

scholar in residence



Rabbi Yedidya Atlas

MAY 28-29, 2016



LT. COLONEL (res.) RABBI YEDIDYA ATLAS
Rabbi, IDF Central Command (res.)
Head of Special Projects, IDF Chief Rabbinate

Rabbi Yedidya Atlas, 61, is a fifth generation American who made aliyah on a one-way ticket to Israel at age 17. A graduate of Yeshivat Mercaz Harav Kook in Jerusalem, he received his rabbinical ordination from former Chief Rabbi Of Israel and Rosh Yeshivat Mercaz Harav, Rav Avraham Shapira, zt"l, and from the Beit Din Hagadol in Jerusalem, Yedidya volunteered to the IDF during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. He was with the Golani Brigade in Lebanon in the 1978 Litani Operation, and served in the Arazim Regional Brigade in Lebanon during the early 1980's. In 1986, after becoming a reserve Army Rabbi, he served with a reserve combat infantry battalion in the Jerusalem Brigade.

From 1998 to 2003, he served as Rabbi of the Binyamin Regional Brigade. Due to his performance in the field in the first year of the war in Judea and Samaria, he was awarded two commendations as an "Exemplary Officer" by the IDF Rabbinate, and by the IDF Central Command, respectively. In 2003 to 2007, he served as Rabbi of Judea/Samaria Division (res.). From Sept. 2007, he served as Rabbi of the IDF Ground Forces Command (res.) until Sept. 2013 when he was appointed Rabbi of the IDF Central Command (res.). In 2009, he received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the IDF Ground Forces Command for his initiation and developing such projects as "Operation Sifrei Torah", "Operation Sukkot", the IDF

🌀 **Drasha Shabbat Morning (Before Musaf):**
Leadership, Responsibility and Mesirut Nefesh – Defining Today's IDF

🌀 **Shabbat Afternoon (Pre-Mincha) Talk:**
The IDF Rabbinate: How to Make a Jewish Army Jewish
6:45 pm at Young Israel

🌀 **Melaveh Malkah (including video):**
Strategic Threats to Israel Today: How to Face them as a Jewish Army?
10:00 pm at the home of Rachel and Michael Shapiro
8047 Amherst Avenue in University City



Mobile Synagogue, the Field Beit Knesset kit, and the "Magen Yisrael Tehillim-Siddur for Combat Soldiers", among other projects. In addition to his operational duties, the Chief Rabbi of the IDF appointed him Head of Special Projects for the IDF Chief Rabbinate. Rabbi Atlas lives in Beit El with his wife Batya, a sixth generation Israeli. They have 7 children (and 16 grandchildren, so far...).

Thank you to the National Council of Young Israel for sponsoring Rabbi Atlas's visit.