



Subject: Observing Jewish Holy Day of Passover

Greetings Benelux Community,

Passover is among the most important religious festivals of the year for our Jewish sailors, marines, soldiers, airmen, and civilians—a time to gather with family and community to celebrate spiritual freedom and connect or reconnect with their Jewish identity.

Passover will begin at sundown on Wed., 8 April 2020, with a ritual meal known as a seder, which includes symbolic foods and the retelling of the story of the Exodus from Egypt. One of the symbolic foods eaten during the week-long holiday is matzah, unleavened bread, which represents the bread that was hastily prepared by the Israelites before fleeing Egypt. Passover is more than a date on the calendar; rather it marks the moment at which the Israelites began their journey from slavery to freedom. As a springtime festivity, Passover's customs reflect, in part, rebirth after the winter and the possibility of making positive change in our lives. For example, cleaning one's home of leavened products, which Jews refrain from eating during Passover, can be likened to a spiritual spring-cleaning in which we hope to better ourselves in the coming season.

This year, due to COVID-19, most military communal Passover seders have been cancelled. Yet, this most holy of days goes on. Therefore, we encourage all Jews to participate in live streamed and video seders. The links below are provided to ensure that all members of the U.S. armed forces have access to a seder.

Date	Time	Time Zone	Leading Chaplain	Link	Password (if any)
8 APR	1730	Central European Summer Time	Chap. Sarah Schechter, USAF	zoom.us/j/994801319	
8 APR	1800	Eastern Daylight Time	Chap. Steve Ballaban, USN	zoom.us/j/211083132	032724

8 APR	1800	Eastern Daylight Time	Chap. Karyn Berger, USA	zoom.us/j/2829228967	
8 APR	1800	Pacific Daylight Time	Chap. Yonina Creditor, USN	zoom.us/j/762344762	
8 APR	1900	Arabian Standard Time	Chap. Karyn Berger, USA	zoom.us/j/2829228967	
9 APR	1800	Korea Standard Time	Chap. Gary Davidson, USAF	zoom.us/j/690309148	
10 APR	1830	Pacific Daylight Time	Chap. Yonina Creditor, USN	zoom.us/j/298051988	

During the seder, participants follow along in a book, the Haggadah, which tells the story of the exodus from Egypt and explains the rituals of Passover. JWB is pleased to distribute via online link, this military Haggadah - d.jcca.org/shared/JWB/JWBHaggadah.pdf. We recommend that the Haggadah be printed in advance and distributed to participants so that they can turn the pages, while they view the online seder.

You may reach the garrison chaplain's office by mobile phone at +32 (0) 473-74-0723 or by email at usarmy.benelux.id-europe.mbx.chaplain@mail.mil.