



The Islamic Society of North America



July 12, 2010

Chaplain Army Colonel Thomas Preston
Executive Director, Armed Forces Chaplain Board
OUSD (P&R) MPP - AFGB
4000 Defense Pentagon (Rm 2E341)
Washington DC 20301-4000

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

Dear Chaplain Preston,

I pray that you receive this letter in the best of health. Soon our Muslim military personnel will be observing the Holy month of Ramadan (*The Month of Fasting*) and celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr (*The Festival of Fast breaking*) to mark the end of fasting.

The holy month of Ramadan will be observed this year from August 11 – September 9, 2010 inclusive. It will be observed for a total period of 30 days. During Ramadan, Muslims must fast each day from dawn (approximately 1 ½ hours before sunrise) until sunset. During these hours, a Muslim cannot ingest anything including food or liquids. Ramadan is followed by the celebration of Eid- ul-Fitr, one of two annual Islamic holiday observances. This year's Eid-ul-Fitr will be observed on Friday, September 10, 2010.

Special accommodations may need to be made for Muslim military members observing the Fast. Such accommodations may include: Soldiers that may work a late shift, i.e., hospitals, Military police; may request to be released from duty at least 1 ½ hours before sunset to make preparations for Iftar (*Fast Breaking Meal*) and the sunset prayer. Additionally, Muslims may request an alternate daily physical training program and schedule as well as exemption from any rigorous field training exercises.

It would be appreciated if consideration for a liberal leaves policy allowing service members and DOD civilians the opportunity to observe the celebration of Eid- ul-Fitr were put into effect as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Safa Zarzour, Islamic Endorsing Agent