

A Testament to Inclusion: Amit's Journey

NOVEMBER 2024



Amit, a 23 year-old with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), lives with his parents in Bnei Re'em, a moshav in central Israel. In September 2021, he embarked on a transformative journey by joining the "Equal in Uniform" (EIU) program. After completing a brief training period, Amit began volunteering in the IDF.

"It was a bit scary at first, leaving home and being in a new environment," Amit recalls. "But the program helped me feel more comfortable and confident."

Eight months later, in May 2022, Amit officially enlisted as a soldier. Recently, he was transferred to the Hatzor Air Force Base to serve in the Maintenance Squadron, Communications Branch. This move was driven by his desire to continue serving in the IDF and his impressive progress in the program.

Amit's integration into the IDF has been seamless. He commutes independently to the base five days a week, demonstrating punctuality and reliability. His responsibilities include tasks in the computer lab, such as installing computers, replacing hardware components, and performing software installations and security scans. He approaches his work with a willingness to learn and grow, and he respects the authority of his commanders.

"I like the challenges of my job," Amit explains. "It keeps me busy and helps me learn new things."

Despite facing challenges associated with ASD, Amit has shown remarkable resilience and determination. He has successfully navigated social situations, built strong relationships with his peers, and demonstrated a keen interest in advancing his career. With the support of the program's multi-professional team, **Amit has qualified for an exclusive tailored officer course, a testament to his potential and dedication.** "I'm excited to be starting officer training," Amit says. "It's a big step, but I'm ready for the challenge."

Amit's journey is a powerful example of the impact of inclusive programs. By providing tailored support and opportunities, the EIU program has empowered him to overcome challenges, develop new skills, and achieve his goals. Amit's inspiring story demonstrates how individuals with disabilities can make significant contributions to society.



Amit (off duty)