

## **Serving in the Israeli Military**

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In the United States, the military is voluntary, which makes American citizens less involved in and less proud of their country. The military is not about killing or invading other countries; it is about earning the right to live in peace. The reason each country has its own military is so that its citizens can live in peace, and everyone must contribute a small part to deserve this right.

I grew up in a small country named Israel. When I was eighteen years old, I joined the army, as is required by Israeli law. While teenagers my age in the United States were going to college, I spent four years serving my country. Today when I look back at those years, I realize how important that experience was.

The first thing that happened to me while I was serving my country was that I became more involved in my country's problems. There are many teenagers in the U.S. who are not aware of the international policy of their country that, in most cases, involves sending American forces to solve problems throughout the world. Those teenagers might hear about an incident in another part of the world where American soldiers are involved and claim that the soldiers should come back home and stop fighting other people's

wars. I think that a citizen should be part of this system in order to understand the whole picture.

In addition, I became prouder of my country. As a child, I had grown up hearing stories about brave soldiers who had sacrificed their lives in order to allow my family and me to sleep quietly at night. When I was in the army, people showed me how much they appreciated my serving. I became prouder of my country and its people.

Finally, and most important, I felt that I had earned the right to be a part of something that is so important to me. The American people know that they have the right to demand everything from their nation but I think that people earn this right only if they give something in return.

As long as force and power are necessary for peace in the world to exist, the military will also be important. I believe that everyone should give something from himself to the army so that he earns his right to live in peace.

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