

VETERANS FOR CHRIST, INC.  
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November 30, 2021

**Unvaccinated Guardsmen won't be able to drill or draw federal pay: SECDEF memo**



Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has directed the Air Force and Army secretaries to enforce the vaccine mandate for National Guardsmen. (Master Sgt. Christine Wood/Air Force)

National Guardsmen who refuse to be vaccinated against COVID-19 won't be eligible for any federal training or pay, which includes monthly drill weekends, per a memo signed Tuesday by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. Austin calls on the Army and Air Force secretaries to enforce his mandate by barring unvaccinated Guardsmen from attending any drill or training events, and withholding any federal funding that would pay Guardsmen for their participation.

No credit or excused absence shall be afforded to members who do not participate in drills, training, or other duty due to failure to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19," Austin wrote,

which would render any unvaccinated Guardsmen in breach of their contracts and make them eligible for dismissal from the National Guard.

Austin put out the memo after formally denying the [Oklahoma governor's request](#) to exempt that state's National Guard soldiers and airmen from the Defense Department's service member vaccination mandate.

The governor has also directed his adjutant general not to enforce any federal vaccine mandates when troops are in a state-controlled status, stoking worries that other states might try a similar effort in what has become a fierce political battle over mandatory vaccinations.

In the weeks since, Oklahoma's government and DoD have gone back and forth over whether DoD has the authority to enforce its mandate when troops are not federally mobilized, in a Title 10 statu

### **Gunnery sergeants who never went to boot camp? It may be coming in the Marine Corps**

Enlisted Marines are made in boot camp. Marine officers, The Basic School.

Long days and harsh instructors give sharp lessons in what it means to be a Marine and forge a bond shared by all Marines, regardless of when they joined. Marines past and present remember the day they were handed the coveted eagle, globe and anchor emblem and welcomed into the fold.

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A Marine Corps recruit marches to his platoon's next event during tactical training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, South Carolina, in 2015. (Staff Sgt. Marianne Santos/Marine Corps)

But the Corps is now considering forgoing that historic initiation for potential Marines with [highly sought-after skills](#).

The idea for lateral entry, laid out in Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger's new [Talent Management 2030 document](#), could see those "exceptionally talented Americans" forgo entry level training and join the Marine Corps as lieutenant colonels or gunnery sergeants. "How does that line up to a culture of a Marine Corps at roughly 180,000 Marines that go through this exacting training that makes us all one in the same — uniformity in what we do?" [Lt. Gen. David Ottignon](#), deputy commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, told reporters Nov. 22.



### *Verse of the Day*

*He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*

**John 7:38 KJV**

## **YOU TOO CAN BE A MEMBER OF THE VETERANS FOR CHRIST, INC.**

[Sign up online to become an associate member.](#) The annual associate membership of \$120.00 which can be used as a tax deduction for supporters. Registration fees can be paid online through our PayPal account. You will get a free VFC T-shirt with your associate membership. Your tax-deductible membership fee will support the VFC mission.

All Honorably Discharged Veterans are welcome to come and observe the VFC; feel free to ask questions and learn more. If we don't know the answer we know someone who does. Please browse our web site [www.veteransforchristinc.org](http://www.veteransforchristinc.org). There you'll find information on many subjects of interest to veterans. You'll also find a Newsletter for your branch of service and links to Social Security and many other links with an abundance of information.

Our monthly meetings are on hold until the pandemic is cleared and a vaccine is developed. No meetings are being held at the Wesley Chapel Library at 2861 Wesley Chapel Rd., Decatur, Ga. Our meetings are the fourth Wednesday of every month and start at 6:30 (PM) for approximately one hour and a half, unless otherwise advertised. We will be respectful of your time.

Thank you for your interest in the VFC. We look forward to communicating and fellowshiping with you soon. We are looking for a corporate sponsor for our VFC Gerald Prince College Scholarship which is donated each September at our Anniversary Luncheon

"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, being men of courage, be strong." 1Cor 16:13

Sincerely,

*William A. Harris, Jr.*

William A. Harris, Jr., USAF Retired  
President, Veterans for Christ, Inc.

[www.veteransforchristinc.org](http://www.veteransforchristinc.org)

### **Need to contact VA?**

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255

Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838 or Chat

White House VA Hotline: 1-855-948-2311

1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) is never the wrong number