

MILPERSMAN 1731-010

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

Responsible Office	CNO (N097)	Phone:	DSN	224-4720
			COM	(703) 614-4720
			FAX	224-4725

References	(a) SECNAVINST 1730.7C (b) U.S. Navy Regulations, 1990
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1. **Background**. Reference (a) establishes the policy of accommodating the doctrinal or traditional observances of the religious faiths practiced by military members and other authorized personnel. Article 0817 of reference (b) specifies that daily routine on Sunday shall be modified as practicable to recognize, respect, encourage, and minister to the religious preferences and the varying religious requirements of individuals.

2. **Policy**

a. **Day of Observance**. By tradition, 1 day in 7 is recognized as a day for religious services and holiday routine (referred to by some as the Sabbath). Commands normally specify Sunday as this day of observance. Members of the Naval Service whose religious convictions require them to observe some day other than that specified by the command as their day of worship are entitled to respect for their religious convictions and practices. Except by reason of compelling military necessity, personnel who celebrate their religious day on a day other than that specified by the command will be afforded the opportunity to observe the requirements of their religious faith. Where excused from duty on other than the command observed day, the workweek of such individuals should not be less than that of any other individual and may include work on the command observed day.

b. **Religious Holy Days**. Consistent with the exigencies of the service, commanding officers (COs) are encouraged to give favorable consideration of application for leave or special liberty from those who may desire to observe significant holy days of their faith. This is particularly important where

appropriate religious services are unavailable in the local area.

3. Examples of Holy Days

- a. Examples of days of religious obligation are
 - Christmas and Easter for individuals of the **Christian** faith;
 - Passover, Rosh Hashanah, and Yom Kippur for individuals of the **Jewish** faith; and
 - Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha for individuals of the **Moslem** faith.
- b. Chaplains can advise on the application of this policy.