



*In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

American Muslim Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Council  
(AMAF and VAC)

PO Box-2125, Arlington, Virginia 22202-9998

*"Serving the Religious Liberties of Muslims who are Active, Reserve and Veteran Members of the  
United States Armed Forces"*

July 12, 2010

Rajab 30, 1431

To: Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force

Subject: Islamic Observance of Ramadan and Eid-UI-Fitr

Soon our Muslim military personnel will be celebrating the Holy month of Ramadan (The Holy Month of Fasting) and Eid-UI-Fitr (The Festival of Fast Breaking). Your assistance is requested in disseminating this information throughout the United States Armed Forces CONUS and OCONUS.

The approximate beginning date for Ramadan is August 11, 2010 and observed continuously for 29 to 30 days. (The precise date cannot be determined in advance, due to the intrinsic nature of the lunar calendar) During the Holy month of Ramadan, Muslims must fast each day from dawn (approximately 1 1/2 hours before sunrise) until after sunset. During this aforementioned period, Muslims are prohibited from eating and drinking (including water).

Various accommodations will be necessary for Muslim service members to observe this obligatory religious requirement. Muslim service members may perhaps request release from duty each day at least 1 hour before sunset in order to make the necessary preparations for observance of the Iftar (Fast Breaking Meal) and for the sunset prayer. Additionally, Muslim service members may request exemption for participation in rigorous daily physical training.

The last ten days of Ramadan are highly sacred days, for Muslims, it is a period marked by heightened spiritual attentiveness. Many will spend this occasion at the mosque in Taraweeh salat (congregational prayer), reciting the Holy Qur'an and barely sleeping during this spiritual retreat. If a Muslim service members request to obtain, 10 days annual leave for the purpose of Itekaf (spiritual retreat) I ask that reasonable accommodations be afforded under these guidelines.

It is highly recommended that a Muslim service member should not fast when serving in a temporary duty status in which, their daily duties and/or the work environment that requires significant physical activity in order to carry out any given task. Several examples can be exposing oneself to the direct sun light accompanied with high temperatures; field duty in harsh environmental conditions, deployment, war fighter, basic military training for officers or enlisted, heavy equipment operator, truck driver.

These are just a few of the many jobs and duties within the military that can be physically demanding. Only when those factors that prevented the person from fasting have subsided will they fast. They must be accommodated for the fasting period equal to the number of unobserved days during the Holy month of Ramadan. We have taken this ecclesiastical position because of the potential harm the individual fasting could cause to themselves or others.

Eid-UI- Fitr begins immediately, at the conclusion of Ramadan, it is a 3-day spiritual festival of thanksgiving and rejoicing. Eid-UI- Fitr begins on September 10th or 11th, 2010 depending upon the lunar calendar.

I would appreciate it if you would favorably recommend a liberal leave policy for service members and DoD civilians to observe the celebration of Eid-UI-Fitr.

Sincerely,



Mr. Qaseem A. Uqadah

Executive Director, Islamic Endorser

Encl: (1) Ramadan and Eid Mubarak Flyer

Cc:  
Files



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*Ramadan and Eid Mubarak*



*We wish you and your loved ones  
the blessings of peace, prosperity  
and happiness as you celebrate the  
Holy month of Ramadan  
and  
Eid-ul-Fitr*

