**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

311th EXPEDITIONARY SUSTAINMENT COMMAND

1250 FEDERAL AVE

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90025



**REPLY TO**

**ATTENTION OF:**

WR9EAA 2 March 2016

# MEMORANDUM FOR Chaplain (MAJ) Kline, United States Army Chaplain Center and School, 10100 Lee Rd, Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

SUBJECT: Religious Accommodation Request for (person’s name)

1. References:

1. AR 600-20
2. AR 670-1
3. Army Directive 2017-03
4. DOD Directive 1300.17
5. ATP 1-05.04
6. Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb–2000bb-4

2. Background

 a.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ holds deeply held sincere moral and ethical beliefs about health and preservation of health. This Soldier's sincerely held strong moral convictions would not permit for them to take this mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or the subsequent mRNA seasonal flu shots.

 b. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ perceives the use of any COVID-19 or seasonal flu vaccine as a threat to their quality and length of life. And since it has the high potential to cause serious permanent injury and death it would go against this Soldier's sincere moral convictions and beliefs that they must avoid self-harm.

3. Issue

a. AR 600-20; AR 670-1; Army Directive 2017-03; DOD Directive 1300.17 and ATP 1-05.04 all allow for and demonstrate that free exercise of religion is observed in the Federal government, the Department of Defense and the Army.

b. Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb–2000bb-4, calls for the protection of and accommodation for sincerely held beliefs and convictions of Soldiers. This act also gives the Soldier the ability to abstain from actions that are not in accordance to one’s sincerely held beliefs.

c. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_has had a long held sincere practice of preserving health and life. However, to order\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to take a mRNA vaccine or flu shot is a violation to their sincerely held beliefs of avoiding self harm.

4. Recommendation

 a. While AR 600-20; AR 670-1; Army Directive 2017-03; DOD Directive 1300.17 and ATP 1-05.04 do not specify vaccines are a violation of certain faiths, they do recognize that sincerely held beliefs are valued above all else and should be provided for or accommodated.

 b. Compelling \_\_\_\_\_\_\_to take such a vaccine or flu shopt without understanding the long term consequenses would be a violation of their First Ammendment practice. Thus, allowing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to not be required to take any COVID-19 vaccine or mRNA flu shot would be in compliance with military doctrine and Uited States law. Thus, this request is one that is a military necessity.

5. POC for this memorandum is CH (CPT) Schultz at 310-489-3922 or marta.h.schultz.mil@mail.mil

 Marta H . Schultz

 Chaplain (CPT), USA

 311th ESC HHC