



Update from the President

By Dr. Ronald J. Scott, Jr., Colonel, USAF, Retired, USAFA '73
STARRS President and CEO

For a volunteer organization that is focused on educating about the ideals and principles of a Constitutional Republic, a sense of duty can be very inspirational and motivating. STARRS is hard at work in support of this mission. Let me share some highlights since our last newsletter.

Our Board Chair, **Lt Gen Rod Bishop, USAF (Ret)**, served by invitation on the Heritage Foundation's "National Independent Panel on Military Service and Readiness."

Florida **Congressman Mike Waltz** chaired the panel that included:

- **Mr. Mike Berry**, VP of External Affairs, Dir of Military Affairs & Sr Counsel at First Liberty;
- **Ms. Rebecca L. Heinrichs**, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute;
- **Mr. Jeremy Hunt**, West Point graduate and former Army captain;
- **Colonel Earl G. Matthews, USA (Ret)**, former acting General Counsel, Department of the Army;
- **LTG H.R. McMaster, USA (Ret)**, former National Security Advisor, Senior Fellow, the Hoover Institute; and

- **Ms. Morgan Ortagus**, an American television commentator, financial analyst and political advisor who served as spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State.

Deliberations are complete and the [panel's final report](#) was announced during a [Heritage panel discussion on March 30](#). I encourage you to read the article and watch the discussion at the bottom of the page.

STARRS remains engaged with several members of Congress and their staffs in educating about remedies for those adversely affected by the vaccine mandate.

Although the Secretary of Defense directed that documentation of adverse actions (such as letters of reprimand) stemming SOLELY from refusal to take the vaccine IF they requested accommodations be removed from personnel records, leadership remains reluctant to make those adversely affected "whole."

We have enjoyed some success in securing invitations for reinstatement for



Report of the National Independent Panel on Military Service and Readiness

cadets discharged at the Coast Guard Academy, commissioning for Air Force Academy class of 2022 graduates, and allowing those discharged to apply to re-enter the service.

However, there is more work to be done, such as granting and back-dating missed promotions with backpay, backpay and time-in-service/grade adjustments for those discharged, automatic increases in discharge characterization to honorable, etc.

Additionally, all these corrections need to be extended to those who did not take the vaccine because they rightly believed it was an illegal order and were concerned the vaccines could be harmful to their health and ability to continue serving.

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Judicial Watch joined forces with STARRS and sued the DoD to produce documents requested by STARRS through the Freedom of Information Act. One of these two requests was more than two years old.



The Air Force Academy partially responded with three heavily redacted documents.

More detail is available in Judicial Watch's press release here: [Judicial Watch: Records Show Air Force Academy Focus on Anti-American Critical Race Theory Training of Cadets - Academy Head Ties Cadets to Racism and Social Injustice](#).

STARRS issued a press release on March 24: [Judicial Watch Sues Department of Defense on Behalf of STARRS](#).

The bottom line, there was no evidence of racism, let alone systemic racism, a claim that led to the assessment on July 8, 2020.



STARRS sent open letters to the

- **Secretary of Defense** ([STARRS Open Letter to Secretary of Defense Austin](#)),
- **Director of the Defense Health Agency** ([STARRS Open Letter to Director, Defense Health Agency](#)), and to
- New York **Congressman Pat Ryan** ([STARRS Open Letter to Congressman Pat Ryan](#)).

No responses have been received.

We also launched two initiatives. The first is the **STARRS Vaccine Education Task Force** to encourage Privacy Act requests to discover incorrect statements in government records about failure to take the COVID vaccine.

The second is a **Meritocracy Campaign**, currently envisioned and led by our Board Vice Chair, MG Joe Arbuckle, USA (Ret).

While STARRS has concentrated significant efforts to educate the public and Congress on the dangers of Marxist-inspired critical race theory and its application through diversity, equity, and inclusion advocates/enforcers, it is now time to shift the narrative to the history and potential of meritocracy that made America the most free and prosperous nation in history.

As you may have noticed, our website is rich in information and analysis. Our new webmaster, **Cindy Kwitchoff**, brings tremendous experience and analytical skills to our effort.

She set up new social media accounts (@STARRSmission) with [Twitter](#), [Truth Social](#), [Gab](#), and [GETTR](#), with others to come. This is a critical element in our mission to educate Americans in order to preserve our Constitutional Republic.

In closing, our mission is critical to the preservation of our Constitutional Republic.

Our impact will be even greater as more Americans join with us in our mission. You are receiving this newsletter because you joined our effort. Please spread the word and encourage others to join us as well.

Our capacity and reach also depends on financial resources. Please donate and encourage others to donate as well. Together we can preserve America. ✦



E Pluribus Unum –
Unity is America's Strength

Wake Up, Stand Up, Speak Up and Never Give Up!

ABOUT US

STARRS (Stand Together Against Racism and Radicalism in the Services) is a group of retired military members and patriots who educate our fellow Americans on the dangers of racist and radical Marxist DEI/CRT ideologies infiltrating our military in order to eliminate these divisive influences and maintain a unified and cohesive fighting force, one based on MERIT and ability, not appearances or labels.

HELP SUPPORT OUR MISSION

With your help, we can drive radical politics out of the military and restore our citizen soldiers to their primary purpose: to defend our Constitution and protect the American people. Donate easily and securely online via our website, STARRS.US. We are a 501(c)3 organization.

STARRS.US

Newsletter Editor: Tracey Meck | Design: CJKCREATIVE.com



Click on above buttons or go to [STARRS.US](#) to sign up or donate.
Thank you!

STARRS Launches New Meritocracy Campaign

By Joe Arbuckle, MG, USA (Ret), STARRS Vice Chairman of the Board



STARRS has initiated a “Military Meritocracy Campaign” with the goal of educating why all aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) from the Department of Defense (DoD) should be eliminated through legislative action.

The concept of having such a campaign has been well received by Congressional members and staffs we work with.

We are in the process of organizing this campaign and collaborating with other organizations and individuals. The campaign will follow our normal three avenues of approach: congressional, legal, and public education/media.

For generations, our military was a “colorblind” meritocracy, which simply defined means selection and advancement based solely on merit and ability. Service Members were judged not by the color of their skin but by their character, duty performance, and potential.

Meritocracy, coupled with equal opportunity, created conditions for all to advance and excel, and stimulated healthy competition, thereby raising standards.

Historically our military has been one of, if not the most, diverse and inclusive institutions in the U.S.

DEI is the antithesis of meritocracy. DEI’s application is dividing, not uniting, our society and military.

DEI’s principles derive from critical race theory which is rooted in cultural Marxism where people are grouped into identity classes (typically by race), labeled as “oppressed” or “oppressors”, and pitted against each other.



Under DEI, some people are selected for career enhancing opportunities and advancement based on preferences given to identity groups such as race, gender, ethnic background, and sexual orientation.

For example, DoD twice admitted to using race in service academy admissions in its 2022 amicus brief in the pending Supreme Court college admissions cases.

The “*One Team, One Fight*” battle motto describes a meritocracy-based military characterized by:

- a common mission and purpose;
- unqualified loyalty to the team and not to an individual’s identity group;
- total trust and confidence in each other for their very lives from the foxhole to the highest level;
- teamwork/camaraderie resulting in the unit cohesion essential for war-fighting readiness.

Meritocracy is essential for winning. In professional sports where the mission is to win games, the best players are fielded to win, no matter their skin color.

If meritocracy is used in sports where the consequence of losing a game is minor, why is it not essential in the military where the worst case consequences of losing a major war are unimaginable losses of life, destruction, and perhaps our nation? ♦

MERITOCRACY WINS GAMES AND IT WINS WARS

“What’s harmful is the Defense Department’s uncritical focus, through DEI, on racial differences that has weakened the colorblind warrior culture, eroded morale, undermined unit cohesion, and compromised combat effectiveness.”

—MG Patrick H. Brady, US Army (ret) and
Congressman and Col. Michael Waltz, US Army

Activities of STARRS-Affiliated Attorneys

By Mike Rose, STARRS Executive Vice President, General Counsel, USAFA '69



STARRS affiliated attorneys have engaged in numerous activities to educate about racism and radicalism in the military.

For example, they helped STARRS **file more than thirty Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests** with the military.

Judicial Watch filed a FOIA lawsuit objecting to the failure of the Air Force Academy to respond properly to two of our FOIA requests, resulting in hundreds of pages of new documents being provided to STARRS.

These documents indicate that claims of systemic racism at the Air Force Academy are unfounded or exaggerated.

In addition, on June 29, 2022, a **federal lawsuit challenging the legality of the military's COVID vaccine mandate** was filed in Charleston, South Carolina, on behalf of 24 military members, including cadets at three academies.

As a result, all but five of the plaintiffs were retained in the military and the five USCGA cadets who were discharged for not taking the vaccine have

been offered reinstatement to the USCGA. This lawsuit is pending.

On December 9, 2022, **Senator Lindsey Graham** and STARRS General Counsel and former SC State Senator **Mike Rose** held a press conference in Charleston, South Carolina, explaining why the military's COVID vaccine mandate should be terminated.

STARRS affiliated attorneys have advised hundreds of military members about their rights to seek exemptions from taking the COVID vaccine, and have educated senior members of Congress and the public about how the military failed to provide those exemptions as required and how the military's COVID vaccine mandate was illegal. This and other educational efforts helped convince Congress to require DoD to rescind its COVID vaccine mandate.

STARRS affiliated attorneys filed a federal lawsuit in the District of Columbia **challenging DoD's suspension of the Congressionally created Boards of Visitors** of West Point, the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy.

A few days later, DoD reinstated those BOVs, apparently recognizing that DoD has no authority to stop the operation of an oversight board created by Congress.

This lawsuit also is **challenging the abrupt firing and replacement**

of all Trump appointed BOV members by newly elected President Biden, and the "packing" of the BOVs by the creation of BOV subcommittees that could be populated by military designees who were not members of the BOVs.

Congressmen Mark Green (West Point graduate, member House Armed Services Committee and West Point BOV) and **Ralph Norman** (R-SC) are plaintiffs in this lawsuit. After a year, the judge dismissed the lawsuit on technical issues without considering the merits. STARRS affiliated attorneys will appeal the dismissal.

STARRS attorneys are **educating military members about their rights under the federal Privacy Act** to obtain a copy of all government records about them, including all statements about their failure to take the COVID vaccine, and to require the deletion or correction of all statements that are not accurate, timely, relevant or complete.

For example, any statement to the effect that a military member failed to obey a lawful order to take the COVID vaccine could be challenged as inaccurate.

Any failure of the military to properly correct its records about an individual can be challenged in federal court, with attorney fees and costs being paid to a successful plaintiff.

STARRS-affiliated attorneys work daily to help ensure that the operation and actions of STARRS and its officers and directors are lawful. ✦



Senator Lindsey Graham and STARRS General Counsel Mike Rose at the press conference in December.

Prominent DEI Proponent and Black Scholar Gives Colvin Lecture at USAFA's 2023 National Character and Leadership Symposium



By Tracey Meck, Colonel, USAF (Ret),
Newsletter Editor and Chief, USAFA '87

[Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr. was the Colvin keynote speaker at USAFA's 2023 National Character and Leadership Symposium in Feb.](#) His was one of the few presentations that was mandatory for the entire cadet wing.

Dr. Glaude is a professor of African American studies at Princeton University and speaks publicly about the state of black America. He has appeared on various news shows on various networks. [According to wikipedia:](#)

"Eddie Glaude's intellectual work accounts for the modern explanations of white supremacy and the formation of Black Power movements, making references to slavery and histories of white dominance. As Glaude argues throughout his bodies of work, anti-Blackness and white supremacy continue to structure American society as a result of the Value Gap, in which white lives are valued more than Black lives, impacting many of the political decisions in the United States. Black identity and Black Power Movements arise in response to and are emphasized because of the increasing expressions of white supremacy."

A First Class Cadet introduced Glaude as one of the nation's most prominent scholars, author and an "American critic in his writings and spoken words." He has published several books about Black America. He mentioned in his introductory comments that one of his favorite quotes is "Not hopeless, but a bit unhelpful."

After introductory thank-yous, the professor launched into a speech centered on racial justice and DEI. He em-

phasized that "leadership and character are often revealed in our willingness to confront our own shortcomings, to confront our own biases and blindnesses, to see the ugliness in ourselves."

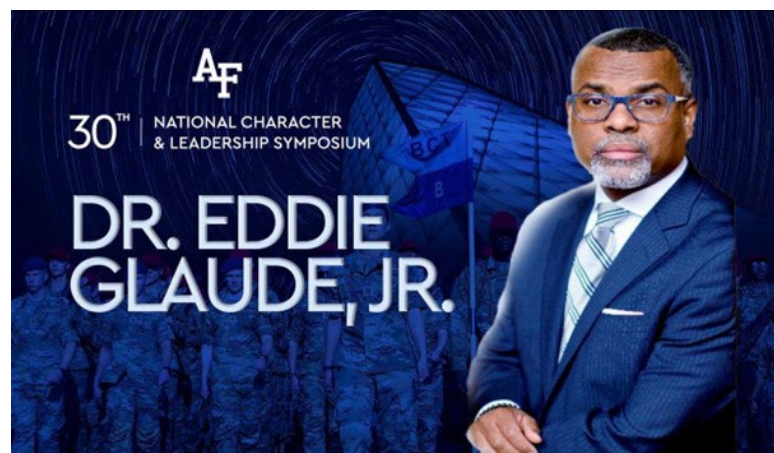
Although he acknowledges America has made progress since the 1950's, he contends that "the value gap still dictates much of our lives....this belief that some people matter more the others evidences itself today in housing, in education, in labor markets, in policing, in healthcare, **in our military**, and in who leads our companies..."

Some of his troubling statements include:

"If we are going to be the people we want to be, the country we want to be, we can no longer tell ourselves this story of American virtue that secures our innocence. We must confront the lies that sustain

*our innocence....**This country has never been a beacon of virtue, nor is it the shining city on the hill.** I know that upsets some of you....If we don't admit who we are and what we've done, we cannot become a full-fledged democracy, we cannot become that beacon of light to the rest of the world. An honest reckoning is required of us."*

"We have to be deliberate in our efforts to build a more just America and a more racially diverse and equitable armed forces,



and that will involve stepping outside our comfort zones and taking risks, and we need leaders that are committed to these values."

There was a question and answer session after Glaude's speech. In answering the first question, he defines equity vs equality, explaining that they are not in opposition to each other. "Equal opportunity is needed for an equitable society, that equality of opportunity is needed to acquire the skills to pursue your dreams." "Equity is needed to address those structural barriers that are a reflection of historical choices that

reproduce advantage and disadvantage....equity is the work of repair in light of historical choices."

"That flag is a very complicated garment. I have a very vexed relationship to patriotism."

Later an instructor from the Department of Behavioral Sciences, stated that one of **the perspectives they are trying to emphasize is the social-cultural perspective.**

He explained that we've recently seen "elected civilian leaders for which character, leadership and patriotism have a very different meaning" than what is taught at USAFA.

continued

In his response Dr. Glaude stated that to him ***“that flag” is a very complicated garment. I have a very vexed relationship to patriotism...It borders on idolatry*** based on his faith.

“There is no middle ground on slavery; no middle ground on Jim Crow, ***no middle ground on January 6th. You’re either for democracy or you are not. Where are you? It’s a character question.***”

The final question was from a Cadet Third Class who wore the purple arm rope of a squadron D&I staff member. He stated they ***have D&I discussions “twice a semester.”*** He asked how they could have intellectual discussions

around D&I without allowing “stupid talking points” aimed at shutting down intellectual arguments and destroying the discussion.

Dr. Glaude replied the cadet had “just described America.” He said the talking points used to disrupt the discussion are an attempt to ***“undermine the basic values that define this place”*** and ***“are coming out of a particular media ecosystem that I believe, and I am saying it from my vantage point and not because I am on MSNBC, is a clear and present danger to the functioning of our democratic life,*** it is interrupting the deliberative process. Facts don’t matter as much as they used to anymore.”

He concluded by telling the cadet to use the moment to say “that is what is getting in the way”; or sometimes you just need to say it is time to move on and ignore it. He then pointed out that the cadet wing was “hierarchical so you have the right to say ***“Shut the hell up, let’s go.”*** This last comment brought enthusiastic applause from the audience.

In light of how concerning and filled with propaganda Glaude’s speech was, it was encouraging to hear that enough cadets are pushing back against the indoctrination to frustrate the sophomore cadet from the D&I staff. There is a glimmer of hope, not all cadets are falling for the indoctrination.. ✦



“Cadets pose for a photo after graduating from the Cadet Wing Diversity and Inclusion Program, allowing them to advise students on diversity at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Each cadet wears a purple rope across their left shoulder symbolizing their position as a diversity representative.” (U.S. Air Force Academy photo)



From: [CADET PROGRAM PROMOTES DIVERSITY, INCLUSION ACROSS ACADEMY CAMPUS](#) (Air Force Academy)



Soviet military Political Officers (Commissars/Zampolit) were placed in all units to indoctrinate soldiers in Marxist-Leninism. This political control system created artificial tension, friction and paranoia among military professionals. The indoctrination dulled the critical thinking processes by the constant barrage of Marxist propaganda, thus the Marxist formula became the only framework for evaluating reality. Criticism and self-criticism were a core function of mandatory training. The system also encouraged officers to inform on their comrades. The political officers were the eyes and ears of the government. Soldiers despised the political officers and found the mandatory training sessions “extremely boring”.

From a CIA report, “The attitude of Soviet soldiers toward political indoctrination may be qualified as indifferent and apathetic. Soldiers feel, instinctively if not clearly, that the political indoctrination is mostly based on lies. . . . Everybody is afraid to ask any questions which may be interpreted as criticisms of the regime or of the party policy.”

For more information, see our post on our website: [White House Executive Order Installs Political Commissars Throughout Government](#)

DoD Vaccine Policy Update

After NDAA Win, STARRS Continues the Fight to Restore Those Adversely Affected by the DoD Vaccine Mandate



By Joe Arbuckle, MG, USA (Ret), STARRS Vice Chairman of the Board

STARRS played a significant role in causing the DoD mandatory vaccination policy to be revoked in the current National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) passed on 23 Dec 2022.

However, the need for remedies for those harmed by the vaccine is facing strong resistance from the DoD in spite of support from several congressional members.

I developed [two slides](#) to summarize important information. The first slide is a summary of the 10 Jan 23 SECDEF memo rescinding the mandatory vaccination policy as was directed in the FY23 NDAA.

The second slide is a summary of the [27 Feb 23 memo from the Undersecretary of Defense Personnel and Readiness Gilbert Cisneros to Congressmen Rogers and Banks](#).

His memo states what the DoD will do and will not do regarding the new vaccination policy.

The memo basically says none of the remedies needed like automatic reinstatement to active duty with full back pay, allowances, etc., for those desiring to come back onto active duty, will happen. Instead, they must follow the normal accessions process. The same with correcting military records; service members must apply to discharge review boards, a very lengthy process.

Note that according to the second slide 54% of the 8,100 discharged for not taking the vaccination received general discharges under honorable conditions—a **discharge characterization**

that makes them ineligible for GI Bill benefits.

The memo also references failing to follow a “lawful order” as justification for many actions taken by the DoD. The legality of the order is in question and legal actions are being pursued.

Data were provided in the memo and is summarized on slide 2. Of note, 37,000 religious exemptions were requested and only 400 approved in all of

the DoD (active, reserve, and NG) which is ~1% approval rate.

There is reason to believe the vast majority of those 400 were either in the process of retiring or were eligible to begin the process.

The message is religious exemptions were not seriously considered or approved. Six courts have ruled religious exemption requests were processed unlawfully. ✦

Fair and Equal Treatment

- 8100+ servicemembers discharged for refusing the vax mainly based on religious grounds
- 19,000+ DOD religious exemptions adjudicated, approval rates very low:
 - Army 6.04%; Navy 1.02%; A.F. & Space Force 2.31%; USMC 0.52%
 - assume 3% approval rate of 19,000 request = 570 approved
- ~5 law suits for 1st Amendment violations resulting in federal injunctions stopping the mandatory vax in specified areas

Why so low?

23 Dec 2022 NDAA directed DOD to rescind the mandatory vax policy

10 Jan 2023 SECDEF memo rescinds mandatory vax policy for “members currently serving in the Armed Services” but fails to address the 8100+ already discharged.

Memo Specifies	Active	8100 (+)
no serving Armed Service members will be separated for vax refusal solely based on religious, medical or admin reasons	X	note 1
will update records to remove any adverse action taken to include letters of reprimand	X	note 2
will cease ongoing reviews of current servicemembers religious, medical, or admin exemption requests	X	

Fair and equal treatment requires:
 note 1: offer an opportunity to return to duty w/back pay etc.
 note 2: expunge all records of all adverse personnel actions against those discharged if based solely on vax refusal

Summary OSD letter, 27 Feb 23, to Congressmen Rogers & Banks

Vax requirements

- no vax rqmts for theater entry or deployability status
- no vax rqmts for new accessions
- **no service academy requires a vax for a diploma or commissioning**
- no occupations in DOD requiring a vax

Policy and law:

- by law: unearned bonus, incentive pay, or similar benefits must be repaid by SMs w/few exceptions if reason was failure to complete their obligation including **refusing a lawful order**
- apply to discharge review boards to correct records
- policy: DOD will not provide back pay or credit SMs who did not take the vax
- return to active duty: follow the standard accession policies
- will not provide back pay or credit to SMs or vets
- will review cases those who did not request exemption and **refused “lawful order”** to take the vax

Data:

- 2,000,000 SMs total
 - 69,000 unvax'd = 3.45% of total SMs
- 53,000 sought religious, medical or admin exemptions
 - of 53,000; were 37,000 religious exemptions
 - 19,1000 religious exemptions denied
 - **400 religious exemptions approved = 1.08% of 37,000 requested**
- 8100 SMs separated for refusing the vax
 - 46% honorable discharges
 - 54% general under honorable conditions

Status of Vaccine Refusers & DoD/Service Policies

By Tracey Meck, Colonel, USAF (Ret), Newsletter Editor and Chief, USAFA '87



The FY 23 NDAA rescinded the COVID-19 vaccine mandate in the DoD. Accordingly, on [January 10, 2023 the Secretary of Defense issued a letter rescinding the August 24 and November 30 2021 letters that established the vaccine requirement for the armed forces.](#)

In spite of the mandate's rescission, the memo stated that the DoD would "continue to promote and encourage COVID-19 vaccination for all service members."

The letter went on to give commanders some leeway by stating vaccination enhances operational readiness and protects the force and "commanders have the responsibility and authority to preserve the Department's compelling interests in mission accomplishment."

As part of this, Secretary Austin stated commanders could consider vaccination status when making decisions on deployments, assignments and other operational decisions.

There was no acknowledgement of the now well documented health risks associated with the vaccines and boosters.

Secretary Austin's memo said no currently serving member of the armed forces could be separated **solely** on the basis of their refusal to be vaccinated **if** they sought an accommodation on religious, administrative or medical grounds.

He also directed adverse actions be removed from personnel records if such actions were **solely** for their refusal.

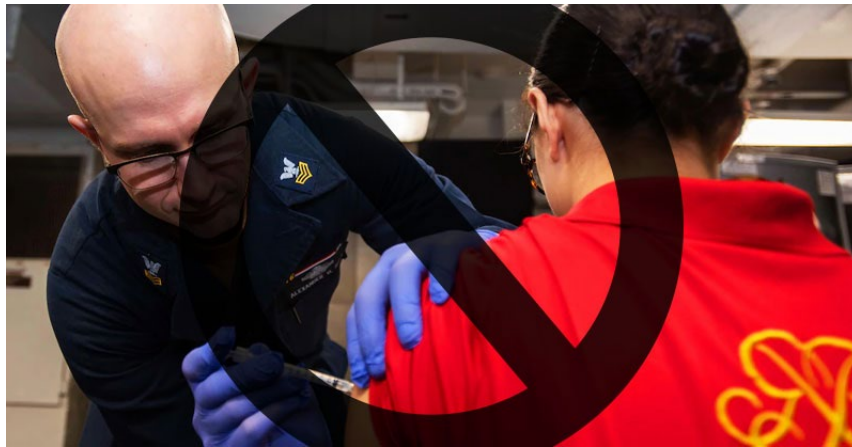
As for discharged service members, the only remedy offered was that they could petition to have their discharge characterization raised to General (under honorable conditions) if their discharge was worse.

By the end of [February, procedures were announced](#) that gave the more than 8,100 already discharged service members a path to rejoin if they chose to. Basically, they must follow pre-existing standard procedures that anyone

mine appropriate action" for currently serving troops who did not get vaccinated and did not request an exemption.

There are approximately 16,000 of these cases pending. During a recent hearing the letter was discussed and Cisneros explained that the cases were proceeding regardless of the mandate being rescinded because the service members had disobeyed a "lawful order" at the time.

NOTE: The question of the lawfulness of the order has yet to be addressed in court. Those who contend the order was unlawful base their assertion



on the fact that the DoD guidance directed the use of fully approved vaccines. The only fully approved vaccine, Comirnaty, was never manufactured nor distributed, hence the only vaccines available to service members were under Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA). The only time a EUA vaccine

with a break in service must follow to re-join.

So what has happened in the lives and careers of those adversely affected by the DoD mandate?

Those who refused the vaccine but did not request an accommodation can still be discharged and those already discharged can be denied upgrades to their discharge characterization.

[Gilbert Cisneros, Under Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel, sent a letter to lawmakers in D.C.](#) stating that military officials "continue to review cases on an individual basis to deter-

can be mandated for military personnel is if the Secretary of Defense requests and receives a waiver from the President—which did not happen.

STARRS' affiliated attorneys would like to know about service members who were punished for "disobeying a lawful order" and wish to challenge the legality of that order and those punishments. If that describes you or someone you know, let STARRS know: [Contact STARRS](#)

The Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard sent a letter dated February 28 to **Rep W. Greg Steube** (R-FL), informing

him that the seven USCGA cadets that were disenrolled and four others who voluntarily left due to the vaccine mandate have been notified they are eligible for readmittance. We have not heard if any have made a final decision, but some have indicated a reluctance because they are concerned how they will be treated if they return to the USCGA.

Summaries of individual situations submitted to STARRS; some positive, some confusing:

A parent of a USAFA sophomore who refused the vaccine said “She is on the Superintendent’s list, been allowed to travel for club water polo and with her Astro majors for a trip. She is also serving in a leadership role in her squadron. So as far as being unvaxed, she is doing okay.”

A family member posted an encouraging update about a joint spouse military couple who had requested accommodations. The wife’s General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand (GOMOR) was removed in early January and separation action against her husband was halted. Both were “placed back in good standing” and she was awaiting orders to be reassigned to the base where her husband is stationed—an action that had been on hold since July 2021. They are working on their overdue promotions to 1LT, hopefully with effective dates when they would be promoted had it not been for the mandate.

Service members provided STARRS with copies of welcome letters dated in February stating that vaccines were still required for some training courses including Silver Flag courses (contingency operation courses for AF civil engineering personnel) and a graduate flight course at Fort Rucker. ✦

What You Should Know If You Have Taken the Vaccine

By Dr Scott Sturman, MD, STARRS Board of Advisors, USAFA '72



The Pfizer mRNA vaccine trial lasted 28 days and was not designed to determine if the vaccine protected against COVID-19 infection. Multiple clinical studies subsequently demonstrated that the Pfizer and Moderna products do not protect against acquiring or transmitting the disease—the *sine qua non* of a vaccine.

The mRNA vaccine technology is considered gene therapy, which normally requires a ten-year trial period to fully assess the risk profile of this drug class that is fraught with unforeseen consequences.

To date, all age groups have experienced more injuries due to the mRNA vaccine than all other vaccines combined since 1990.

For all ages the risk of having an adverse COVID vaccine event increases with the number of boosters.

The longer the symptom-free interval from the initial vaccine series, the better is one’s long-term prognosis for escaping acute events.

The probability of chronic conditions occurring years hence are unknown. There has been insufficient time to adequately study the matter.

Vaccine-mediated injury is difficult to diagnose, particularly in asymptomatic patients and in its chronic form. Lab values are often normal or ambiguous despite patients’ complaints ranging from life threatening to vague symptoms that are difficult to define.

Recently, a [University of Denver study](#) examined a technology developed in conjunction with the Mayo Clinic that accurately diagnoses Long COVID in patients with brain fog and other central nervous system symptoms.

As more health care professionals understand the need to treat patients suffering from vaccine injury, a number of vaccine [detoxification protocols](#) are available.

Treatment can be complicated and lengthy. One lesson the COVID epidemic taught: Patients must be proactive and reduce personal risk factors: control co-morbidities, lose weight, adopt a comprehensive exercise program, maintain a healthy diet, and consider the benefits of vitamin D supplements. ✦

Read Dr. Sturman’s articles on our website:

[The DOD Plays Hardball with Covid Vaccinations](#)

[The Pandora’s Box of mRNA Covid Vaccines](#)

[Fighting Windmills: The DOD’s Battle Against Covid](#)

[The Military’s Abusive Imposition of Mandatory Covid Vaccinations](#)

[The Usurpation Of Martin Luther King Day](#)

[The Air Force Academy Recruiting Crisis A Self-Inflicted Wound](#)

Is There Evidence of Adverse Vaccine Impacts on Service Members?

By Tracey Meck, Colonel, USAF (Ret), Newsletter Editor and Chief, USAFA '87

The VAERS database shows more vaccine injuries in the [past two years than the past 30 years combined](#) and there has been a rise in “all cause deaths” since the COVID-19 vaccines came out.

The DoD is not immune even though service members are young and some of the healthiest people in America.

Military whistleblower and Army Flight Surgeon **LTC Theresa Long, MD**, has testified about the impact of the vaccines on military personnel during congressional hearings and interviews.

[She reports](#) an annual average of 226 reportable medical events (death, permanent harm or severe temporary harm) for pilots across the DoD between 2016 and 2019.

Strikingly, there were 2,861 in 2021 and an astounding 4,059 reportable events in 2022.

The data isn't much better across the entire DoD with the 2016-2019 average being 40,813 reportable events versus more than 200,000 in 2022.

The medical conditions include brain tumors, cancer and deadly heart conditions among others.

Explore the evidence revealed by LTC Long in the following articles and interviews:

- [‘Stunning Increase’ in Serious Harm Reports in Young Healthy Pilots](#)
- [LTC Theresa Long Testimony to the Alaska Medical Freedom Symposium](#), Sep 17, 2022.
- [Military Pilots Reported 1,700% More Medical Incidents During the Pandemic](#)

- [STARRS leaders discuss the evidence with LTC Long](#)

[On March 22, 2023 The Epoch Times](#) reported a whistleblower recently downloaded Defense Medical Epidemiology Database (DMED) information demonstrating significant increases in diagnoses of illnesses that are known to be caused by the COVID-19 vaccines in 2021 as compared to the annual averages for the years 2016 through 2020.

The service member provided the information to Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis). The data shows the following increases:

- Myocarditis - 130.5%
- Pulmonary embolism - 41.2%
- Ovarian dysfunction - 38.2%
- Complications and ill-defined descriptions of heart disease - 37.7%
- Diseases of the nervous system - 9.5%
- Hypertension - 12.6%
- Testicular cancer - 16.3%
- Female infertility - 4.3%

As with the general medical world, the DoD avoids linking medical issues with the vaccine so we can't validate the theory, but there are indicators that some service members are suffering potential vaccine injuries and even death.

The service members involved are not just numbers, they are individuals.



On Jan 9, 2023, USAFA offensive lineman, [Cadet Third Class Hunter Brown](#) collapsed and died while walking from his dorm room to class.

On Feb 7, 2023, [PFC Kaleb H Franklin](#), a 26-year-old Fort Stewart Soldier died after “suffering a medical emergency” on a flight to a training exercise.

In an interview with Michael Knowles dated Feb 21, 2023 [Karolina Stancik](#), 21, of the Army National Guard, discussed suffering two heart attacks two months apart after receiving the COVID vaccine. As explained in the interview, the National Guard lied several times about her and she was denied heart care a couple times. When she complained she was told to “quit bi...ing.”

On March 4, [Spc. Jaykob R. Pruitt](#), a cavalry scout with the Oklahoma National Guard, completed a two-mile run during the Army Fitness Test, walked away from the track, fell, and became unresponsive. CPR was administered and Pruitt was transported to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead at the age of 19. ✦



Republicans Demand Answers from West Point Over Pronoun 'Playacting' Training Session

West Point “Cadets were forced to participate in preferred pronoun play-acting during training time allotted to prevent sexual assault in the military,” Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN), the chairman of the Military Personnel Subcommittee, told Fox News Digital. “It is not clear what this topic has to do with sexual assault.” [Read About the Training to Include the Facilitator Notes](#)

Pentagon Doctors Claim 7-Year-Olds Can Make Decisions to be Injected with Hormones, Puberty Suppressants

DoD health providers said in the March edition of the *American Journal of Public Health* that the only pathway for children of military members who present with gender dysphoria symptoms is to immediately move towards “gender-affirming health care, such as puberty suppression and affirming hormones.”

The doctors said that on the basis of “human rights,” “youths... have an inherent ability and right to consent to gender-affirming therapy.”

They went so far as to claim 7-year-olds can make their own medical decisions.

[Read the Fox News Article and Watch a Video Statement from a De-transitioning Youth](#)

CADET FACILITATOR GUIDE 2023 Role Play Scenario #4

It's Not That Complicated

Topic: Understanding and respecting the pronouns people prefer.

Total number of characters needed:

List of characters:

- CDT Baker- Has friend who prefers gender neutral pronouns
- CDT Acevedo- A friend supportive of respecting pronouns
- CDT Adams- Instigator, thinks that using “correct” pronouns is wrong
- CDT Cruz- Argumentative, agrees with Adams – pronouns are weird

Suggested props: CDT Baker has a cell phone.

Scenario setup (facilitator reads this to the whole group):

It's dinner at Grant, and the four cadets are sitting at a table. CDT Baker gets a phone call from a friend and takes the call. CDT Baker messes up the way he refers to his friend on the phone and it becomes apparent that the friend is identifying as gender neutral. CDT Adams and CDT Cruz start joking about it. CDT Acevedo squashes the joking and/or tries to educate them.

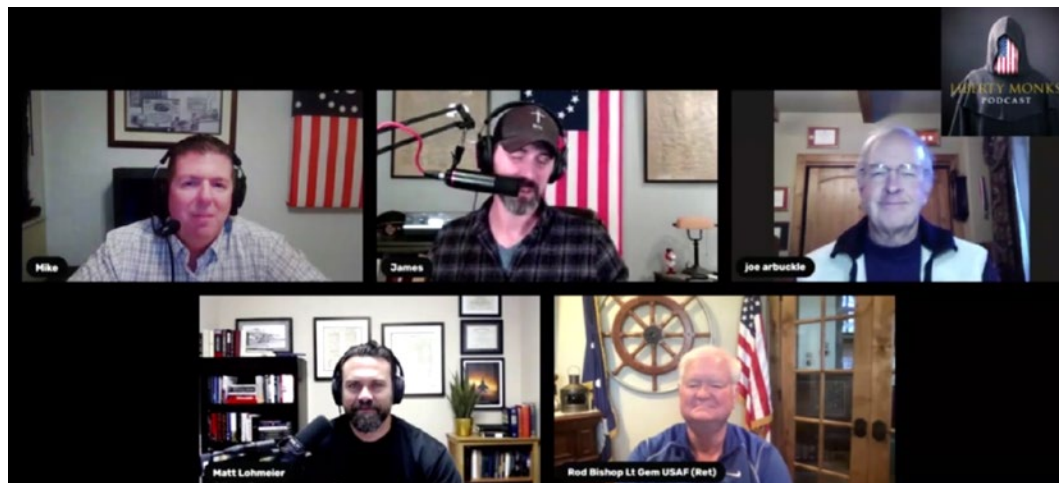
What actions do any specific characters have to take to build to the role-play? Baker must be on the phone and struggle with getting the pronouns right for the friend on the phone. The other characters crack jokes and start talking about the concept of pronouns.

The End: The facilitator will stop the role play when one of the following occurs.

- The arguing gets heated and clearly nobody is going to change their mind
- One of the Cadets storms off because they can't handle the interaction
- The Cadets agree to change the subject, respect Baker's opinion, and let it go.

Our Educational Mission in Action: Can the US Military Be Saved?

The Liberty Monks host STARRS leaders to discuss the dangers of racist and radical ideologies infiltrating our military. [Watch the Interview with Lt Gen Bishop, MG Arbuckle and former Space Force Lt Col Matt Lohmeier](#)

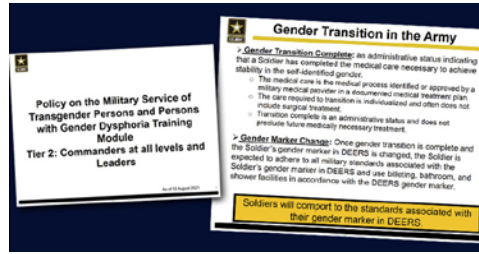
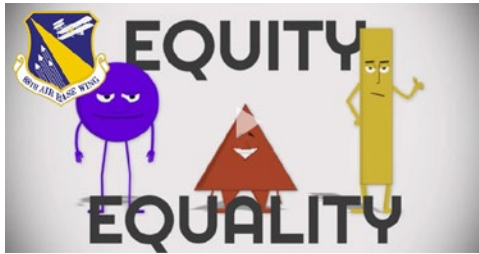




What Can I Do Now? Inclusive Language

- What do people call themselves?
 - When in doubt, ask
- Include all genders
 - "Y'all/Team/Squaddies/Everyone/Folks" vs. "you guys"
 - "Partner" vs. "Boyfriend/Girlfriend"
- "Person-centered" language
 - "People with disabilities" vs. "the disabled"
 - "Transgender people/service members" vs. "Transgenders"
- Recognize diverse family formation
 - "Parents/Caregivers/Guardians" instead of "Mom and Dad"
- Not** "Colorblind" or "I don't see color" or "we're all just people"
- Not** Jokes at subordinate's expense (nicknames)
- Not** The "N", "R", or "F" words, nor "Terrorist" (for nationality; it happened)
- Most importantly: Model humility when you get it wrong**

THE WOKE MILITARY



By Tracey Meck, Colonel, USAF (Ret), Newsletter Editor and Chief, USAFA '87

Recently the senior enlisted leaders from each military service [testified to the House Military Personnel Subcommittee](#) that implementing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), Critical Race Theory and other neo-Marxist ideologies are not having an impact on military readiness or retention.

Rather, they cited other factors, such as lack of interest, a small percentage of the population eligible to meet accession standards, and low employment rates as contributing to the current struggles.

On 23 March, the subcommittee held [another hearing](#) on DEI and its effects on recruiting and retention. The Ranking Member indicated support for DEI was bipartisan and stated the hearing was about how the DEI effort benefited the DoD.

USD Gilbert Cisneros stated DEI efforts are about supporting military people and are essential to unit cohesion

and trust. He stated that the department is not immune from bias, so DEI is a priority.

Mrs. Agnes Schaefer, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower & Reserve Affairs, stated that quality of life includes the "prevention of harmful behaviors" and that the Army needs to create a culture "that enables people to thrive and want to expand their careers in the Army."

Apparently DoD leaders who have testified during these hearings have not been listening to the service members they serve.

STARRS has collected 36 pages of quotes from service members, veterans and parents regarding the negative impact this ideology is having on moral, cohesiveness, recruiting, retention and readiness. The [assembled product can be found on the STARRS website](#).

Other examples have been published in the [Boots On The Ground Perspec-](#)

[tives](#) section of previous newsletters.

Here's a handful of examples that give you an understanding on how service members and veterans actually feel about CRT and the DEI focus:

■ From a minority USAFA cadet: "I see so many bright young cadets here who know what is going on is wrong, but at the same time are too scared to speak up. The fear we feel, not being able to address our concerns, only makes the lack of courage issue worse. However, I have a lot of hope that Cadets will start to speak up."

■ STARRS obtained a copy of a course critique for "Foundations for Personal Leadership" written by a USAFA cadet. In the critique the cadet complained the course was politicized and that the instructor's (a military officer) political views were blatant throughout. One day the officer was angry about something in the news and stated he could not believe there were still people

with a certain political view. The cadet acknowledged that it is important to understand known and unknown biases, but felt it was not appropriate for the instructor to tell him he “undoubtedly had certain biases.” He said the words “leaders” and “leadership” were used about 10 times during the course. Instead of emphasizing integrity and other tried and true leadership traits, they were taught the most important thing for a leader is to be experts in race, gender and other personal characteristics. The cadet stated the classmates he had talked to felt the same.

■ The parent of a USAFA upperclass cadet told STARRS the cadet was counseled “by her cadet supervisor for using the expression “Asian squat” during a training session. I should say this is an expression commonly used by her Hula instructor and in fitness videos on social media for people who squat in more of a relaxed position instead of exhausting the upper legs. But one freshman went all the way to the squadron commander to complain instead of dealing with the perceived inappropriate expression at the lowest level. Maybe the expression is insensitive, but I do fear for how thin skinned the cadets have become. Tattling on cadets to superiors on mis-speak is a dangerous thing”

■ USMA cadets have a nickname for their American History class. They call it their “I hate America class.”

■ “I don’t know a single person that got out in the last 15 years that recommends joining right now.”

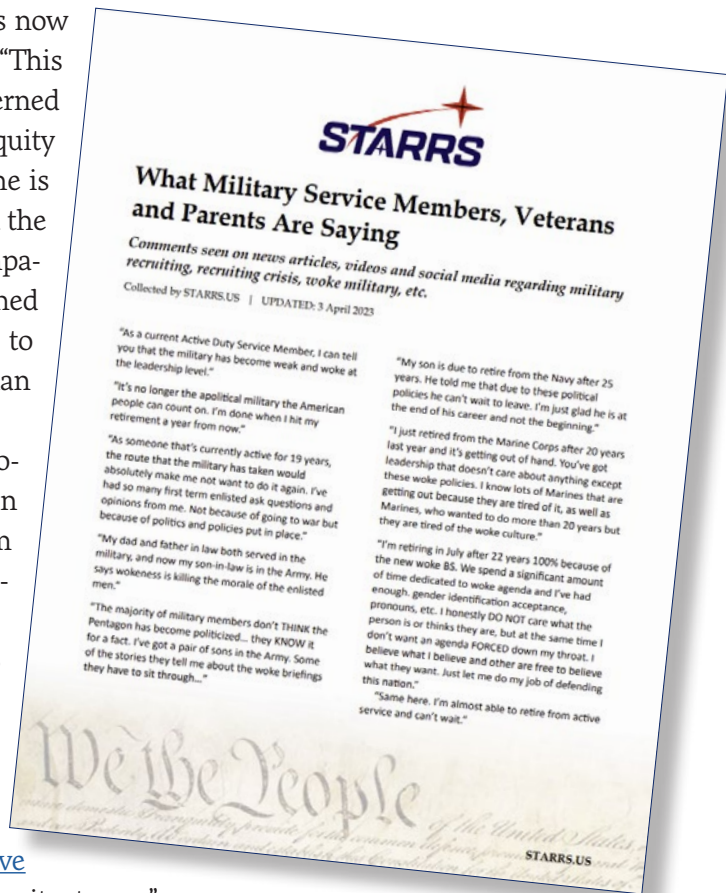
■ “I was a U.S. Marine, and I can tell you that a lot of guys decided not to re-enlist because of this woke foolishness.”

■ “My kid came out after six years, finished up his engineering degree, and told anyone who would listen to never enlist.”

■ A veteran of 25 years now working as Army civilian: “This army is way more concerned with social issues and equity than warfighting. Discipline is lax and I sometimes think the commanders from company to brigade are concerned about not doing anything to get relieved, much more than training for war.”

■ “It’s no longer the apolitical military the American people can count on. I’m done when I hit my retirement a year from now.”

According to STARRS President Ron Scott, Congress will need to address these developments in light of the Administration’s February [Executive Order](#) that established “equity teams” across the federal government, reporting to the White House Domestic Policy Advisor. ✦



[Read Document of Quotes](#)



[Read what’s happening at the military academies](#)

[Collection of Military Gender Pronoun Training](#)





Finally, be **STRONG** in the Lord and in the **STRENGTH** of his might.

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the schemes of the devil.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and **having done all, to stand firm.**

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. (EPHESIANS 6:10-18)

