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| **Israel Defense Forces** INDC & The Military Colleges |  |

*April 1st 2020*

Dear INDC Class 47th Participants,

Our world is facing new challenges not known to this generation. Our daily routines are askew and changing and we must adapt to this new reality. A pandemic like COVID-19 wreaks havoc on the world only once a century – it spreads like wildfire, claims lives and forces us to set precedents.

The physical distancing is challenging us, especially during the spring holiday season. In Jewish tradition, Passover is a family holiday as we are commanded to relay the story of Exodus to the next generation. Usually on Passover eve, the entire family - grandparents, parents, children, and sometimes even complete strangers gathers around the table to retell the story.  However, this year we must adapt and celebrate the holiday with the immediate family only.

Being military personal – it is our duty to set an example. We must expand our definition of the term “national defense” to include the measures we must take to defend ourselves from the virus. For the first time in collective memory, standing together means sitting at home and isolating ourselves from our fellows.

This is how we will claim victory over this invisible enemy.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy holiday season,

**MG Itai Veruv**Head of the INDC & the Military Colleges  
Israel Defense Forces