

My esteemed colleagues,
The General Staff Forum,
Commanders,
The commanders' staff and the military colleges,
The Aloni family, the Neumann family,
Nimrod and Neumann,

As we gather here today at the IDF Military Colleges Base - the wellspring of knowledge for the profession of command across all advanced and senior training –

I wish to recall David Ben-Gurion's call to value learning alongside the craft of command:

"Even a commander who has completed the highest military schools may not consider himself a master of the discipline of military, for this discipline, like any other scientific discipline, is never complete. Only one who constantly follows the ongoing development of military research and the problems of war, and for whom the book of defense doctrine never leaves his lips - will learn and succeed in his path."

The professional training system, in all the courses taught here, is the main key to the continuous development of those who pass through its gates and to shaping the next generation of IDF commanders. Across the college, learning is aimed at gaining knowledge, deepening understanding, and finding better solutions to new problems as they arise before us. Creativity and open-mindedness are essential for this ability, the more so in the realm of uncertainty and in light of an ever-changing reality.

We expect IDF commanders to take one step further beyond what is learned and practiced here, to be able to point not only to the "what," but also to the "why," and how the purpose of each action should be fulfilled. The IDF's actions and achievements since October 7th, and particularly within the framework of Operation Rising Lion: have brought about significant changes in the Middle East, some heralding opportunities, and others requiring heightened preparedness.

We struck Iran and its axis whose declared goal is to destroy us. We embarked on a preemptive war - a war intended to remove a developing existential threat in its early stages, before it could become an immediate threat. Iran was in a dangerous process of building up its power in several dimensions and developing the strategy of Israel's destruction. Thanks to Operation Rising Lion, the threat has been halted for now. Moreover, it sent a clear message - Israel will not allow its enemies to amass capabilities that would endanger its existence, and it will be prepared to pay a heavy price to ensure its survival and future. If necessary, we will know how to act again with the same precision, power, and effectiveness. Removing emerging existential threats is part of our national security strategy and concept.

These days, the IDF is completing preparations for deepening the offensive operation in the Gaza Strip, which will bring about the collapse of Hamas' capabilities in the Gaza Strip - both governmental and military. The campaign will end when we have ensured our security and our future. The war being waged in the south is among the most complex we have ever known. Our troops are fighting with courage, bravery, and sacrifice in the face of our clear mission - to bring our hostages home and to decisively defeat the enemy!

The war is taking from us what is most precious - sons and daughters who fell in defense of the nation. Heroes who did not return from the battlefield. From here, I send my condolences to their families; their memory will be etched in our hearts, and their light will continue to illuminate our path. From here I also send wishes for recovery to the wounded, both in body and in spirit. We will continue to be with you on life's journey, as the comradeship of soldiers commands.

Nimrod, you are concluding your role as Commander of the Military Colleges. In all your positions, you have led with the ability to focus on both the "what" and the "why", the essence and the purpose, and you have instilled this approach in your subordinates with wisdom and method. You have been called upon, and have called upon others, to gather the pieces, to grow stronger, to demonstrate resilience, to look the future straight in the eye, and to learn despite everything. I thank you for your contribution in your role, in providing training adapted to the changing reality, while ensuring the quality of learning and developing thinking processes at all levels, each level and echelon according to its mission.

Caring for the people under your command, in the near future, you will continue to be a significant part of the General Staff Forum as the Commander of the General Staff's Depth Command. On this occasion, I would also like to address the command and academic staff of the colleges: the unique combination of senior figures from the world of learning and knowledge alongside the finest commanders is a source of strength and excellence for this institution. The vast knowledge, together with the deep understanding of the complexity of challenges, serves as a highly valuable force multiplier for the IDF's standard of excellence.

To the Aloni family, thank you, this is not the end, but another chapter has concluded in a long, demanding, and challenging path, and I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your continuous support during meaningful service.

Neumann, today you take command of the colleges, the hall of knowledge of the IDF and of the public sector in Israel. A man of thought and a man of war, a man of 'Sefer v'Saifa - book and sword. An Armored Corps officer, a brigade commander, and a division commander. You have led battles with distinction in every position you have held. A commander with creative and surprising thinking, a philosopher at heart and a man of action in deed, attentive and broad-minded. I am confident that you will lead the world of learning and command toward uncompromising renewal, toward constant ambition and deepening in preparation for future challenges. The experienced and dedicated staff of the colleges will assist you in imparting knowledge and doctrine to trainees and participants from the IDF and from all security and government organizations. One of the new challenges you will face is the reintegration of the colleges alongside my decision to reestablish the MAHAD that once existed in the IDF several decades ago and will now be reinstated. At the center of this process is strengthening the professionalism of the IDF's main headquarters, at the General Staff level and in the regional commands, promoting systemic learning processes, and drawing systemic lessons from the war, as part of the lessons learned from October 7 and as expected from an organization that learns and is committed to growth. To the Neumann family, thank you for your very significant support to Neumann, who has always known that his family stands behind him at every stage along the way.

My esteemed colleagues, “And I applied my heart to know wisdom,” the book of Ecclesiastes. Here, we will add wisdom and knowledge; here, the lessons of the war and of the past will be studied, so that we can ensure that in the future, the IDF stands strong, ready, and determined, in every place and at every time. This is our duty, this is our oath, and this is how we will act. Nimrod, best of luck on your continued path. Neumann, best of luck in shaping the future command echelon.

In every period, but especially in wartime, the relationship between the political echelon and the military echelon is a central axis of national security. Mutual trust and full cooperation are the keys to success.

Victory on the battlefield does not depend solely on military strength, but also on cohesion between the two echelons. Only in this way can we ensure decisive victory, as well as the resilience of the state the day after. At the center of this cohesion is trust. With trust comes strength. Only when they operate in harmony can we march forward, break the enemy, win, and secure the future of the state.

My esteemed colleagues, at the gates of the Military Colleges, we train IDF commanders and senior officials from government ministries in strategic thinking, which imparts broad knowledge in all components of national security. Among the key issues in national security is the relationship and interplay between the military echelon and the political echelon.