# **The Commandant of the IDF Military Colleges' Message**

My very dear participants of the 48th class.

Welcome to the Israel National Defense College. We are privileged to have you.

Before we all start leafing through the yearbook (handbook? איך זה נקרא?) and learning about the program, the opportunities and possibilities that await us in the coming year, I would like to turn your attention to the group of people that has gathered for a year of learning and development. This meeting of senior leadership, with so many years of accumulated experience from diverse and different disciplines, is one of the INDC's sources of strength.

Some may say that this gathering would suffice to create an unprecedented platform for learning, development and individual advancement. But remember, while the lectures, lessons, structured discussions, study tours and simulations are very important, it is the personal interaction, the informal meeting during recesses, in the dining room, on a bus or an airplane - are no less important. Make the most of them. These kinds of meetings are opportunities that may never return.

This is a year of development, of thinking and observation. Take full advantage of it.

The Israel National Defense College is Israel's highest institution of training for senior leaders. It is intended to develop future leaders and "calibrate their compasses" to the national and strategic level.

We have convened here today from Israel and abroad, military and security personnel, and representatives from various government agencies, with the single goal of becoming more fitting for our professional journey, and to ensure our respective nation's continued existence and prosperity.

During the year, we will address national security issues in international and global systems. We will delve into the Israel we know so well, by learning about its different dimensions, in economy, national defense, society, politics and diplomacy, and we will try to understand the changes of the times and their implications.

We will research the influence of technology and digitalization, and their influence on national security.

We will deepen our learning in our past, closely explore the present, and attempt to predict the future.

During the year, we will closely examine the challenges facing national security, and distance ourselves to better understand and see the broader picture.

We will deal with theory and practice, in dreams and in the day-to-day, utilize the advantages of the group, and divide it into teams and small groups to enhance and deepen the discourse.

We will sharpen our ability to ask the right, exact, questions,, which facilitate changes in development.

We will often deal with the responsibility of seniors for their own learning, and develop tools to achieve this.

We will try to take a birds-eye view to prioritize seeing the broad picture over disciplinary depth, and learn to be "holistic" observers (the ability to view a picture in its entirety).

We will file into lecture halls and classrooms, and we will experience many study tours and journeys of research and investigation.

Prepare yourselves, participants of the 48th class, this is a rare opportunity and the road is full of splendor.

"You will not know rest, my brother; nor serenity or joy. For I have come to awaken you, to awaken you to seek: a person to ask, where are the paths of the world, where is the way?” חסרה לי ההתייחסות למאמר שכתב ברנר

I firmly believe and hope this will be a significant and valuable year. I am happy to have you with us!

MG Itai Veruv

Commandant of the Israel Military Colleges

# **The Chief Instructor's Message**

**Welcome to the 48th class of the Israel National Defense College!**

The upcoming academic year is intended to provide you the extensive knowledge of the components of national security, on both the global and Israeli level. Much thought has been invested in the preparing of a rich and diverse study program, while maintaining a certain level of flexibility. This will allow us to take advantage of opportunities to learn and discuss from the evolving changing reality, and to ensure the academic year will remain relevant throughout the year.

We invite you to influence the studies. Participate and influence the course by your unique professional experience, and by means of your personnel experiences that you have accumulated until now.

Our goal is that you will complete your year at the INDC with the broadest base of knowledge possible concerning national security, multi-dimensional and multi-discipline vision, strategic thought and analysis tools, and no less important, the meeting of new lifelong friends. The instructional staff, the academic staff, the senior learning center, the college’s consultants and staff are prepared to provide you with assistance that will facilitate it all, and to jointly create an environment that will enable openness, curiosity, research, significant learning, and the development of interpersonal relationships.

We expect you to behave as senior officers should, with intellectual openness, attention and respect to others, and that you will bear the responsibility for your personal learning and development during the academic year. We expect you to delve into areas of learning that interest you, to initiate and develop critical thinking.

You have received a wonderful opportunity to be part of a small and exclusive group of the participants of the INDC’s 48th class. When the year is over, you will join a larger group of elite INDC graduates who have led, and are leading, the State of Israel. Our hope is that you too will lead your respective countries and organizations in the future.

I wish you a prosperous year, one that expands your horizons, intellectually challenges you, and of course, is enjoyable. The year in the INDC is special and passes quickly. You can make it a significant year for you – the choice is yours, please take advantage of this opportunity!

**Merav Zafary-Odiz**

**Chief Instructor**