



Presidential Religious Liberty Commission

Written Testimony for Blake Martin

Religious Liberty in the Military Hearing

December 10, 2025

The following is written testimony from Blake Martin, Former U.S. Navy, Chief Special Operator (SEAL).

To: The Presidential Religious Liberty Commission

From: Blake Martin

Branch: U.S. Navy – Chief Special Operator (SEAL)

Service: 17 Years, Honorable (2005-2022)

First off, thank you to the members of the Commission, members of my local Montana community, my amazing wife and kids who have supported me through every hard decision I've made in the past few years, and most importantly to God for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Throughout my career, I was trained to be the quiet professional, and I never thought I'd see myself sitting up here today. I just pray it's not all for nothing.

My name is Blake Martin, and I served as a SEAL in the Navy and was active for seventeen years. I submit this testimony to document the religious discrimination I faced for refusing to take what we all know now to be the unsafe and ineffective COVID-19 "vaccine" and the coercive actions that led to my involuntary separation from the Navy.

In late 2021 I pursued both a medical and religious accommodation request, and while I was denied the chance to even start a medical exemption because of an extremely bias evaluation from a navy medical officer, my religious exemption that I had submitted was denied, and my appeal, to this day, has never been answered. I was separated prior to any closure on my case.

Throughout this period, I received no meaningful engagement for the sincerity of my religious beliefs, yet instead I was called into my CO's office many times to sign a Pg13 (Permanent admin remark) stating that I'm disobeying a lawful order and will be subject to punishment under the UCMJ if I didn't take the jab.

After filing my requests, I experienced escalating administrative and operational restrictions that hindered my ability to serve:

- I was placed on a no-travel list for the remainder of my time in the Navy,
- I requested to reenlist but it went ignored, and therefore I'll never be able to transfer my GI-Bill to my dependents,
- I was required to perform weekly PCR tests solely to maintain badge access. Even though having a Top-Secret security clearance, there were mornings where I'd drive up to the security checkpoint and get the red light of shame and be escorted back off the compound in front of all my teammates,
- I had no ability to use Skill Bridge because I was restricted from traveling (which is an approved transition program for all separating service members to integrate with their hiring company prior to separating),
- And ultimately, after the Navy invested in upwards of \$2 Million into me and all my training, I was separated from service despite my honorable record and desire to reenlist.

These actions created an environment of coercion and isolation, leaving me effectively forced out of the Navy because of my sincerely held religious beliefs, not because of misconduct or failure to perform.

This mandate was implemented and enforced in ways that violated long-standing protections for religious liberty. This nation demands accountability from the willfully ignorant conformist leaders who blindly enforced and upheld an unlawful policy, disregarding service members' constitutional rights and their own sworn obligations.

The harm done - professionally, personally, financially, and spiritually, deserves retribution. I insist that those responsible be held accountable.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to defending religious freedom within the Armed Forces.

Respectfully,
Blake Martin

Former U.S. Navy, Chief Special Operator (SEAL)

Date: Dec 10th, 2025