

PERTINENT REGULATION/LAW

- A. 10 U.S.C. § 1553.
- B. Executive Order 14184, “Reinstating Service Members Discharged Under the Military’s COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate” of January 27, 2025.
- C. Secretary of War Memorandum, “Restoring Honor to Service Members Separated Under the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccine Mandate,” December 6, 2025.
- D. Office of the Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, “Guidance to Restore Honor to Service Members Separated Under the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccine,” December 10, 2025.
- E. Secretary of the Navy Memorandum, “Department of the Navy Guidance to Restore Honor to Sailors and Marines Separated Under the Coronavirus 2019 Vaccine Mandate,” January 15, 2026.
- F. Office of the Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, “Supplemental Guidance to the Military Department Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Considering Requests from Service Members Adversely Impacted by Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Requirements” of 7 May 2025.
- G. Assistant Secretary of the Navy (MRA) memo “Supplemental Guidance to the Board for Correction of Naval Records and Council of Review Boards Considering Requests Involving Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Requirements” of 29 July 2025.
- H. Secretary of the Navy Manual 5420.1 of 29 September 2020 (Standards for the execution of the Naval Discharge Review Board).
- I. Paragraph 6210.6, MISCONDUCT of the Marine Corps Separation and Retirement Manual, (MCO 1900.16 CH 2), effective 15 February 2019 until present.

If the former member's military records reflect multiple reasons for involuntary separation (i.e., when separation was not solely due to the fact that the former Service member refused to receive the COVID-19 vaccine), the Review Boards should apply existing policies that require the former Service member to establish evidence of an error, impropriety, inequity, or injustice in their discharge in order to warrant relief.

In this case, the former Service member's record shows: 1) the member was involuntary separated; 2) the member's separation was based solely on refusing to receive the COVID-19 vaccine; and 3) the member had no aggravating factors in their record, such as significant negative aspects of misconduct. Consequently, and consistent with the references, the Board determined their service meets the standards for characterization as Honorable with a narrative reason for discharge of Secretarial Authority, separation code JFF1, and reenlistment code RE-1A.

DECISION

After a thorough review of the available evidence, to include the Applicant's issues, summary of service, record entries, and discharge process, the Board found the awarded characterization of service shall change to HONORABLE, the narrative reason for separation shall change to SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY with a corresponding separation code of JFF1, and the reenry code shall change to RE-1A. The Applicant remains eligible for a personal appearance hearing for a period of fifteen years from the date of the discharge. The Board Members' names and votes for this Review will be made available to the member only upon request.

