



SECRETARY OF WAR
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

MAY 07 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR PENTAGON LEADERSHIP
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
DEFENSE AGENCY AND DOW FIELD ACTIVITY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Establishment of the Department of War COVID-19 Reinstatement and Reconciliation Task Force

The Department remains committed to honoring Service members unjustly discharged under the rescinded coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine mandate. While the Military Services have initiated rapid return-to-service efforts, additional coordinated action is required to ensure these efforts are optimized across the force.

Effective immediately, I am establishing the Department of War COVID-19 Reinstatement and Reconciliation Task Force (C19 R2TF) under the guidance and authority of the Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness (USW(P&R)). Comprised of subject matter expertise from each Military Service, the C19 R2TF will advise the USW(P&R) on the consistent and effective execution of Department guidance on this matter. The C19 R2TF mission includes:

- **Process Efficiency:** Identify roadblocks across the Military Services and support organizations; recommend removal of impediments to reinstatement and reconciliation.
- **Process Consistency:** Identify variations in the Military Services' procedures and recommend changes to ensure consistent, uniform return to service.
- **Process Improvement:** Identify best practices and lessons learned to further improve the reinstatement and reconciliation process.
- **Messaging:** Develop a proactive communication strategy for USW(P&R) and the Military Services to reach negatively impacted Service members through individualized contact, social media outreach, and public information.
- **Metrics and Reporting:** Advise on key performance indicators and reporting metrics from the Military Services.

We must continue to ensure there is a clear path for these Service members to return to service. We will continue to make this right.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "PRW".