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# Israeli defense chief makes lens cap gaffe

## Peretz already under fire in wake of war against Hezbollah in Lebanon



Effi Sharir / AP

Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz, right, gazes at a military drill through binoculars Wednesday, apparently without realizing the lens caps were left on. The army's chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi is at left.

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MSNBC  
Updated: 10:48 a.m. ET Feb. 23, 2007

LONDON - Embattled Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz faced fresh criticism Friday after newspapers published photos of him trying to watch military maneuvers with the lens cap still on his binoculars.

Peretz was inspecting Israeli troops in the Golan Heights, near the Syria border, along with the Israeli army's chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported.

The photographer said Peretz gazed through the capped binoculars three times, nodding as Ashkenazi explained what he was looking at, the British Broadcasting Corp. said.

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Peretz's popularity has plummeted in the wake of Israel's war last year in Lebanon.

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