



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

April 7, 2025

I am writing to address a matter of great importance and asking for your support. In accordance with the January 27, 2025 Presidential Executive Order 14184, "Reinstating Service Members Discharged under the Military's COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate," I am contacting you about the opportunity to seek reinstatement in the United States Navy, which would carry a mandatory minimum 4-year active duty commitment for those separated from active duty and 4-year Selective Reserve commitment for those separated from the Reserve Component.

As a former Sailor, involuntarily discharged solely for refusal to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, you may be eligible for reinstatement at your former rank, back pay, benefits, bonus payments, or other compensation. If you are interested, your first step is to contact Navy Recruiting Command, so it can be determined if you require a physical which can be scheduled at your nearest Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) or other appropriate medical facility. You can reach a Navy Recruiter to assist you at 1-800 USA-NAVY (872-6289).

After the necessary return to service screening is completed, you will work with your Navy Recruiter to apply to the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR) and submit a package to ensure your military record permits reinstatement. Should your package be approved, your records may be corrected to reflect continued service such that back pay, benefits, bonus payments, or other compensation, subject to statutory offsets, may be made available. The BCNR has established an expedited records review process for COVID-19 reinstatements. The process to petition the BCNR is at <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Records-Management/BCNR/>. Additionally, to prepare for potential reinstatement to service, I encourage you to thoroughly read and comply with the fact sheets provided with this letter and to visit the Navy's COVID-19 reinstatement website: <https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Career-Management/Personnel-Conduct-Sep/Sailor-Reinstatement/>.

Reinstating skilled and experienced Sailors enhances our lethality and ensures we are ready for any challenge. We are committed to providing a clear and supportive path to reinstatement for those who were involuntarily separated solely for refusal to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Cheeseeman", is written over a horizontal line.

RICHARD J. CHEESEMAN, JR.
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Chief of Naval Personnel

- Enclosures: 1. BCNR Reinstatement Fact Sheet
2. Financial Benefits Fact Sheet
3. Medical Benefits Fact Sheet