



THE JASON

THE JAKE

Pentagon & Congress

Featured Video

# New military COVID-19 deaths come down slightly as cases drop nationwide

By Meghann Myers

 Oct 21, 2021



Col. Joshua Bookout, commander, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division receives the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at the Conroy Bowl on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii on Jan. 14, 2021. (1st Lt. Angelo Mejia/Army)

Three service members died of COVID-19 complications between Oct. 13 and Oct. 20, according to the [Pentagon's latest data](#), bringing the [death toll for October so far to 11](#).

The deaths reflect a [continuing trend among troops](#) that began in late July and has since more than doubled the COVID-19 death toll. The latest update, however, shows fewer deaths than in any week since August, along with a decrease in new cases for the second week in a row.

The services have reported 248,865 cases overall, with 1,282 new reports between Oct. 13 and Oct. 20. The previous week saw 863, a major drop from previous weeks, where new cases spiked above 4,000 weekly in



Scanning for fraudulent chips and a Russian chopper deal falls through | Defense Dollars



How much can I contribute to my IRA? — Money Minute



Best of Modern Day Marine | Defense News Weekly Full Episode, 5.16.22



Roundup: Modern Day Marine 2022

August and began to slowly come down later in September.

The trend reflects the pandemic's course nationwide, as an unprecedented, late-summer spike in cases has begun to subside. It also corresponds with an uptick in service members getting vaccinated.

“None of the service members who have died from COVID-19 have been fully vaccinated,” Maj. Charlie Dietz confirmed to Military Times Wednesday, though one had received the first of a two-dose regimen. “With the increase in vaccination rates across the force, we are hopeful that these tragedies will come to an end soon.”

Ad

The latest reported deaths include:

- Spc. Theodore Friedman, 27, died Oct. 9. He was assigned to 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th

Ad

Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado.

- Senior Chief Master-at-Arms Michael Haberstumpf, 42, died Oct. 10. He was assigned to the Joint Special Operations Intelligence Brigade, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.
- An Army major, 41, died Oct. 11. He was assigned to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

The most recent tally is unusual in that it includes only active-duty troops. Throughout the pandemic, Reserve and National Guard members have disproportionately succumbed to COVID-19. In the late summer/early fall surge, Army Reserve and Guardsmen made up roughly half of deaths.

## RELATED



Troops opposed to the COVID-19 vax can get a waiver, but they're rare

Out of millions of service members, only a handful have current religious exemptions...

By **Meghann Myers**

The services have all set dates for mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations, most of which are coming up by the end of the year. The active-duty Air Force's Nov. 2 deadline means that any airmen who intend to comply

must have received the final dose of a vaccine by Tuesday. Reservists have another 30 days to comply.

Navy and Marine Corps personnel have until Nov. 28 for active-duty and Dec. 28 for reservists. [The Navy on Monday](#) announced it would stand up a specific board to handle separations for sailors who refuse vaccination.

Ad

The Army has the longest lead time, giving active-duty soldiers until Dec. 15 to be fully vaccinated, and their reservists until June 30.

Of the [39 deaths reported since August](#), 19 – or 49 percent – were among Army Reserve and Army National Guard soldiers, though they make up roughly 20 percent of the military overall. [Since the pandemic began, they have made up 26 of 70 total deaths, or 37 percent.](#)

## Trending Now

Commander of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 28 ousted due to 'loss of confidence'

Putin complains about barrage of cyberattacks

UFOs pose real danger, says Pentagon, but aliens aren't to blame — probably

Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group deploys from Yokosuka

Blue Star Museums again offering free admission to troops, families all summer

As of Wednesday, 76 percent of the total force – 315,000 – is at least partially vaccinated. That is up 16 percent since Oct. 8, with 62 percent – 1.4 million troops – fully vaccinated.

---

## About [Meghann Myers](#)

Meghann Myers is the Pentagon bureau chief at Military Times. She covers operations, policy, personnel, leadership and other issues affecting service members. Follow on Twitter @Meghann\_MT

---

Share:



---

## More In Pentagon & Congress >

More nations expected to sign up for Pentagon's Ukraine aid group

A group of international defense chiefs convened by U.S. Defense Secretary...



Military commands spent pandemic money on space analytics, IT upgrades

The U.S. military commands responsible for North America misused at least...



Pentagon tech chief



## wants an 'all in one' sensor

It is one of several critical technologies that Heidi Shyu, the undersecretary ...



## Ukraine getting battalion's worth of artillery in new \$100 million aid package

The U.S. is sending Ukraine another \$100 million in military assistance,...



## Watchdog could subpoena former VA workers under plan approved by Congress

Currently the VA inspector general cannot force former employees to detail...



Ad

## In Other News >

### Lawmakers urge DoD to take action to curb rising commissary prices

Stop requiring commissaries to make a profit, lawmakers say.



### Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group deploys from Yokosuka

During its last deployment, which concluded in October, the Reagan not



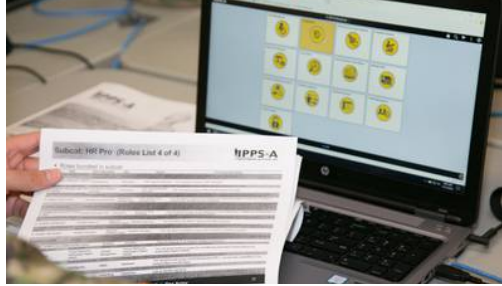


October, the Reagan not...



## IPPS-A rollout still on track after initial delay, Army says

The Army says its new master human resources platform is on track for full...



## Blue Star Museums again offering free admission to troops, families all summer

Participating museums are offering free admission to military families from May...



## Wildfire monitoring, other state missions in jeopardy without a Space Guard, these officials say

Space Force officials want to move away from the traditional Guard and...



Load More



Military Times © 2022



## Terms of Use

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

## Get Us

[Subscribe](#)

[RSS Feeds](#)

## Contact Us

[Advertise](#)

[General Contacts, Subscription Services](#)

[Editorial Staff](#)

## About Us

[About Us](#)

[Careers](#)

[Jobs for Veterans](#)

# Military