

Preventing,  
Treating  
Homosexuality



Say "Cheese"  
all the way  
to Israel...

50 Brand-New  
Homes In An  
Ideal Location!

TERROR VICTIMS  
Still Need  
Your Help

GOING  
TO

Arutz  
SHEVA

Hebrew | French | Russian

IsraelNationalNews.com

News | Radio | Video | Special | Freund  
blog

Search News:

Find

Make IsraelINN.com Your Homepage

Daily Email News - Free!

your email here

Join

- [Check It Out!](#)
- [Israel Bar Mitzvah](#)
- [Gay? Lesbian? Jewish?](#)
- [Mirry's Art Glass](#)
- [Office at Home Supplies](#)
- [The Harps of David](#)

[Defense/Middle East](#)

## Israeli Naval Forces Will Join NATO Exercise for First Time

19:40 May 30, '06 / 3 Sivan 5766  
by Scott Shiloh



For the first time since its founding in 1949, NATO will fully integrate Israeli Naval forces into a military exercise that will take place next month in the Black Sea.

Ahead of the exercise, eight ships belonging to the NATO Southern Command docked Monday morning at Haifa port. The ships form part of a rapid deployment force and will remain in Haifa until June 4.

The ships arrived as part of NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue, a program set up with a number of non-NATO Mediterranean countries, including Egypt and Jordan, to foster political dialogue and consultation.

But senior IDF officers said the NATO mission was designed to strengthen ties between Israel and the alliance and to look into possibilities for future military cooperation.

At a press conference onboard a Spanish freighter Brig.Gen. Yochai Ben Yosef said the visit marked another step in advancing the relationship between NATO and the IDF.

Speaking on behalf of NATO forces, Brig.Gen. Lopez Calderon said the purpose of the visit was to strengthen ties with Israeli civilian and military authorities. He stressed that NATO forces maintain a high level of readiness, with the ability to deploy forces at any time and in any region within a 3000 nautical mile radius.

Next month's naval exercise will take place in the Black Sea off the coast of Romania. According to Reuters, the exercise will involve simulated combat between missile boat fleets as well as search-and-rescue drills.

Ben Yosef said the goal of Israel's participation in the maneuver was for the IDF to learn to work with NATO forces operating in the region.

Israel has previously only been allowed to observe such exercises.

An Israeli analyst for Jane's Defense Weekly, Alon Ben David, told Reuters that Israel has been seeking to broaden its cooperation with foreign armies in preparation for a possible conflict with Iran. As Iran gets closer to attaining nuclear weapons, its leader has repeatedly called for wiping Israel off the map.

Military analysts have speculated that Israel would apply for membership in the NATO alliance, but IDF officials have indicated that formal membership would limit Israel's ability to apply military force independently, as it sees fit.

SAVE on  
Arutz  
SHEVA  
Cellphone Rental

### Today in "Defense/Middle East" Rocket Scores Direct Hit on Jewish Home in Sderot

31/05/06 09:56

### Islamic Jihad Threatens More Katyushas and Suicide Bombers

30/05/06 19:42

### Hizbullah Becomes Strategic Threat; Rockets Can Strike Tel Aviv

30/05/06 16:50

### IDF in Gaza, Four Terrorists Dead

30/05/06 10:22

[More on "Defense/Middle East" ▶](#)

### Top Stories

31.05.2006 19:14

### Three Arrested in Yitzhar Rock-Throwing Attack



### PA Cartoon: Child Urinating on Lady Liberty

31/05/06 19:26

### U.S. Okays Direct Talks With Iran – If It Ends Nukes First

31/05/06 22:03

- Specials**
- Zichron Shlomo**  
Help hundreds of children fight cancer. Chinese Auction
  - Hebrew Art**  
Hebrew Illuminations Wall Calendar and Greeting Cards
  - Jmall**  
The Jewish shopping mega-mall. Huge collection, small prices
  - Shavei Israel**  
The starting point for anyone with Jewish roots or ancestry yearning to return to the Jewish people.
  - Sameach Music Podcast**  
Download a FREE Jewish music show. Hear previews, news, contests & interviews

- Israel Related**
- Jump Health & Fitness Center**  
Jerusalem's largest health club!
  - Sdei Chemed International**  
For the Greatest Summer of Your Life! A six-week summer program in Israel for boys ages 10-17.
  - Fundamentally Freund**  
Michael Freund Critiques Israel Politics with Penetrating Analysis. Only on Arutz-7
  - Tel Aviv Meds**  
Buy medication direct from Israel and save
  - Chasdei Meir**  
Help the children of Yesha with a gift of a bicycle.

- Israel Charities**
- Ahavas Chesed Relief Fund**  
Help feed hungry Jewish children in Israel.
  - Yad Ezra VeShulamit**  
Give the gift of a hot meal to a Jewish child
  - Charity of Light Fund**  
Providing hope for abused Jewish women.

- Judaica**
- aJudaica**  
Quality Judaica and Jewish Gifts from Israel
  - Hadad Bros. Silverware**  
Exclusive Silverware Judaica & Tableware - Israeli handmade products - since 1964

### **Judaica Mall**

For a superb selection of quality Passover gifts look no further!

### **SilverHeaven.com**

Over 250 Styles of Silver Kiddush Cups and Much More!

### **Flags Over Jerusalem**

Limited Edition Israeli Flags flown over the Old City walls of Jerusalem

At this stage, broader military cooperation with NATO serves Israel's interests, and may bolster Israel strategically should it decide to act unilaterally against Iran's nuclear capability.

In another move to enhance military ties, a NATO delegation brought AWACS surveillance aircraft to Israel a few months ago in an effort step up cooperation in the war on terrorism.

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) was set up by the United States after World War II as a means of binding Western European countries into a military alliance to deter the Soviet Union from expanding its sphere of influence in Europe. An attack on one NATO country is considered an attack on all member states, theoretically requiring all NATO members to go to war.

U.S. President George W. Bush told Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in Washington last week that the U.S. would rally to Israel's defense if that nation is attacked.

[Click here for our free Daily News Report from Israel](#)

[E-mail](#) [Print](#) [Homepage](#) [Top of page](#)

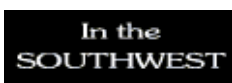
## **A Bike For Every Child Campaign!**

[Comment on this story](#)

### **Readers' comments**

**2 comments have been published to this story.**

1. ISRAEL NEEDS ITS INDEPENDENCE  
Mayer Katz, Woodbridge, VA - USA (22:28, May-30, 06)
2. Remember The USS Liberty  
dareyato Printit (00:31, May-31, 06)



**Judaica Mall**  
For all your Jewish needs.



**Tznius.com**

All rights reserved IsraelNationalNews ©

Arutz Sheva Israel Broadcasting Network [webmaster@israelnationalnews.com](mailto:webmaster@israelnationalnews.com)

Binamica - [web design in Israel](#)

**Sponsored Links:** [J-Giveaways](#) · [Jewish Gifts & Judaica](#) · [Jewish Universe](#) · [Judaica](#) · [Judaica Mall](#) - Jewish gifts