

Analyst: Israeli Moves Seek to Protect Golan Heights Positions

By [Dov Lieber](#) / Dec. 8, 2024

By moving troops into the buffer zone between Israel and Syria, Israel's military aims to improve its position in case of any surprise attack on the Israeli-held Golan Heights, said **Danny Citrinowicz**, a former Israeli military intelligence official.

"What they are trying to do is improve the Israeli military's capabilities to counter any attack that might come to the Golan Heights," said Citrinowicz, who is now a senior researcher at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies.

He said he expects the crossborder deployment to be temporary until the situation in Syria stabilizes. But he also said Israel may later decide those areas can't be retreated from, as they have with certain strategic positions the Israeli military holds in the Gaza Strip.

"For now, Israel is telling itself and the world it's only temporary, but I cannot rule out anything," said Citrinowicz. Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria during the Six Day War in 1967.

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