

Sarah Schechter

Sarah Schechter retired from the U.S. Air Force Chaplain Corps with the rank of major in February 2024, culminating an active-duty career that included seven deployments to Iraq and Southeast Asia for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation New Dawn. She also supported Afghan evacuees as part of the noncombatant evacuation Operation Allies Welcome and is the first and only female rabbi to have served in the U.S. Air Force.

Other notable assignments include chaplain to Air Force One and Two; branch chief at the United States Air Force Academy and at Ramstein Air Base, Germany; staff chaplain at Air Force Reserve Command; and installation chaplain at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, at the Presidio of Monterey, California.

Rabbi Schechter's publications include, "A Rabbi in the Military" in *The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate*, which won the 2016 National Jewish Book Award, and "Shabbat as Your Reboot in the Digital Age," in *From the Boxing Ring to the Ashram: Wisdom for Mind, Body and Spirit*.

In retirement, she serves on a board of directors, is a delegate to the JWB military endorser for the Central Conference of American Rabbis and volunteers her time with various organizations. Rabbi Schechter is the third generation in her family to serve in the U.S. military and is a second-generation Air Force rabbi.

Originally from New York City, Rabbi Schechter holds a master of arts in Hebrew letters and a master of arts in Jewish education from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and is a doctoral candidate on scholarship at Wesley Theological Seminary.