

EXHIBIT C

ALVARADO, et al., v. AUSTIN, et al.

Declaration of

Army Chaplain (Captain) Chad Booth

IN THE MATTER OF THE VACCINE MANDATE CHALLENGE

DECLARATION OF CH (CPT) CHAD MASON BOOTH

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1746, I, CHAD MASON BOOTH declare as follows:

1. My name is CHAD MASON BOOTH. I am over 18 years of age and have personal knowledge of and am competent to testify on the matters stated herein.
2. I make this declaration in support of my challenge to the Department of Defense and Department of the Army mandates requiring that I be vaccinated against COVID-19. All statements made in this Declaration are true to the best of my own personal knowledge.
3. I currently reside at Poquoson, Virginia 23662. My home of record and where I am domiciled is Kannapolis, North Carolina. 28081.
4. I am an active duty chaplain in the United States Army serving at the rank of Captain. I am currently assigned to the 2-210th Aviation Regiment under the 128th Aviation Brigade stationed at Joint Base Langley Eustis (JBL-E). The address for my Battalion is, 27601 McMahon St. FORT EUSTIS, VA. 23604.
5. I began my military service on 04SEP2007 when I enlisted as an E-4 with the Primary Military Occupational Specialty (PMOS) of 56M (Religious Affairs Specialist). As a 56M I served prestigious units like, 4th Battalion 64th Armored Regiment and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and 3rd Battalion 15th Infantry Regiment deploying again in support of Operation New Dawn. My service there was honorable as I ensured the Soldiers assigned, attached or authorized would be ministered by or given the opportunity to be ministered by professional Chaplains. On two occasions I volunteered my office for a Soldier to witness the birth of his child in a private setting as he was prevented from witnessing in person. On another occasion I was asked to renew the vows of a Soldier and perform a wedding. Even though I was

enlisted I was still an ordained minister through the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and was given permission to officiate these events. Other events that were the responsibility of Senior Non-Commissioned Officers were orchestrated and completed with my direct knowledge and advice. Events such as memorials conducted professionally in order to honor the life of those who served. On 4 occasions I was recognized and awarded with the Army Achievement Award for my additional work being done. After being away from my family for over two years in a 4 year period I received orders taking my family and I to Belgium where I served as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of the United States Army Garrison – Brussels chapel community. My service there continued to be marked by success and received laudatory remarks from LTG David R. Hogg, who wrote me a memorandum advising that I become a Chaplain. My service as an enlisted professional was filled with dedication and faithfulness and is a result of my deeply held religious beliefs. Shortly before being commissioned I earned my promotional status to E-6 and completed all requirements to directly commission from enlisted to Chaplain with no break in service. I was directly commissioned on January 10th, 2017 from Sergeant Booth to Chaplain Booth while maintaining my active duty status.

6. My promotions were as follows: On January 11th, 2018 I was promoted from 1st Lieutenant to Captain. I will have 15 years of service on September 4th, 2022.

7. During my military career, I have had the following deployments to either combat zones or foreign areas: Operation Iraqi Freedom from February - December 2008, Operation New Dawn from July 2010 - June 2011, Tour in Belgium from October 2011 - October 2014, and Peace keeping mission to Kosovo in support of Operation Battle Group East from November 2018 – July 2019.

8. I have received the following awards; 7 Army Commendation Medals, 4 Army Achievement awards, the National Defense Service Medal, The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, The Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, 4 Overseas service ribbon and the NATO Medal. I have also been put in for and am awaiting presentation for the Meritorious Service Medal. I have completed the following professional military schools; Basic Leaders Course, Advanced Leaders Course, Emergency Medical Ministry course and the Chaplain Officer Basic Leaders Course during my military career. The Army has invested thousands of dollars into my professional training. It would be an absolute waste to throw it away simply to keep me safe from COVID. For further evidence as to the quality of service rendered to the United States Army please see my Officer Record Briefs.

9. I submitted my Religious Accommodation Request (RAR) asking to be excused from the Army's COVID-19 vaccine mandate based on my sincerely held religious beliefs. A summary of those reasons follows: During my intimate prayer time God told me that I was not to take any of the COVID-19 vaccines. After receiving this from the Lord I proceeded to test it to ensure that I was hearing Him. I searched through the Bible and continued to be reminded that if I did not do what I knew to be right that would be sinning. I also approached my wife about this and she confirmed that I was hearing from the Lord. On several instances I challenged the Lord and what He said and every time I was told not to take them. I have heard from the Lord many times throughout my life. It was the Lord that caused me to approach the recruitment tent at the 4th of July celebration in 2007. It was the Lord that spoke to my heart to join the Army after that interaction. It was the Lord that spoke to me and caused me to marry my best friend almost 19 years ago. It was the Lord that spoke to me and changed the trajectory of becoming a Marine Biologist to a minister. It was the Lord who spoke to me and caused me to take my relationship with him more seriously. After settling what the Lord spoke to my heart I started asking Him,

“Why?” That is when I learned of the links to abortion through either research, development, or various ways. This is one of the reasons I believe God told me not to take these shots. As to the whole picture I will not attempt to understand why God has told me not to take them. It is more important for me to obey rather than to obey and know what God knows. God told me not to take them and if I know nothing/something/everything as to the “why” is irrelevant because God told me and that is good enough for me.

10. My RAR was denied May 12th, 2022. I was not made aware of this denial until May 18th, 2022. I submitted my acknowledgement of denial and my intent to appeal on the 19th of May 2022. I submitted my RAR appeal on May the 26th, which is still pending. The cookie cutter denial to my original RAR was very offensive. The Surgeon General said that, “I considered your request, based on your Christian faith, and reviewed your specific case. This included an examination of your chain of command recommendations, your unit chaplain findings of a sincere religious belief, and your current military duties as a 56A, Chaplain.” An examination of my specific case would have easily revealed that I am the unit Chaplain. It would have also revealed that every level of command did not question the validity of my deeply held sincere beliefs. My RAR should have been approved as COVID-19 vaccines have not yet proven to be 100% safe, effective nor without any potential harmful side effects, see <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/sideeffects/index.html> ; https://www.algora.com/Algora_blog/2021/10/02/dod-data-analysis-shatters-official-vaccine-narrative. Also, it should have been approved as there are many less restrictive means of protecting me from COVID-19 like natural immunity, sanitary lifestyle and a robust healthy body with no comorbidities.

11. I have had no issue with vaccines in the past. However, as my relationship with Jesus deepens and I acknowledge Him in all my ways I recognize that some of the vaccines I have

taken in the past have been exceedingly unethical. As a young enlisted Soldier and as a Chaplain in 2019 I was completely unaware of the controversial nature of the Anthrax vaccine. I never thought that I should ask God if I should take something coming from the medical community. When informed that the HEP-A and Polio vaccines were produced using fibroblast (aborted babies) I was immediately convicted by God. I repented of my ignorance with tears and a dedication to turn away from sinning albeit in ignorance. Now that I know better I dare not sin. To sin according to ignorance is still sin. However, knowingly sinning with the assumption of forgiveness is an egregious act toward God and living life that way does not please God. I further object to these vaccines as they also do not coincide with historically and medically defined and presented to the public. The word "Vaccine" used to mean a medical procedure that protected you from the disease against which you were being vaccinated against whereas COVID vaccines do not protect you but are in reality a treatment.

12. I received a written order on October 14th, 2021 from CPT Sam Lowell stating that I was to obey the lawful order given to be fully vaccinated by November 20th, 2021. This order stated, "Failure to obey this order may result in punitive action or adverse administration action." Also, "I am counseling you for the conduct noted above" (conduct exercising my religious rights). "Continued conduct of this nature" (following my deeply held religious beliefs) "may result in initiation of a bar to reenlistment, administrative action to include your separation from the service, and/or punitive action under the UCMJ. If this conduct continues" (following my conscience), "action may be initiated to involuntarily separate you from the service under AR 635-200. If you are involuntarily separated, you could receive an Honorable, General under Honorable Conditions, or Other Than Honorable discharge. If you receive an Honorable Discharge, you will be qualified for most benefits resulting from your military service. If you receive a General Under Honorable Conditions Discharge or an Other Than Honorable

Discharge, you may be disqualified from reenlisting in the service from some period and you may be ineligible for many, if not all, veteran benefits to include but not limited to the Montgomery G.I. Bill and post 9/11 G.I. Bill. If you receive a General Under Honorable Conditions or Other Than Honorable Discharge, you may face difficulty obtaining civilian employment as employers may have low regard for less than Honorable discharges.”

13. Being threatened with UCMJ because of my sincerely held beliefs is but a sliver of what I have had to endure. Conversations with senior chaplains ended with encouragements to just get it because the Army owns you anyway. On one occasion I was told by a senior chaplain that he got the shot because he valued his career and that others should to. The Chief of Chaplains emailed the entire Chaplain Corps on January 25th 2021 and said, “Chaplain Corps Team – This has been a challenging year for all Americans, and a very challenging year for some of us on our team. COVID-19 has complicated our lives and taken some of our loved ones, and along with the other challenges we have faced in our Nation, has made a positive outlook difficult to sustain. With all that said, I am grateful for your perseverance during these trying times, in your work to continue the Chaplain Corps’ mission of “Caring for the Soul of the Army,” and in your commitment to our Nation. As COVID vaccinations begin to roll out, I look forward to hearing the good news that all of you have been given the opportunity to receive the vaccine. Sergeant Martinez and I were vaccinated early in January, with no adverse effects; and I am hopeful that vaccination numbers will accelerate so that the rest of you and your loved ones won’t be far behind. Until the vaccines proceed beyond their current emergency use authorization, vaccinations will be voluntary and each of you will have to choose to avail yourselves of the vaccine’s protection; but I highly encourage each of you to do so, as soon as you can, while you continue to take the other precautions encouraged by the CDC, as a part of our civic duty to one another. Thanks again for all you do. I look forward to the day when we can celebrate how our

Chaplain Corps, our Army, and our Nation pushed through the pandemic, and came out stronger and better on the other side.

For God and Country – Live the Call!

V/R,

Chaplain (Major General) Thomas L. Solhjem

Chief of Chaplains

"Caring for the SOUL of the Army"

Invest in PEOPLE, Connect them in Spirit, and Cultivate COMMUNITY!"

14. Words have meaning and when the Chief of Chaplains said, "I highly encourage each of you to do so, as soon as you can..." I felt that he was coercing me to take a product that was under EUA. As the senior spiritual advisor in the Army it felt as if he was saying that our deeply held beliefs do not apply to this and that we should avail ourselves to the protection the vaccine provides. When my 1SG (E-8) told me that he hoped that I had a plan for when I get out I felt that he was coercing me and that my career was being threatened. When my Battalion Commander continued to say that, "Some people are just not fit for being in the Army" when having a closed door conversation and out in public I feel strong coercion.

15. I was ordered to take an EUA COVID-19 test on the 6th of December 2021 simply because I was unvaccinated. I originally refused to take the EUA test as I did not have any symptoms of having COVID-19 and I felt completely discriminated against. After my initial refusal I spoke to a mentor of mine and he encouraged me to take the test so that I can work and provide ministry to those I serve. I regret following that guidance. Forcing me to partake in an EUA product is wrong. It is also wrong that my effectiveness as a Chaplain was called into question. For previous years I have executed my mission leveraging technology to have video conferences, family strength training videos, words of encouragement through social media and

ensuring that those in my care receive support regardless of being denied face to face interactions. After refusing the EUA test I was told to leave work immediately and to telework. After several days of teleworking and speaking to my mentor I reluctantly complied with the order. I took the test and it told me that I did not have COVID-19. On three occasions I took this test. Every time I took it I felt discriminated against. The Army was treating me differently and in bad faith making me feel like an outsider, like I was dirty, infected and not worthy of equal opportunity given to Soldiers who have been vaccinated and still contracted COVID-19 and not forced to test on a weekly basis. If I had symptoms then that would be have been easier to take although the test was blatantly EUA. However, I was coerced to take the test simply because I was not vaccinated.

16. At no time did any leader ask that I be tested for natural immunity established by AR 40-562. Being threatened with UCMJ, denied access to my place of duty, being on the receiving end of pressure to give in and take the shot despite my religious convictions, being told to have a plan when separated from the Army, being told by leaders that they “highly recommend” these shots despite the unknown long term effects they may cause is highly problematic. These retaliatory actions against me by leaders due to my religious convictions give me grounds to judicial relief.

17. From a desire to squash rumors from Soldiers I went to the McDonalds Health Clinic located on FT. Eustis. What I was told (please see “potential concerning information” email) sent up red flags and through a long process of engaging leadership I was ultimately told to stay in my lane.

18. The following retaliatory, career damaging, negative actions have been taken against me for requesting a religious accommodation request from the COVID mandates: I have official orders to PCS (Permanent Change of Station) from JBL-E to attend the Chaplain Captains Career

Course (C4) held at FT Jackson, SC with a report date of July 18th, 2022. However, due to Army Directive 2022-002 I cannot fulfil those orders unless I receive an exception to policy (ETP) from the under Secretary of the Army. My ETP was submitted March 31st and I continue to wait for a decision. I have been told by leaders that they will deny it because they want Soldiers to be vaccinated. The level of stress being placed on me by the Army is completely unwarranted. PCSing is stressful enough. However, having orders and being prevented from completing those orders because of my religious beliefs is very burdensome. The Army continues to baffle me. They order me to take a vaccine that goes against my religious convictions and they discriminate against me all in the name of keeping me safe from COVID. On the other hand I am given orders to PCS, to which I have no objection to, and they prevent me from following those orders. I want to follow orders and in both circumstances the Army violates my desire to keep a clear conscience. The world class training provided at C4 continues the professional development of Chaplains as they prepare to serve at higher echelons. Being denied this training could be detrimental to my career as other Chaplains will further their career as I fall behind. This Army level retaliatory action against me will not succeed in coercing me to violate my beliefs. I live with too many regrets and will not make more willingly.

19. My family has suffered the consequences of these retaliatory actions also. The house where we currently live is no longer being offered up for rent. So, instead of the family PCSing with me as directed on my orders we must find another place to live. Due to the current housing crisis there is nothing available that would accommodate my family. Signing a lease for a house that is not available while the Army takes ample time to approve or deny my ETP is also problematic. Living in a cabin, hotel, or motel is not a viable option as we cannot afford close to the \$3000 a month simply for housing. We considered purchasing a travel trailer but that would cost at least \$25,000 and then a vehicle to pull it with would cost over \$55,000. We cannot

validate these purchases as they are a huge financial burden that we are not ready to take on. We are putting our belongings into storage and I will move my family to North Carolina to give them a place to stay while I work and figure out where I will live.

20. To further the black hole of inefficiencies the Army has put on me because of my beliefs is the fact that my replacement is going to be here the 10th of June 2022. My replacement will be here (as I continue to be here) while the Army struggles to place Chaplains in units that have no spiritual leader to defend religious freedom, provide a safe space for confidentiality or to tackle negative behaviors. This waste of talent preventing me from attending C4 will have a negative rippling effect as the unit I would serve in the future will not receive their chaplain or another unit will suffer because they have no professional who provides a confidential space to help alleviate the inherent stress produced by the Army. All because of the prejudice stance being taken against me for exercising my freedoms protected by the Constitution of the United States.

21. The Army has made it clear that they want every Soldier vaccinated and that they do not care about the sincerity of Service Members standing up for their beliefs. They do not even care that many Soldiers have benefited from the proven science of natural immunity. It is not logical nor rational to scrap over 14 years of the honorable service I have given to the citizens of the United States. My faithfulness to God and adhering to my deeply held religious beliefs is what makes me a successful Soldier and Chaplain. When Soldiers leave my office after receiving pastoral counseling or giving a listening ear they go away empowered, encouraged, and assured that the conversation will remain private. Literally, thousands of Soldiers have had a positive impact through interacting with me and the care I give. If the Army forces me out because I had the audacity to “well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter” then the circle of violating what I hold dear would be complete.

22. I affirm that, "I, Chad Mason Booth, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

I make this declaration under penalty of perjury, it is true and accurate to the best of my ability, and it represents the testimony I would give if called upon to testify in a court of law.

April 7th, 2022

/S/

CHAD BOOTH



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 2-210TH AVIATION REGIMENT
27606 MCMAHON STREET
FORT EUSTIS, VIRGINIA 23604-5621

ATZQ-ALS

19 May 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Acknowledgement of Surgeon General Decision on Religious Exemption Request, CH (CPT) BOOTH, CHAD M., HQ, 2-210 Aviation Regiment, 128th Aviation Brigade, Fort Eustis, VA 23604.

1. On 19 May, 2022, I acknowledge receipt of the Surgeon General's decision to deny my Religious Accommodation request for the COVID-19 vaccination.
2. I acknowledge that I have the opportunity to appeal this decision through my chain of command to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower & Reserve Affairs. If I choose to appeal, I understand that the Department of the Army has required me to submit my appeal within seven calendar days from receipt and that I must submit TSG's decision along with my appeal through my immediate commander to the General Court-Martial Convening Authority.

3. I elect (initial):

Not to appeal.

To appeal, but I will NOT submit written matters.

To appeal and submit written matters. I understand that if I select this option and do not submit written matters within seven calendar days of acknowledging receipt, my right to provide written matters will be null, and my appeal will be submitted without any matters.

4. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned at chad.m.booth2.mil@army.mil or (704) 682-9802.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Booth".

CHAD M. BOOTH
Chaplain (CPT), U.S. Army
Respondent



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042-5140**

DASG-ZA

12 MAY 2022

MEMORANDUM THRU Commanding General, U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training, Fort Eustis, VA 23604

FOR Captain (CPT) Chad Booth, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 210th Aviation Regiment, 128th Aviation Brigade, U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training, Fort Eustis, VA 23604

SUBJECT: Denial of Request for Religious Accommodation

1. I reviewed your religious accommodation request for an immunization exemption from the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. Your request for exemption from the Army's COVID-19 vaccine mandate is denied.

2. I considered your request, based on your Christian faith, and reviewed your specific case. This included an examination of your chain of command recommendations, your unit chaplain findings of a sincere religious belief, and your current military duties as a 56A, Chaplain. Your chain of command noted that you are an Army chaplain and that you regularly have close interactions with Soldiers to address spiritual well-being and tackle harmful behaviors.

3. COVID-19 is a grave risk to the readiness of the force, and in your case, I find that vaccination is the least restrictive means to further the Department of the Army's compelling government interests, which also includes protecting your health, the health of the force, and ensuring mission accomplishment.

4. You may appeal this decision through your chain of command to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower & Reserve Affairs. If you choose to do so, you have seven calendar days from notification of my decision to submit any matters.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R.S. Dingle", written over a circular stamp.

**RAYMOND S. DINGLE
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
The Surgeon General and
Commanding General, USAMEDCOM**



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATMT

FEB 28 2022

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY CENTER FOR INITIAL MILITARY TRAINING
210 DILLON CIRCLE
FORT EUSTIS, VIRGINIA 23604-5701

MEMORANDUM FOR The U.S. Army Surgeon General, Office of the Surgeon General, Falls Church, Virginia 22041

SUBJECT: Chaplain (CPT) Chad Booth's Request for Religious Accommodation for Exemption from Immunization Requirements

1. Chaplain (CPT) Chad Booth requests a religious accommodation for exemption from COVID-19 immunization using the procedures outlined in AR 600-20. I carefully reviewed his request as well as the accompanying chaplain and medical provider memorandums, chain of command recommendations, and legal review.
2. Recommendation. I recommend you disapprove Chaplain Booth's religious accommodation request. I make this recommendation based on the following:
 - a. Sincerity of Soldier's religious belief. After reviewing the Soldier's request and Battalion Chaplain's memorandum, I believe he is sincere in his religious beliefs. Furthermore, receiving the vaccine would constitute a substantial burden on those beliefs.
 - b. Chaplain Booth's Argument. Though Chaplain Booth's religious beliefs are sincere, I find his argument for avoiding the COVID-19 vaccine illogical. Chaplain Booth argues that the "FDA is not God" and therefore he does not have to follow the FDA. However, a review of his record shows he previously received 36 other FDA approved immunizations while in uniform including the complete series of the somewhat controversial Anthrax vaccine and four other vaccinations (HEP-A & polio) which were produced using fetal cell line (fibroblast) technology to which he claims he is so adamantly opposed to. I am also concerned with the limitless boundaries of this thought process. If Chaplain Booth does not follow the FDA because it "is not God", it follows that he also does not, at his inconvenience, have to follow other legal orders of his commanders or the Army as they too are not God. Lastly, although the current command has a fairly high immunization rate that will help mitigate the spread of COVID, I do not know the immunization rate of his next unit of assignment. I am therefore concerned with the risk he would pose to others in the future should he remain unvaccinated. Chaplain Booth's arguments for refusing the vaccine are not compelling and cannot override the government's legitimate interest in protecting the force from COVID-19.
 - c. Compelling Government Interest. The government has a compelling interest in protecting the force from COVID-19 and the vaccine is the least restrictive means of doing so in Chaplain Booth's case. Social distancing or virtual engagements are suboptimal for a chaplain who arguably needs to conduct their critical work in a more personal manner. Given the rise of harmful behaviors across our Army, I expect our Chaplains to have regular, close interactions with Soldiers to address spiritual well-being and tackle harmful behaviors such as suicide, sexual harassment and assault, racism and extremism. Masks may offer some protection in close interactions, but would not fully protect Chaplain Booth or the Soldiers.
3. The point of contact for this memorandum is COL Matthew H. Adams, Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Army CIMT and Fort Eustis, at matthew.h.adams8.mil@army.mil.

JOHN D. KLINE
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
128TH AVIATION BRIGADE
2717 MCLAIN STREET
FORT EUSTIS VIRGINIA 23604-1342**

ATZQ-AL

25 October 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Headquarters, United States Army Center for Initial Military Training and Fort Eustis, Fort Eustis, Virginia 23604-5701

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Religious Accommodation

1. I have read CPT Chad M. Booth's request for COVID-19 Vaccine Religious Accommodation submitted prior to 14 October 2021. I assess that approval of CH (CPT) Booth's request for accommodation comes with minimal risk to the Soldier, the unit, and the unit's mission. He works in an environment wherein more than 95% of his co-workers are fully vaccinated. As a result of high vaccination rates, CH (CPT) Booth's risk of infection or transmission at work is minimal. This unit can support his accommodation without significant impact to the safety of our Soldiers or risk to mission accomplishment.

2. Upon consideration of that request, I recommend:

(X) Approval

() Disapproval

2 Encls

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W.1162367079 Date: 2021.11.09 14:52:50
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**JACOB W. MILLER
COL, AV
Commanding**



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
2ND BATTALION, 210TH AVIATION REGIMENT
27606 MCMAHON AVENUE
FORT EUSTIS VIRGINIA 23604-1337**

ATZQ-ALS

25 October 2021

MEMORANDUM THRU

Commander, 128th Aviation Brigade, Fort Eustis, Virginia 23604-1342

**FOR Commander, Headquarters, United States Army Center for Initial Military Training
and Fort Eustis, Fort Eustis, Virginia 23604-5701**

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Religious Accommodation

1. I have read CPT Chad M. Booth's request for COVID-19 Vaccine Religious Accommodation submitted prior to 14 October 2021.

2. Upon consideration of that request, I recommend:

() Approval

(X) Disapproval

3. CH (CPT) Chad Booth is without a doubt, the best Army Chaplain I've had the privilege to work with in over 20 years of service. He is dedicated to Soldiers and their well-being and I have complete confidence that his dedication to God is sincere. CH (CPT) Booth is a future battalion and possibly brigade chaplain. However, as a commander who has a responsibility for the whole of the unit, I recommend disapproval. I believe the government has a compelling interest in ensuring all military personnel are vaccinated to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Unfortunately, there is no "least restrictive means" in terms of vaccination. Without being vaccinated, Soldiers are more likely to carry and transmit the disease than those vaccinated. CH (CPT) Booth's daily duties require him to engage in personal relationships and close interactions with people and therefore, his vaccination status and ensuring he protects those around him to the max extent possible is of primary concern.

2 Encls

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**GEORGE T. RABB
LTC, AV
Commanding**



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
A COMPANY, 2ND BATTALION, 210TH AVIATION REGIMENT
27601 MCMAHON STREET
FORT EUSTIS VIRGINIA 23604-5621**

ATZQ-ALS-A

25 October 2021

MEMORANDUM THRU

**Commander, 2nd Battalion, 210th Aviation Regiment, Fort Eustis, Virginia 23604-1342
Commander, 128th Aviation Brigade, Fort Eustis, Virginia 23604-1342**

RABB, GEORGE, TR Digitally signed by RABB, GEORGE, TR
AVN 128ABR 23604-1342

**FOR Commander, Headquarters, United States Army Center for Initial Military Training
and Fort Eustis, Fort Eustis, Virginia 23604-5701**

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Religious Accommodation

1. I have read CPT Chad M. Booth's request for COVID-19 Vaccine Religious Accommodation submitted prior to 14 October 2021.
2. Furthermore, CPT Booth has served admirably in the United States military for 14 years, both as a prior enlisted combat Soldier and currently as a chaplain. It is clearly evident that he values both his faith and his military service. I believe that retention of CPT Booth is in the greater interest of the U.S. Army than his vaccination at this time.
3. Upon consideration of that request, I recommend:
 - (X) Approval
 - () Disapproval
4. I make this recommendation on the basis that CPT Booth remaining unvaccinated presents minimal risk to himself, the unit, or our mission. CPT Booth is a unit Chaplain who spends most of his time counseling Soldiers in the battalion. The vaccination rate in 2-210TH AVN REGT is currently 90% and rising. Given the extremely high vaccination rate in the unit which likely meets the threshold for "herd immunity", I consider CPT Booth's status unlikely to adversely affect the unit or its mission.

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NNAH.E.140903933
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Date: 2021.11.05 13:37:13 -0400

2 Encls

**SAVANNAH E. SHEPHERD
CPT, AV
Commanding**