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*A Wednesday news column about people
and events in the food world*

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Just in time for Passover comes an inspired idea: portable kosher meals.

Streit's My Own Meals, an Illinois company, makes kosher rations for the military, prisons and other institutions. They're used at Fort Lewis and at McNeil Island state prison, among other places.

Recently they've begun packaging the meals in foil for civilians who have difficulty keeping kosher while traveling or at work or school.

"We started making kosher meals for the Army during the Gulf War," said president **Mary Anne Jackson**. "We discovered there is also long-neglected need in the civilian market. It's very hard to keep kosher if you're traveling."

We're not talking chipped lox on toast here, either. The meals include cheese tortellini, chicken Mediterranean and Florentine lasagna, among others. All 13 meals are dual-certified kosher for Jews and halal for Muslims, and also meet the dietary needs of Seventh-day Adventists. Several meals are also certified kosher for Passover. The vacuum-packed meals are shelf-stable without refrigeration for up to a year. They can be microwaved or heated in water. Unfortunately, they're available only by mail order, unless you want to enlist. For a catalog, call (708) 948-1118.