

OREGON NATIONAL GUARD

Unvaccinated soldiers barred from drilling with units

By GARY A. WARNER Oregon Capital Bureau

The Oregon National Guard is barring members who have not followed orders to be vaccinated against COVID-19 from taking part in military duties, officials confirmed Thursday, July 7.

The action could lead to termination or delays in pay and some benefits, according to a U.S. Department of Defense announcement. Continued refusal could lead to separation from the military altogether.

"This is a lawful order and is in line with other required vaccinations for readiness of the force," said Lt. Col. Stephen Bomar, spokesman for the Oregon National Guard. "As with other mandatory vaccinations, legitimate medical and religious exemptions will be acknowledged with respect, compassion and dignity."

The Department of Defense issued an order in August 2021 that all military personnel be vaccinated against COVID-19. The Army said the announcement this week would affect about 62,000 service members out of a total force of over 1 million soldiers.

About 97% of the 8,000 members of the Oregon National Guard have complied with the order by getting vaccinated, starting the vaccination process, or going through the administrative approvals to get exemptions or accommodations, Bomar said.

The Oregon National Guard declined to provide an exact number of members not in compliance or seeking waivers, citing privacy and appeals processes.

If 97% of the Oregon National Guard is in compliance, that would leave 3%, or about 240 members.

Bomar said decisions on



Contributed Photo

The Oregon National Guard is barring members who have not followed orders to be vaccinated against COVID-19 from taking part in military duties.

exemptions are scheduled to be completed by Oct. 1.

"No adverse actions will take place against Guard members with pending or approved exemption requests," Bomar said.

If a service member's permanent medical exemption or religious accommodation request is denied they have the right to appeal that decision within 30 days.

If the appeal is unsuccessful, the service member has the option of being vaccinated or being considered to have refused the order to be vaccinated.

"The specific number of days from receiving a final denial to being considered to have refused the vaccine is scheduled to come out in a future order," Bomar said.

Summer is the time when many National Guard units go through their mandatory two-week training, often working with active-duty personnel. Ahead of those assignments, the U.S.

Army announced plans to enforce vaccination deadlines that had been previously announced.

"Members of the Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve who have refused the lawful Department of Defense COVID-19 vaccination order without an approved or pending exemption may not participate in federally funded drills and training and will not receive pay or retirement credit," according to the Army statement Thursday.

The order has the biggest impact on the Army, which accounts for just under half of all uniformed personnel and 75% of all National Guard members.

The overwhelming majority of service members have complied with the order. The Army has just over 1 million soldiers in service, with 480,000 on active duty. There are 336,000 National Guard members and 189,500 U.S. Army reservists.

"Maintaining readiness continues to be among the U.S. Army's highest priorities," said a statement from the U.S. Army command at the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. "We are fully committed to ensuring all soldiers are vaccinated against COVID-19."

The Pentagon said 40,000 National Guard members and 22,000 reservists were not yet in compliance with the order.

Since the pandemic spread to the United States in early 2020, the Defense Department has worried about the impact of the virus on military readiness around the globe. Nonuniformed personnel were moved off-base at many installations. Troops went through quarantine periods before and after deployments overseas.

Initially, the military reported high-profile outbreaks, particularly in the contained spaces of Navy ships at sea. An outbreak in

U.S. ARMED FORCES

<b>Army:</b>	<b>Navy:</b>
Total force: 1 million	Total force: 399,500
Active duty: 480,000	Active duty: 340,500
Reserves: 180,500	Reserves: 59,000
National Guard: 336,000	<b>Marine Corps:</b>
<b>Air Force:</b>	Total force: 224,700
Total force: 510,000	Active duty: 186,200
Active duty: 332,800	Reserves: 38,500
Reserves: 70,100	
National Guard: 107,700	

Source: US Department of Defense manpower report, FY2020

2020 aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt infected over 1,000 sailors, about a quarter of the crew. One sailor died and the ship was quarantined for two months in Guam, with readiness maintained by the crew rotating between the land base and ship.

Overall, the Pentagon credits the policies as successful at maintaining military capabilities even as the 2.5-year-old pandemic has sickened 552.8 million people around the world, killing 6.35 million, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. In the U.S., more than 88.2 million infections have been reported and over 1 million people have died.

Once vaccines became available in late 2020, the Pentagon put an early priority on ensuring the inoculation of active-duty forces. Vaccination was required of uniformed personnel under an order issued in August 2021. Effective July 1 of this year, the Pentagon said National Guard and reservists would not be allowed to drill or deploy with their units if unvaccinated.

Following the Department of Defense order last August, much of the focus has been on compliance with activity duty units.

The Army said that as of June 21, it had discharged or

accepted the retirements of 1,037 soldiers for "refusing the lawful order to receive the COVID-19 vaccine."

About the National Guard

National Guard members are civilians who serve part-time in the U.S. Army or U.S. Air Force.

The National Guard is a part of the U.S. military that traces its roots back to the colonial militias in 1636. It is one of three components of the American armed forces, along with the regular active duty service members and reservists.

According to the Department of Defense, there are 2.14 million uniformed personnel serving in the four Department of Defense branches: Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

Full-time active duty personnel accounts for 1.4 million service members. They are supplemented by a "selected reserve" of 800,800 part-time uniformed personnel — 357,100 reservists in each branch, and 443,700 National Guard members who serve with the Army and Air Force.

Reservists in the U.S. military are civilians who have a minimum commitment to training each year. They can only be called to active duty by the president.

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**CLUES DOWN**

- Body part
- Mimics
- Expel large quantities
- Sea eagle
- Genetically distinct varieties
- Dialect of Chinese
- Famous Mr. T character
- Consumed
- Chinese dynasty
- Menace to yards

**CLUES ACROSS**

- Absence of difficulty
5. Preserve a dead body
11. Gratitude
14. The act of coming together again
15. More cushy
18. Visionaries
19. Large, fish-eating bird
21. Indicates near
23. NY Mets legend Tommie
24. Icelandic books
28. Pop
29. Hammer is one
30. Sense of self-importance
32. Thyrotrophic hormone
33. Can't be found
35. Electronic data processing
36. Passports and licenses are two
39. Snake-like fishes
41. Air Force books
42. Popular computers
44. Intermediate ecological stage
46. Wings
47. Used in combination
49. Laid back
52. Jewelled headdress
56. Slow
58. Famous Falls
60. Reassertions
62. Periods of time

- Hyphen rating
- Sunscreen rating
- Brew
- Leader
- Plants in the legume family
- Burn with a hot liquid
- Junior's father
- Scads
- Morning
- Length of a line (abbr.)
- Double curve
- Small, thin person
- Worn by exposure to the weather
- Mars crater
- Humanities
- Word element meaning ear
- To the \_\_\_ degree
- Residue of something burned
- It cools your home

**WORD SCRAMBLE**

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to blueberries.

**ARTT**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SUDOKU**

1	9		6		
9	3	4			
2		1			
2		4			
5			7	3	
		6		7	
1	4			7	3
7	3	5		9	1

Level: Intermediate

**Guess Who?**

I am an actor born in California on July 16, 1967. I graduated from college with a degree in sports information. I dabbled in sketch comedy as a kid, then went on to do it on "Saturday Night Live." I later transitioned to comedic films.

**CRYPTO FUN**

Solve the code to discover words related to blueberries. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 21 = E)

**A. 22 21 12 14 9 22**  
Clue: Well-being

**B. 26 21 25 25 23**  
Clue: Small fruit

**C. 5 10 9 25 18 21 5 9 7**  
Clue: Vitamins/minerals

**D. 4 21 14 18 6 18 19 10 7**  
Clue: Very tasty

**BLUEBERRIES WORD SEARCH**

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

**WORDS ANTHOCYANINS ANTIOXIDANTS BAKING BENEFITS BLUEBERRY BUSH COGNITIVE COMPOUNDS FIBER FLAVONOL HEART JAM JELLY JUICE MANGANESE MYRICITIN NUTRITIONAL POLYPHENOLS PURPLE QUERCETIN SERVINGS SUPERFOOD SWEET VITAMINS**

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