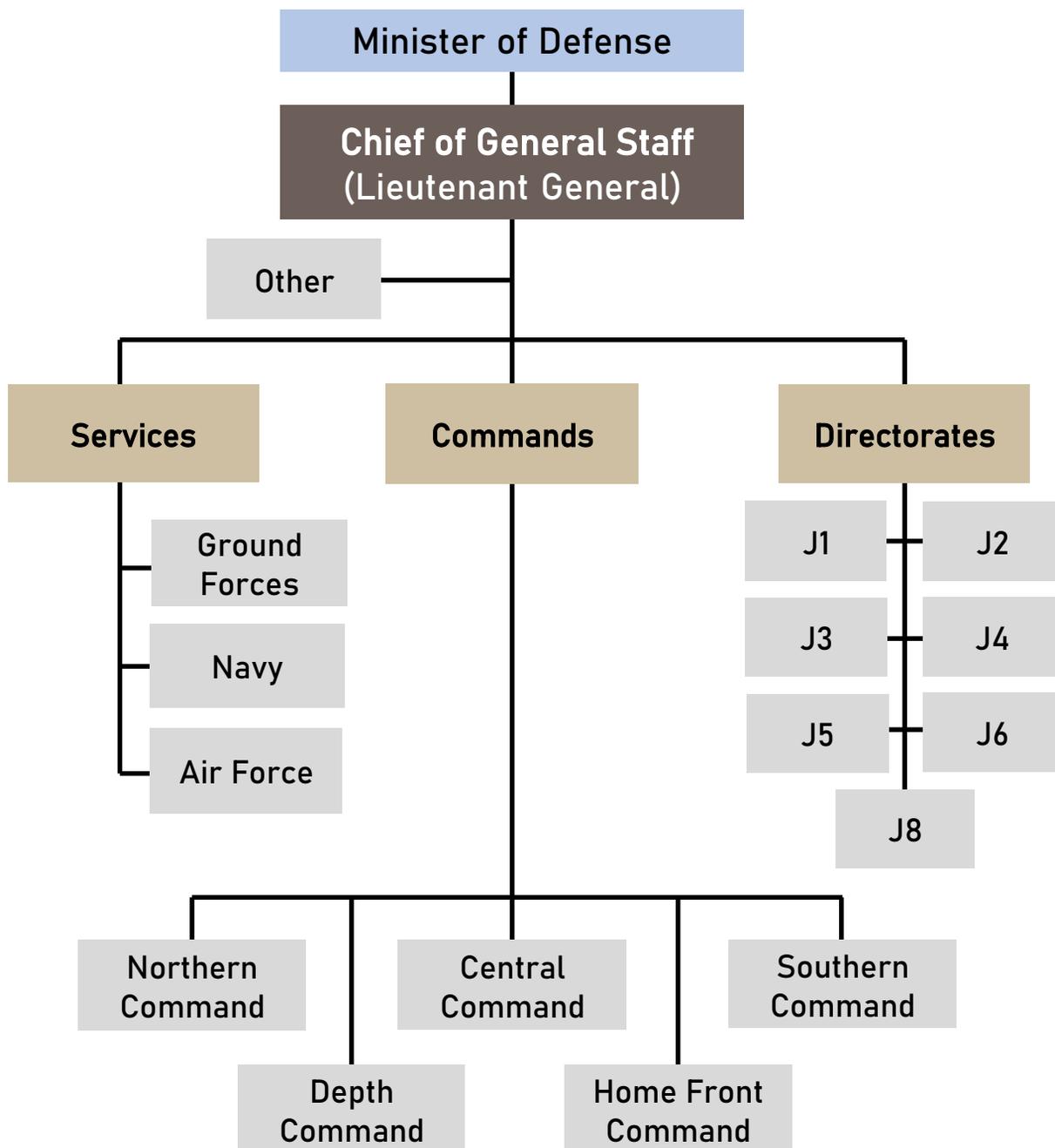


People's Army

Most Israeli men and women are inducted into the IDF at age 18, followed by service in the reserves.

In essence, **the society and army are one**, as a broad spectrum of the population serves periodically over many years, with those in and out of uniform virtually interchangeable. The IDF has become a highly effective **equalizer in Israeli society** and contributes greatly to integrating individuals from all walks of life. The IDF also helps new immigrants during their period of military service to acclimate to life in Israel.

STRUCTURE



* Simplified

Directorates



Manpower Directorate (J1)

The Manpower Directorate is responsible for managing all matters related to IDF personnel. It acts as a planning and coordinating body for the deployment of manpower and its movement, personnel development planning, and the individual's service conditions. It devises the IDF's policy in all areas of human resources throughout the military and supervises its implementation.



Military Intelligence Directorate (J2)

The main mission of the Military Intelligence Directorate is to provide intelligence warnings and alerts daily as well as during wartime to protect Israel from threats. In order to enable security forces to defend Israel, the Intelligence Directorate must utilize many resources and tightly track terrorist activities and developments in Arab countries as well as technological advancements worldwide.



Operations Directorate (J3)

The IDF Operations Directorate is responsible for planning the use of military force, and preparing the IDF for war. It coordinates the work of the General Staff, ensures that the various branches of the IDF work together, and makes military recommendations to the relevant state authorities in the government of Israel.



Technological & Logistics Directorate (J4)

* Ground Forces Emblem

The Technological and Logistics Directorate is responsible for multi-agency logistics and enables the continuous fighting on land, air and sea on a daily basis and during emergencies. It acts as part of the Ground Forces, and consists of three corps: the Logistics Corps, the Medical Corps and the Ordnance Corps.



Strategic Planning and Cooperation Directorate (J5)

The Directorate is responsible for planning and shaping the IDF's strategy as well as the IDF's position on matters of national security; Leading regional and international cooperation efforts; and Coordinating the IDF's overall efforts against Iran.



C4I and Cyber Defense Directorate (J6)

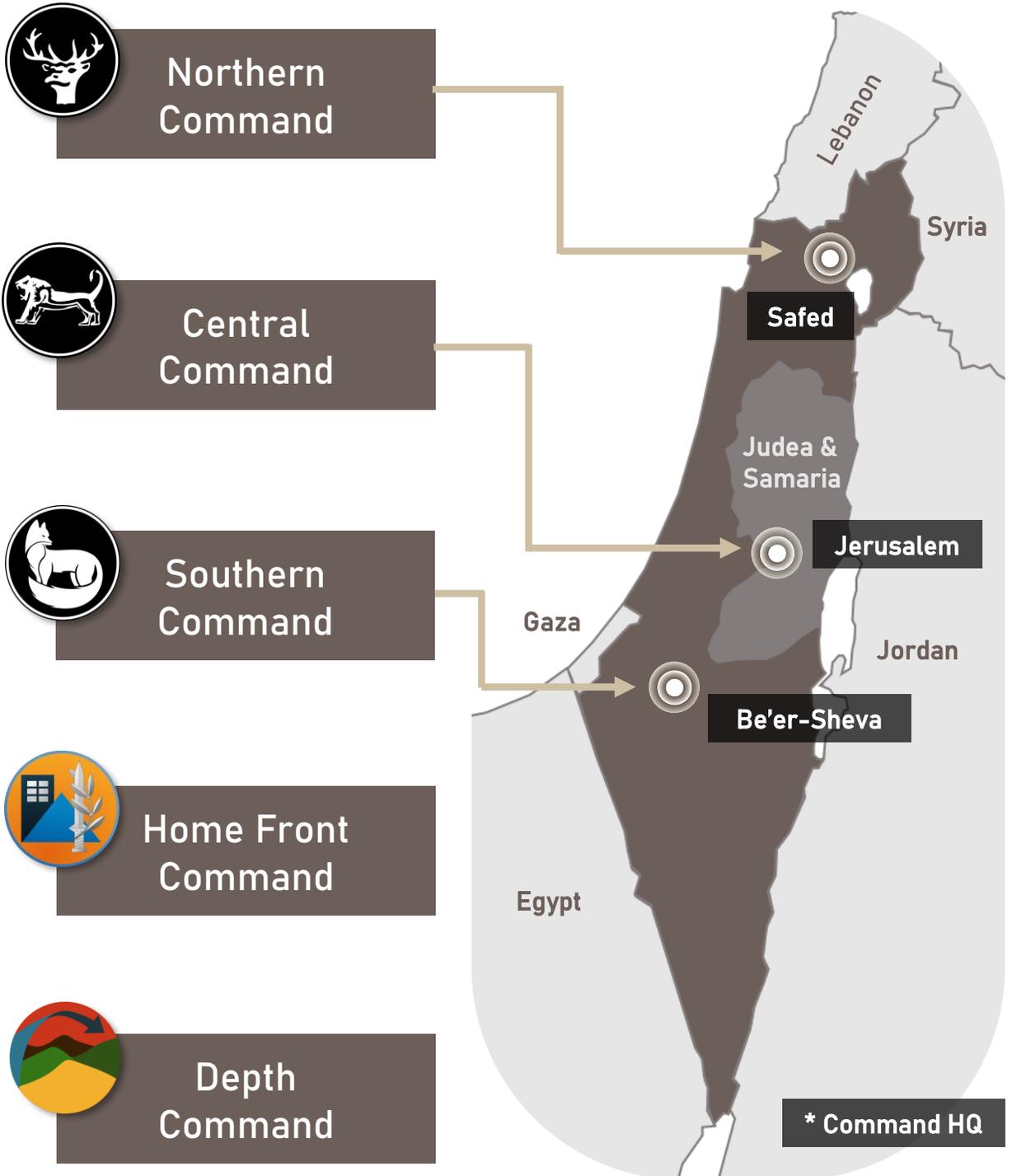
The C4I Directorate is the IDF's elite technological unit. The directorate's main objectives are to initiate, develop, exploit and strengthen the IDF's technological integration system. It is responsible for all the contacts, computers and communications of IDF forces on the battlefield. It is also responsible for all cyber defense in the IDF.



Force Build Up Directorate (J8)

The Directorate is responsible for the build up of the IDF's military forces, capabilities, innovation and organization. It is tasked with ensuring the IDF's qualitative military edge.

Commands



Services

Air Force



The IAF is a central pillar of the Israel Defense Forces, deterring threats and ensuring Israel's strategic advantage in wartime. The Air Force is universally recognized among the world's most powerful aerial fighting forces.

Navy



Missions: To protect and defend the State of Israel from maritime threats; secure the vital maritime operations of the State of Israel and assist the rest of the Israeli army in case of conflict

Ground Forces



Infantry



Armored



Artillery



Combat Engineering



Field Intelligence



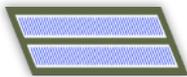
Technological & Logistics Directorate

USEFUL INFORMATION

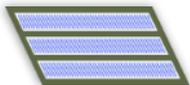
Ranks



Enlisted



Private



Corporal



Sergeant

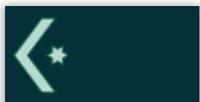
NCOs



Sergeant First Class



Master Sergeant



Sergeant Major



Command Sergeant Major



Sergeant Major of the Army

Officers



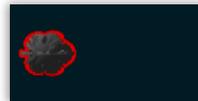
2nd Lieutenant
2LT



1st Lieutenant
1LT



Captain
CPT



Major
MAJ



Lieutenant Colonel
LTC



Colonel
COL



Brigadier General
BG



Major General
MG



Lieutenant General
LTG

IAF Officers



2nd Lieutenant
2nd Lt.



1st Lieutenant
1st Lt.



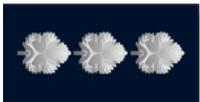
Captain
Capt.



Major
Maj.



Lieutenant Colonel
Lt. Col.



Colonel
Col.



Brigadier General
Brig. Gen.



Major General
Maj. Gen.



Lieutenant General
Lt. Gen.

Navy Officers



Ensign
Ens.



Lieutenant Junior Grade
LtJG.



Lieutenant
Lt. (N)



Lieutenant Commander
LCdr.



Commander
Cdr.



Captain
Capt. (N)



Rear Admiral
RAdm.



Vice Admiral
VAdm.



Admiral
Adm.



Berets



Nahal Brigade



Home Front Command



Artillery Corps



Special Forces and Paratroopers Brigade



Field Intelligence Corps



C4I and Cyber Defense Directorate



Combat Engineering Corps



Military Police



Golani Brigade



Givati Brigade



Kfir Brigade



Navy



Intelligence Directorate



Air Force



General Corps



Armored Corps



Border Defense

**Wishing you
a productive stay**



Strategic Military Information Section