BLUF

In NAVADMIN 005/23, the Navy announced the discontinuation of administrative separations for Sailors refusing the COVID-19 vaccine, including those with approved separation letters. Additionally, all Navy commands will stop any new adverse administrative actions associated with refusing the COVID-19 vaccine. Operational guidance will be announced separately.

Who needs to know?

- Sailors who refused the COVID-19 vaccine
- Command Career Counselors
- Command Legal Teams
- **Command Leadership**

What you need to know – key points

- The 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) directed the Secretary of Defense to rescind the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for service members.
- NAVADMIN 005/23 directed commands to discontinue administrative separations and stop any new adverse administrative actions associated with refusing the COVID-19 vaccine.
- The Navy will announce updated operational guidance in the near future.

Sample POD/POW Notes

- N/A – this fact sheet is primarily for commanding officers and leadership of Sailors who refused the COVID-19 vaccine.

FAQ

Q. How many people will this policy change effect now?
A. This policy change applies to any Navy service member pending separation or other adverse administrative consequences based on COVID-19 vaccine refusal.

Q. If I am a commanding officer with an effected Sailor, what should I do?
A. Discontinue administrative separations and stop any new adverse administrative actions associated with refusing the COVID-19 vaccine.

Q. Can Sailors who were separated re-enter the Navy if they want to?
A. The Navy will announce a more detailed policy update in the near future.

Q. When will more information be available about the policy changes?
A. The Navy will announce a more detailed policy update in the near future.

Q. Will the Navy issue back-pay to the Sailors who were separated for refusing the vaccine?
A. The Navy will announce a more detailed policy update in the near future.