

BASIC-LAW: THE MILITARY (Originally adopted in 5736-1976)

This unofficial English translation of the basic law includes all the amendments adopted through May 1, 2022.

For the full and updated legislative history of the official law (in Hebrew), please see the [relevant page in the National Legislation Database](#).

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| Essence | 1. The Israel Defense Forces are the army of the State. |
| Subordination to the civilian authorities | 2. (a) The army is subject to the authority of the Government.

(b) The Minister in charge of the army on behalf of the Government is the Minister of Defense. |
| The Chief of Staff | 3. (a) The supreme command level in the army is the Chief of Staff.

(b) The Chief of Staff is subject to the authority of the Government, and is subordinate to the Minister of Defense.

(c) The Chief of Staff shall be appointed by the Government on the basis of the recommendation of the Minister of Defense. |
| Mandatory service and enlistment | 4. The duty to serve in the army, and to enlist to the army shall be as prescribed by law, or by its force. |
| Instructions and orders in the army | 5. The authority to issue binding instructions and orders in the army shall be prescribed by law, or by its force. |
| Other armed forces | 6. It is forbidden to form or maintain an armed force other than the Israel Defense Forces, save by law. |