

Voluntary Separation / Voluntary Lapse of Enlistment

SUBJECT: Reinstating Service Members Discharged under the Military's COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate following Presidential Executive Order 14184

As a result of the January 27, 2025, Presidential Executive Order 14184, "*Reinstating Service Members Discharged under the Military's COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate*", service members who were involuntarily discharged, involuntarily reassigned to the Individual Ready Reserve or who voluntarily separated or allowed their enlistment to lapse, when the COVID-19 vaccine mandate was still in effect, may be eligible to return to service. Additionally, on April 1, 2025, the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (OSD(P-R)), issued additional guidance on the implementation of the President's Executive Order.

Both the January 27, 2025, Presidential Executive Order and OSD(P-R)'s additional implementation guidance of April 1, 2025, provide that service members who voluntarily separated or allowed their enlistment to lapse, in lieu of receiving the COVID-19 vaccination, while the vaccine mandate was still in effect, be offered a path to re-accessing back into the force, with no impact to their service status, rank, or pay. Accordingly, re-accessing will entail:

- Interested former service members contacting Air Force Recruiting Service at: AFRS.HQRSOPA.AccessionsStandards@us.af.mil, to be scheduled for pre-screening at their nearest Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS);
- Completion of the Department of the Air Force's Attestation Memo; and
- Working with a recruiter, members with no limiting factors being offered the opportunity to re-access into the force, under the Prior Service Program, for a minimum of 2-years