# UNITED STATES ARMY CHAPLAINCY



## Jewish Life and the Jewish Soldier

Jewish history is marked by suffering and jubilation. The community life of the Jews has been enriched by both. This is demonstrated in the observance of Jewish festivals and holy days. During these annual events, the soul and spirit of the Jewish people's faith is strengthened and encouraged.

For the Jewish Soldier, having a rabbi to provide spiritual leadership will allow events of Jewish life to be as joyous and beneficial as experienced at home.

## Let Religious Freedom Ring

U.S. Army chaplains have served our country since 1775. In 1862, at the height of the Civil War, the first Jewish rabbis served as chaplains. Since then, hundreds of Jewish chaplains have faithfully served in the Army alongside their fellow Jews. Nurturing their rich Jewish heritage and providing life-giving instruction from the Torah, these Jewish chaplains have established a rich tradition of sacred service. The freedom to be Jewish and to practice the Jewish faith without fear of reprisal or persecution is precious to the Jewish community.





## Rabbi - Chaplain - Community Leader

Jewish history is filled with examples of Jewish heroes who served as both spiritual and national leaders. Abraham, Moses and King David led their communities in both battle and worship. The U.S. Army and its Jewish Soldiers need qualified rabbis who are not afraid to do the same.

Soldiers and their families may find themselves isolated from Jewish communities because of the global mission of the U.S. Army. The presence of a rabbi in uniform can encourage Soldiers to develop patterns of personal Jewish commitment, while the absence could lead to an abandonment of their heritage.

## Rabbi - Chaplain - Staff Officer

While all Army chaplains primarily serve the religious needs of the faith community to which they are called, they also serve the greater needs of the command in which they serve. As commissioned officers, chaplains serve on the staff of their commander who depends on his or her chaplain to provide wise counsel in matters of religion, ethics and morale. Chaplains provide training to Soldiers on subject areas of importance to the command's well-being.

## Rabbi - Chaplain - Counselor

The chaplain also serves as the Soldier's counselor. Many Soldiers are under the age of 25, and these Soldiers and their families are often in dire need of wise and mature counsel. None are better prepared to fulfill this need than the Army chaplain. Crucial to the success of the Army's mission is the stability of our Soldiers and their families.

For more detailed answers, visit goarmy.com/chaplain

