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THESE 'K' RATIONS stand for kosher military meals that fill many needs.

For the first time, U.S. troops can order complete kosher meals (not just entrees) under a Pentagon pact with My Own Meals Inc., Deerfield, Ill. Mary Anne Jackson, president of the private company, says the three-year contract is worth up to \$5 million, depending on how much is ordered. The unusual pact offers price-protection and lets the military "use us as the manufacturer, warehouser and distributor," Ms. Jackson says.

During Operation Desert Storm, "we had to mobilize to get kosher food to Saudi Arabia," says Rabbi Menachem Genack of the Orthodox Union in New York, a kosher supervising agency. He adds "we're happy" about the new contract. So is Ms. Jackson, who says it wraps up years of red tape for her small firm. A typical meal: beef stew with bagel chips, granola bar, raisins, cereal, cocoa, coffee and condiments.

Halal rations for Muslim military personnel are also being produced.