

New Military Policies Coerce Service Members Into Getting COVID Vaccines

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Under Emergency Use Authorization, a vaccine must be voluntary. Yet military officers are coercing service members into taking COVID vaccines by withholding privileges from the unvaccinated.

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The military has imposed widespread coercive policies to reach a goal of 100% vaccinated personnel.

Despite the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) being voluntary under an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) (EUA), service members are being subjected to segregation policies designed to coerce them into taking an [experimental](#) drug.

The COVID vaccines have [not demonstrated](#) efficacy in preventing infection or transmission, nor do these vaccines have long-term safety data.

Unvaccinated: restricted access to public amenities

At Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma, Col. Matthew A. Leard, recently signed a memorandum, [“97 AMW Policies and Directives Regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)”](#) for all personnel with two very different lists of restrictions for those vaccinated and not vaccinated:

“Vaccinated Personnel: Paragraph 2 of this policy applies only to those personnel who have received both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, and at least 5 days have passed since the receipt of the second dose. Paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 9 and 10 of this policy do not apply to COVID vaccinated personnel, subject to the conditions in paragraph 2.d. All personnel who have not received both doses of the vaccine are subject to paragraphs 3-10 below.”

The unvaccinated have restrictions on the following: leave and travel, access to off-base events and establishments including restaurants and bars and access to gathering places on base at chapels and theaters, with requirements to wear masks, [test for COVID](#) and participate in contact tracing.

The memorandum specifies that proof of vaccination is required to have access to public amenities:

“Vaccinated individuals may be required to provide proof they are vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to avail themselves of these policies for vaccinated personnel. Individuals who decline to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination will not be granted the privileges of paragraphs 2.a and are required to abide by paragraphs 3-10 below.”

The creation of two classes of people, the vaccinated and unvaccinated, assumes that the vaccinated have immunity when in fact none of the COVID vaccines have demonstrated [efficacy](#) in [preventing](#) infection or transmission. The COVID vaccine trials were designed to reduce symptoms.

The Altus Air Force Base policy assumes that the unvaccinated are disease spreaders, without any regard for naturally acquired [immunity](#).

Unvaccinated: threats of termination

At U.S. Southern Command in Doral Florida, a veteran who is now a federal officer working for the military as a civilian,

told [The Defender](#) that his supervisor informed him that the COVID vaccine was required, and his refusal would result in termination.

The veteran's financial situation compelled him to take the vaccine under these circumstances. He suffered a [vaccine reaction](#), and he is now gathering legal advice relating U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) coercion to take the vaccine.

The veteran was not given information about [informed consent](#) or any information on his legal right to refuse.

Incongruously, the [Civil Rights Act](#) that outlawed [discrimination in the workplace](#) on the basis of race, religion, nationality and gender, is not being applied to vaccination status.

An active duty sailor reported to The Defender that his executive officer misinformed the crew that they can sue for any injuries from the vaccine, which is false assurance under the liability protections for all COVID countermeasures in the [Public Readiness and Preparedness \(PREP\) Act](#) of 2020.

The sailor's superiors set a goal for 100% of the ship to get vaccinated, without information on contraindications or risks of [adverse reactions](#). If the ship reaches the 100% goal, then sailors will no longer be required to wear masks when at sea, adding peer pressure to coerce vaccine acceptance.

According to the sailor, his leaders will prohibit unvaccinated sailors from leaving the ship when pier side, but the vaccinated will retain this privilege to go home at night. He will be confined to the ship for six months. His chain of command questioned him on his reasons for not choosing the vaccine, and required him to sign a counseling form for refusal.

In the military, counseling forms can negatively affect promotion, selection for advanced training and leadership

positions, and preferred duty assignments. All of these policies were justified for health and welfare that promote military readiness.

Although the COVID vaccines are voluntary under EUA, these policies are designed to coerce uptake of an experimental drug, without the required discussion of alternatives with established safety and effectiveness.

Evidence is lacking that leadership is taking active measures to protect those who might be contraindicated for the vaccine (including personnel who recently recovered from [SARS-CoV2](#)) when sailors report the goal is 100% vaccinated.

These policies are a slippery slope towards [Jim Crow Laws](#) applied to vaccine status.

Leaders circumventing EAU requirements

It is clear that the military understands that the COVID vaccine under EUA cannot be [mandated](#) and must be voluntary. It is a leadership failure that the military is [exaggerating the benefits](#) of the vaccine, while omitting the risks and alternatives.

This pattern of documented policies could be the legal basis for “willful misconduct” that is necessary to seek compensation for a vaccine injury under the PREP Act. Under [Doe v. Rumsfeld](#), EUA vaccines cannot be compulsory in the military without a presidential waiver.

The chain of command is blatantly acting in subterfuge of a non-existent presidential order to compel a vaccine that is not licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. High-ranking officers are using deceit and abuse of power to reach their goal of 100% vaccinated for an “exceeds expectation” on their next evaluation at the risk of medical experimentation of the entire military force.

Under Federal law, no employer, including the U.S Department

of Defense, can mandate the COVID vaccine under EUA. [The Defender has previously summarized](#) federal EUA law prohibiting mandates as a resource.

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