



2025



AFU 669

IMPACT REPORT



AFU 669
American Friends of Unit 669

About Unit 669

Unit 669 is the Israeli Air Force's Airborne Combat Search and Rescue Unit and one of the elite special operations units of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

Established after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when the IDF lacked the capability to rescue downed pilots behind enemy lines, the unit was created to ensure that no soldier would be left behind. Over the decades, its mission has expanded significantly.

Today, Unit 669 is responsible for search, rescue, and medical evacuation of both military personnel and civilians, operating in combat zones, disaster areas, and complex emergency situations.

On call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the unit responds to everything from battlefield rescues and special operations to terror attacks, mass-casualty events, and civilian emergencies.

During more than 50 years of operations, Unit 669 has rescued over 20,000 soldiers and civilians, serving as Israel's national airborne rescue force and a critical safety net for the country both within Israel and beyond its borders.

Click to watch video



AFU669, In Support of Our Heroes

The American Friends of Unit 669 (AFU669) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the veterans and welfare of the soldiers of Unit 669.

Many of these veterans go on to become leaders in Israeli society.

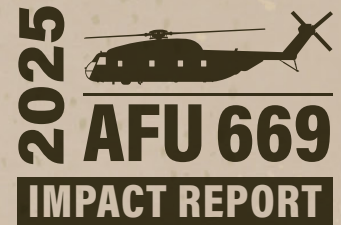
Our mission is to provide the resources, programs, and community support that enable Unit 669 alumni to thrive after their military service and to continue applying the skills, values, and humanitarian spirit they developed in the unit.

Through educational scholarships, mentorship, community initiatives, and social impact programs, AFU669 empowers these veterans to maximize their potential while contributing to Israeli society and beyond. Guided by the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam- repairing the world, we strive to ensure that the legacy of service and life-saving dedication that defines Unit 669 continues long after soldiers leave active duty.

Click to watch video



A Letter from our Executive Director



Dear Friends and Supporters,

These past 2 years have reminded us why Unit 669 exists.

For more than fifty years, we, the soldiers of Unit 669 have answered the same call: "In your distress you called, and I rescued you" (Psalm 81:7).

Whether rescuing pilots behind enemy lines, evacuating wounded soldiers from the battlefield, or reaching civilians in the most difficult circumstances, our mission has always been simple and sacred—to save lives.

Since October 7, that mission has taken on a new and painful intensity.

Unit 669 has operated across multiple fronts, in Gaza, in Lebanon, in the Middle East, and in countless emergency situations that most people will never hear about. Our soldiers have rescued the wounded under fire, brought families back from the brink of tragedy, and carried out missions in places where the line between life and death is measured in minutes.

This is where our mission begins.

The American Friends of Unit 669 exists to ensure that the soldiers and veterans of our extraordinary unit are never left alone. During our service, in our transition to civilian life, and in the long years that follow. Through your support, we provide life-saving equipment for soldiers in the field, mental health and PTSD treatment for veterans, scholarships for reservists serving hundreds of days each year, mentorship programs for the next generation of leaders, and direct support for the families of our fallen.

Your partnership transforms gratitude into action. But our responsibility goes beyond support alone. Unit 669 veterans represent something larger: a spirit of courage, responsibility, and service that continues long after the uniform is removed. Across Israel and around the world, these veterans are building companies, treating patients, educating the next generation, and strengthening their communities. They carry with them the values learned in the most demanding circumstances; teamwork, resilience, and the unwavering belief that every life matters.

This is the true impact of Unit 669.

At a time when Israel and Jewish communities face growing challenges, your support helps ensure that this safety net, this promise that no one will be left behind, remains strong.

On behalf of our soldiers, our veterans, and the families who stand beside them, thank you for being part of this mission.

Together, we are not only saving lives.

We are building hope.

With deep gratitude,

Captain (Res.) Bar Reuven

Co-founder & Executive Director,

American Friends of Unit 669.

Co-founder & former CEO, Cat 669

Alumni Organization

Our Team



BAR REUVEN
Captain (Res.)
Co-founder &
Executive Director



ANAT DUVDEVANI
Head of Development



NURIT DROMY
Head of Operations

Board Members

Executive Committee



WILLIAM COHEN
Co-founder &
Former Chairman



AMIT SHUKER
Co-founder &
President



PETER FEINBERG
Co-founder &
Vice Chairman



YORAM BEHIRI
Co-founder &
Former Treasurer



DAVID BEN-ELI
Treasurer

Board



MICHAEL MARIN



DINA WACHTEL



**EFRAT
RAELBROOK**



JOEL EISDORFER



**MICHAEL
MARGOLIS**



YADIN ROZOV



STUART SPODEK



HAROLD LEVY

2025 Summary at a Glance

This is the impact we were able to create thanks to your generosity

80



Academic scholarships were awarded with 25% of recipients pursuing medical degrees

10,000



Families in high-risk communities received life-saving medical kits hands-on emergency first aid training

100



Reservists attended our PTSD prevention and resilience workshops

Over 1,000



Operational and tactical items were supplied to reservists in the field

8



Soldiers living with PTSD received therapy dogs and completed the specialized training program

40



Community events were organized to advance awareness, hasbara, and fundraising efforts in the U.S.

200



Reservists stayed at the 669 Villa, participating in recovery and development workshops

\$100k



Was invested in support for injured soldiers and improvements to facilities within the unit

32



Veterans took part in our mentorship program in Israel and the U.S.

6



Families of fallen soldiers received ongoing support for memorial initiatives and daily needs

90



Soldiers completed our post-service transition workshop

Our Partners

Our partners empowering Israel's heroes



Sara Chait Memorial Foundation

Help us Reach our Goal and Fulfill our Needs in 2026

\$210k



PTSD prevention workshop

\$45k



Veterans Post Service Workshop

\$20k



Therapy Dogs Program for Combat Soldiers with PTSD

\$250k



Operational and Tactical Equipment For The Unit and Reserve Forces

\$550k



Emergency First Aid Medical Kits and Training Program

\$75k



Memorial Projects & Fallen Soldiers' Families

\$100k



Emergency First Aid Medical Kits and Training Program In the US

\$75k



Awareness, Hasbara and Fundraising Efforts

\$30k



The Villa of 669

\$36k



Injured Soldiers

\$350k



Scholarship Program

\$73k



Training Facilities

\$36k



Mentorship Program

\$350k



Office and Organizational

Total \$2,200,000

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**“IN YOUR DISTRESS
YOU CALLED
AND I RESCUED YOU.”**

(Psalm 81:7)