

August 10, 2026

VIA FEDEX

Lin H. St. Clair
Acting Principal Director, Military Personnel Policy
Office of the Assistant Secretary of War
1500 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301- 1500

Re: *Influenza Vaccine Requirement and Reinstatement Delays for Members Separated for Declination of Covid-19 vaccine*

Dear Acting Principal Director Lin H. St. Clair,

Thank you for your letter dated June 1, 2026. We appreciate your reassurance that service members who choose not to receive the voluntary annual influenza vaccine will not face retaliation. However, we understand that exceptions to this policy have been granted to the Army, Navy, and Air Force, which continue to require the influenza vaccination for large groups of military personnel, including basic training recruits, healthcare personnel, and deploying personnel. These exceptions effectively reinstate the influenza vaccine requirement for a significant portion of the force.

Separately, we are deeply concerned about the pace of reinstatement for service members who were separated for declining the Covid-19 vaccine. President Trump's January 27, 2025 Executive Order directed the federal government to provide redress for individuals who were wrongfully separated, including reinstatement, restoration of rank, back pay, benefits, and bonus payments or compensation.¹

More than eighteen months later, many former service members continue to report lengthy delays in receiving the relief ordered by that Executive Order. For these individuals and their families, the uncertainty has been financially, professionally, and emotionally devastating. Many sacrificed years of honorable service – including those who were approaching military retirement – to preserve their rights.

While the Executive Order acknowledged the harm done to them, the prolonged administrative delays risk undermining its intended purpose. We respectfully request that your department review the current reinstatement process to identify the causes of these delays and establish accountability measures to ensure that eligible former service members receive the relief they have been promised by President Trump.

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/reinstating-service-members-discharged-under-the-military-covid-19-vaccination-mandate/>.

We raise these concerns to ensure that those who have faithfully served our nation are addressed and ask that you confirm that the above will be addressed forthwith. Thank you for your consideration of our requests. If there is any additional information or assistance we can provide, we stand ready to help.

Respectfully,



Aaron Siri, Esq.

Elizabeth A. Brehm, Esq.

Wendy Cox, Esq.

ebrehm@sirillp.com

wcox@sirillp.com

cc: The Honorable Steve Feinberg
Deputy Secretary of War
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1010

Anthony J. Tata
Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness
4000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-4000