

מצגת – נשים בצה"ל – צליל בנדי

<http://prezi.com/0bvfg7ghafi/women-in-the-idf/>

Slide 1: מסך כללי

Shalom y'all thank you for joining us today at our first Café Israel ☺ I'm very excited to begin our programming of Café Israel: Once a month, we will be meeting to discuss different topics of the Israeli way of life, culture and society. **Today we will discuss about women in the IDF through my personal perspective and experience as warrior in the IDF**, where I served as a sergeant in the N-B-C battalion for 3 years. I will also try to explain the process of integration of women in the Army and to share with you the reality of co-ed units with men: about the challenges and the impact on my identity.

Slide 2: תמונת נשים

Stories about Jewish female warriors have existed since biblical times (in the book of Judges), when Yael killed Sisera in order to delivered Israel from the troops of king Jabin.

Historically, women have taken part in Israel's defense force even before the establishment of the Jewish state and IDF. 20% of women who served in the militias took part in combat, especially at the Shomer and the Hagana organization and later at the Palmach arm. During WWII approximately 4,000 females volunteered for service in the British assisting forces. An example is Hannah Szenes, who volunteered to be a paratrooper in order to rescue Hungarian Jews. Even in the first stage of the Independence war in 1948 women were a main part of the forces and served as guards, paratroopers and combat pilots.

Slide 3: חיל נשים

On May 26 1948, two weeks after the declaration of the Jewish state, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion officially formed the IDF as the country's army. Unfortunately, the outcome was the removal of all women from front-line positions. A Women's Corps was formed in order to train and recruit women in a variety of technical and administrative support roles for men in the IDF. The cause for this decision was the very real possibility of falling into enemy hands as prisoners of war. There was also major discussion regarding integration of women into the IDF conducted between the religious and the secular parties in Israel. Due to opposition of the religious leaders for integration of women in the IDF an exemption was offered as a compromise for religious women only. **Since 1949 women were historically barred from battle, until one women felt she couldn't take it anymore.**

Slide 4: אליס מילר

This woman's name is Alice Miller, who was originally from South Africa. Since a very early age she showed interest in planes, therefore she obtained a civil aviation license. In 1990 she

joined the Atuda Corp, an Israeli program, which enables academic study prior to military service, as a student for Aerospace Engineering at the Technion. In her junior year, she applied for an aptitude examination in aviation. Her request was denied. Alice refused to give up and appealed. She was called in for discussion with the commander of the Israeli Air Force, but the meeting was fruitless.

On 8 November 1995, a petition was filed by Alice Miller and the Association for Civil Rights and Women's Network to the Israeli High Court.

The petition was directed against IDF policy not to incorporate women in Aviation course, claiming an absolute disqualification of women in the profession of aviation violates the fundamental right to equality between the sexes. The state responded that law distinguishes between men and women due to differences in characteristics. For example - women may be absent from the service due to pregnancy and childbirth, and therefore create operational difficulties in planning their military capabilities. In addition the pilot's training is long and expensive and seems not worthwhile for women. knit

עזר ויצמן: Slide 5:

The quote given here by Ezer Vitzman, the President of Israel at the time, reflects the IDF and the Israeli society vision about women during that time.

אליס מילר 2: Slide 6:

Miller's appeal was accepted by the court, but sadly she did not pass the test due to "excessive motivation." This decision led to social change in the IDF and now women can be accepted for pilot training and other courses in military combat.

סמל צה"ל: Slide 7:

Some facts about women in IDF: which you can also see in the IDF flyer given you earlier.

- First of all, the State of Israel is the only country in the world that requires women, age of 18 and above, to military service of 2-3 years. This obligation is the outcome of the IDF vision as the nation's army that includes the entire society in order to contribute to the security of the country.
- 92% of positions in the IDF are available for female soldiers. Today women make up 33% of the IDF.
- Female officers with the rank of Col. grew by 100%, from 2% in 1999 to 4% today. The percentage of female officers with the rank of Lt. Col. grew by 70% in the last decade, from 7.3% in 1999 to 12.5% today.

יחידות קרביות בצה"ל שפתוחות לנשים: Slide 8:

As said earlier, many roles opened for women as an outcome of Alice's appeal. The first unit which opened for women in 1995 was the Israel Border Police. In this force, my sister served as a combat soldier in a special unit named Yamag that specializes in Tactical Counter-Crime and Counter-Terror. Her service, and stories that I have heard from my father, who served in Anti-Aircraft, influenced me to contribute as much as possible and increase my enthusiasm toward service in IDF. I felt that I must serve in the highest position I could accept, otherwise I won't serve my country with respect.

Slide 9: גיבוש לוחמה

In my senior year in high school I got an invitation for a trial session for a combat role in the IDF, which lasted for 2 days. It included physical and mental examinations such as a fitness test, team work assignments and a personal interview. I was super excited for this coming day therefore I joined a military preparation program, designed to enhance the willingness and readiness for service in the IDF. We trained twice a week and we had sessions of instructions coaching and discussions, outdoor trips, navigation field trips and lectures given by representatives of the military.

Two weeks later, I received an announcement that I would serve in my top request - the N-B-C battalion!!

Slide 10: גדוד ינשוף

Special military battalion whose main task is to deal with any non-conventional attacks upon Israel. The unit, called Yanshuf in Hebrew, is trained to respond to any potential nuclear, biological or chemical missile assault upon Israel. The possibility of such an attack is increasing every year, with Iran moving toward producing nuclear warheads while its ally Syria continues to stockpile deadly VX and Sarin nerve gas that can be carried by its large Russian-supplied missile force. Routinely, it functions as other infantry Corps in the IDF which operates along the border of Israel and the West Bank in counter terror operation, patrols, manning checkpoints and regular security activities.

The uniqueness of the battalion is the integration of women in combat since Aug 00', a ratio of 70% men and 30% women.

Slide: 11: הכשרה

Every combat soldier began his service in the IDF in training which in Hebrew is called "Tirunut" (class of 05 rifleman). The main goal is to convert every citizen into soldier as individual and as part of a unit. For example, the basic training focuses on the ability to operate different types of weapons, the ability to fight and navigate in open spaces, urban areas and guerrilla warfare. There are also general education classes, physical fitness training and Krav Maga. At this point of the training, long marching exercises are part of the norm and in advanced

training the terrain becomes even more engaging and challenging. Then, we moved into advance training which increases professionalism during war and routine.

My basic training took place in Ovda heights which is located in the southern Negev desert, about 40 minutes from Eilat, along with 27 incredible women. In order to integrate women effectively, the basic training is separated by departments and efforts. The goal is to match the biological capabilities of combat training of women and transporting it to the maximum level with minimum injuries. The assumption is that women and men are not biologically the same, therefore the form of training is designed in a way that results in men and women being equal in training. Then practice in advanced training is equal and in the same effort.

Slide 12: מסע כומתה

In order to give you a taste of my training here is part of a video from our long beret marching which concludes the basic training period – we walk all night long from sunset to sunrise with all the equipment on us. In addition to that I received a stretcher PKL that I carry with me all the way. Honestly, the marching was rough. We walked 30 km, at a speed of 6-8 KM per hour in a dry riverbed in the desert heights. Imagine yourself walking in deep sand on a cold night in the desert with heavy equipment on. Especially on the way up the mountain, where we opened the stretcher and run all the way up to the peak carrying an injured soldier. The fact that we assisted and encouraged each other was helpful during this night and gave me the motivation and willingness to finish proud and satisfied.

Because we are N-B-C warriors in my unit, during the advanced training, we wore gas masks throughout the journeys which made it even more challenging.

Slide 13: קורס מכים

Immediately after basic training, I was sent to commanders' course, which focuses on those who are highly qualified for warrior in the battalion task force both in war and in routine. The course is carried out with the whole combat Engineering Corps. We were 5 females along with 400 males and that made the meeting challenging since other soldiers were not trained or experienced in combat with women. I believe that our professionalism and mental strength as well as the support from our male friends from my N-B-C battalion helped us to maintain and prove that we were capable to perform the tasks.

Slide 14: פלוגות בגדוד אב"כ

The NBC battalion consists of three operational companies Ankor, Barkan and Granite and also recruits company. The different companies serve in different areas in Israel such as the Jordan valley, the border with Egypt and checkpoints and Pillbox in the west bank. We also train every year in a big operation to be ready for war.

After the commanders course, I commanded recruits in training of Aug 06. As a female warrior, it was very important to me to encourage and help women in training in order to give them the mental tools to deal with the physical missions in field. I don't know if I have the words to express how proud I was seeing how well my girls managed to confront challenges and occupy new destinations. After that we all went together to Granit Company, where I served as a commander and sergeant. Throughout the service, I went to Sergeant Course which professionalization you in specialized tasks, among them sabotage as well as the ability to authorize soldiers in different weapons.

Slide 15: מילואים

In 2008, I finished my military service. Such as every combat female signs for reserve duty until age 45. Every year you required to serve 30 days in training or in security task.

First, I participate in Women fighters trail as commander and estimate for female candidate. After that I joined a reserved company where I served in the border with Syria.

Slide 16: סרטון

I add here a short video of my last training in 2012 where we operate and train to be ready for NBC attack upon the state of Israel.

You can see here one of our tools, with whom we purify the path for IDF combat forces

Slide 17: סיכום

This sentence given her, followed me through my military service. No doubts that there had been challenging through the way- we have barely managed to see home and family. We have faced complex challenges but I felt that I have managed to contribute to my country in the highest way and served my citizen duty as best as I could and even managed to assist in the role for strengthening the country. For me, joining to the IDF was more than a norm it was a dream.

I choose this sentence to sum up my lecture and in order point out the fact that there is still a gap in the IDF regarding the women integration and equality, but thanks to a brave women combat role in the IDF are available for women. I Believe that if we will choose the appropriate women for combat and train them wisely the IDF and the state of Israel could greatly benefit. As our parliament member Merav Michaeli said: "we, the feminist women, are not a victim. we are equal to men and a major part in every way of life in society, therefore there is no such a thing as society without women".

