

The Mission of the IDF in the Vision of David Ben Gurion "Yichud VeYeud"
(Uniqueness and Destiny)

Translation: Ariel Fogelman

The IDF was given the most vital task of our generation: to keep the State of Israel in safety. It is a worthy cause for the best of our young men to give all their talents, will and time to. But this is not the only mission of our army. Our army must also be a pioneering force, an educator, a builder and a redeemer of the wilderness. Without being a united people and without settling the wilderness of the land, our safety will not be established. Our safety problem is different from the security problem of every other people in the world, not only because we're few in front of multiple ones, but because we're not yet a people and we still don't have a country. A land that is destroyed and vacant in ninety percent of its territory – is not a land, and a population that does not speak each other's language, that is not part of the nation's culture and the knowledge of the land, and is not closely attached and adhered to the hopes of a common culture and a national vision – are not a people capable of standing up to a day of struggle against its enemies. Not out of love of "luxury" we have established a security service law unparalleled in other countries, a law requiring every eighteen year old boy and girl in agricultural training. When the Security Service Law was introduced to the Knesset a year ago (20th of Av 1949) it was explained that we had ordered that it be small, since our numbers were small, and our personnel were needed for development of enterprises, immigrant absorption and creation of culture – which are the fundamental functions of our country, and therefore the challenge of our army high quality with small numbers. All the technical and professional knowledge that every advanced army in the world has, all the physical and mental virtues necessary for every soldier, all organizational generalizations that raise the collective ability of the security forces - all of which we need as much as any other country. But these alone will not be enough for us, for in our special, geographical and historical situation, it is the necessity that our army will add to all the above, an important touch of its own, and

this is the pioneering touch. Only by raising our moral and intellectual benefit to its peak capacity will our army fulfill its destiny in maintaining the security of the state.

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And in the same explanation of the Law of the Security Service, it was emphasized that pioneering fitness should not be seen as a monopoly of "privileged" tribes within us. Pioneering is not a thing of distinguished individuals and prodigies. It is present in every single person's soul. Hidden in every man and woman are spiritual powers and virtues and treasures, few of which come to be discovered. The urgency of historical needs and thoughtful acts of education, which know how to find rails to the heart of man and to the depths of his soul, are capable of commenting, discovering and activating every man and woman to allow their inner springs to flow and to elevate every person to the highest level of heroism and activism. Every capable military commander knows this secret, and in his power to turn his army consisting of simple flesh-and-blood structures into an army of heroes. The historical sense that guided us through building the country, took a path to the pioneering springs of the hearts of the Jewish youth in the towns of Lithuania, Poland, Galicia, Romania and America. The Aliya that will come in the coming years will be in the large part from the Eastern countries, the Islamic States, the Asian countries and Africa. In these countries, Jewish groups have not had the means and possibilities to learn the treasures of human and Jewish culture. "But there is no basis for the assumption that the Jews of North Africa, or Turkey, Egypt, Persia or Eden, are fundamentally different from the Jews of Lithuania, Galicia and America. They also stash rich springs of pioneering ability, springs of heroism and creation. If we also invest some of the efforts we have put into Jewish youth in European countries, we will also receive the blessed results here. And the Israel Defense Forces was tasked with being a home - the creator of the nation's pioneers and the cultural instrument for merging the exiles, uniting them and their cultures. Let not the shallow discourse of those attacking the army, seeing it as a natural producer of for stupidity idleness, flaunting, etc. – disturb us. An army framework like other frameworks depends on the content and

characteristics that are put in it, and we must fill this framework with pioneering and cultural content, alongside the creation of the homeland. Our army must take the youth under his guidance – from the youth battalions upwards – fundamental values of physical and moral cleanliness, knowledge of the tongue and the earth, physical and spiritual agility, innate love and social loyalty, Oz-creative spirit and entrepreneurship, discipline and order, fitness - work and pioneering work – in addition to the military and professional values necessary for security needs in the limited sense...

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Our generation has a double burden than the builders of the Second Temple period and the first returners to Zion. Not only rebuilding the Walls of Jerusalem – but all of the nation's land must be built and planted. We must teach agriculture and craft to thousands and hundreds of thousands of exiled and captured brothers – for the sake of a people who knew how to pardon the ruins of the country and protect it from trouble and enemy. The Framework of the Israel Defense Forces cannot be just a military framework, but will serve as both an educational and absorption framework, as well as a framework for the settling and building. As part of the army, the young immigrants will acquire the knowledge, and the language of the land, and as part of the army, the youth will train to build the wilderness, establish settlements and develop the Arava, the corridors of Jerusalem, the Lowlands and the Mountains.

The Navy and the Air Force will learn to take over the natural forces in the sea and in the air.