

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

Arkansas Gov.Sarah Huckabee Sanders sends letter to Joe Biden and Lloyd Austin in support of Col. Dillon R. Patterson and his right to freedom of religion and dignity



Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.— Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders sent the following letter to President Joe Biden and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin:

Dear President Biden and Secretary Austin,

As I expect you to be aware, on December 18, 2023, Colonel Dillon R. Patterson, Commander of the 188th Wing, announced his voluntary resignation from command of the 188th Wing of the Arkansas Air National Guard. Col. Patterson has served our country honorably for 22 years and earned numerous awards and

Unfortunately, Col. Patterson was forced to personally choose between either continuing his command or adhering to his sincerely held religious beliefs against abortion. Because he adhered first to his faith instead of overtly political mandates, he voluntarily resigned his command. I admire Col. Patterson for having the confidence of his convictions, but regret that our nation's military will suffer the loss of a dedicated airman, leader, and guardsman as a commander.

decorations. With all Arkansans, I thank Col. Patterson for his dedicated service to our state and nation.

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hered first to his faith instead of overtly political mandates, he voluntarily resigned his command. I admire Col. Patterson for having the confidence of his convictions, but regret that our nation's military will suffer the loss of a dedicated airman, leader, and guardsman as a commander.

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed that states may protect the lives of unborn children by appropriately regulating the practice of abortion. Arkansas, like many other states, chose to do so—protecting unborn life by prohibiting abortions which are not medical necessities for the sake of the mother.

While half the country made the obvious determination that the killing of helpless, unborn children is contrary to the public interest, Secretary Austin declared that the U.S. Department of Defense (“DoD” or “Defense De-

partment”) would subvert the actions of states like Arkansas by using taxpayer dollars to fund the travel, meals, and lodging associated with out-of-state service-member travel for procurement of an abortion procedure. Maybe equally as egregious, the DoD now requires that commanding officers—regardless of any sincere and deeply held religious convictions to the contrary—are forced to approve such abortion leave.

Abortion is itself a barbaric practice. But it is apparently not enough for this administration that abortion be available in some states and regulated in others. Thus, the Defense Department must now apparently sacrifice lifelong personnel's leadership in the name of military readiness—a laughable paradox if it were not so deeply offensive and damaging.

At a time when nearly every military branch has failed to meet

recruiting thresholds, it is difficult to imagine a more irresponsible and shortsighted bureaucratic mandate. As relevant here, nationally, the Air National Guard missed its most recent recruiting goals by a shocking 40%.

It is unjustifiable to sacrifice the leadership of a lifetime of service for abortion or any other overtly political issue. Col. Patterson's only fault was being a man of conviction led by senior Department of Defense leadership who had disregarded his service and abandoned his most fundamental constitutional rights in favor of more fashionable political and social experiments.

Rescind this policy immediately.

Sincerely,

Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor of Arkansas



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NFL Offers Free Admission to Military on February 7th

As a special thank you to the Military Community, the NFL will offer free admission to the Super Bowl Experience on Wednesday, February 7th for Military Appreciation Day. All active-duty United States Service Members, Veterans, and their Families tickets are 100% free on this day only, in partnership with Wounded Warrior Project, an NFL Salute to Service partner. Visit NFL.com for more information.

Improve skills, work toward college opportunities at CMP's 2024 Junior Rifle Camps for high school students

From the Tactical Wire

Each year, the CMP hosts a premier series of hands-on, informative Junior Rifle Camps for high school-age students and coaches during the summer months. Participants in the camps receive valuable lessons on intermediate and advanced marksmanship skills through various exercises and demonstrations, all led by current collegiate rifle athletes.

The Junior Rifle Camps are designed to train rifle fundamentals and techniques through group discussions and personal guidance from experienced mentors on the firing line. The schedule also includes instructional small-bore camps for even more opportunities to learn on the range. The camps are excellent tools in developing each athlete's strengths within the physical and mental aspects of the sport while refining trouble areas that may need more attention.

Types of Camps:

3-Position Air Rifle: The 3-Position (3P) air rifle camps are by far the most popular camp CMP offers. Over five days, athletes will learn the fundamentals of 3P air rifle, including but not limited to how to build a stable position, how to develop and use a shot process and how to compete like a champion. Athletes will get to know other competitors of similar skill levels from around the country and learn from some of



the best collegiate rifle athletes in the sport. Cost of the 3P Air Rifle Camp is \$300/athlete and \$75/adult chaperone.

Advanced Standing Air Rifle:

The advanced standing camps are tailored for athletes who want to take their game to the next level. Whether to improve the most difficult position or to continue working toward reaching a Division 1 NCAA school, this camp is for you. The three-day camp consists of in-depth instruction that builds off the fundamentals learned at the 3P air camp. Since there is only one position to work on, athletes spend the majority of their time fine-tuning their shot process and testing out advanced positional techniques. The advanced nature of the camp also allows for group discussions and special insights on the collegiate athlete experience. Cost of the Advanced Standing Camp is \$225/athlete and \$75/adult chaperone.

3-Position Smallbore Camp:

Similar to the 3P air camps, this four-day camp will teach athletes the fundamentals of 3-Position

smallbore, with special attention given to the advanced techniques when shooting outdoors. Athletes will learn how to develop positioning, optimize equipment and to perform shot processes to the fullest in challenging but iconic Camp Perry wind conditions. With smallbore making up half of the collegiate scores, this camp also provides details and discussions related to the collegiate shooting experience. Cost of the 3P Smallbore Camp is \$300/athlete and \$75/adult chaperone.

Camp Dates for 2024 include:

- 3P Camp #1 – Anniston, AL – May 27-31
 - 3P Camp #2 – Anniston, AL – June 3-7
 - 3P Camp #3 – Anniston, AL – June 10-14
 - 3P Camp #4 – Denver, CO – June 10-14
 - Standing Camp #1 – Anniston, AL – June 17-19
 - Smallbore Camp #1 – Tacoma, WA – June 25-28
 - Standing Camp #2 – Anniston, AL – June 26-28
 - Standing Camp #3 – Camp Perry, Ohio – July 1-3
 - Smallbore Camp #2 – Camp Perry, Ohio – July 1-4
 - 3P Camp #5 – Anniston, AL – July 15-19
 - 3P Camp #6 – Anniston, AL – July 22-26
 - 3P Camp #7 – Camp Perry, OH – July 29 – Aug 2
- The 2024 Junior Rifle Camp schedule is also available online!

View all camp information on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/camps/>.

Registration for the CMP Junior Rifle Camps opens Jan. 9, 2024. Late fees will be added to those who register after April 14. NOTE: All campers must have at least one adult leader in order to attend.

Questions on the CMP Junior Rifle Camps may be directed to CMP camp director, Ryan Hinson, at rhinson@thecmp.org or you can visit the CMP Podcasts page at <https://thecmp.org/news-media/cmp-podcasts/> and click on the “Junior Rifle Camps” episode to hear Hinson speak in more detail!

INTERESTED IN BEING A CAMP COUNSELOR? Find more info here: <https://thecmp.org/youth/junior-air-rifle-camps-and-clinics/junior-camp-counselors/>.

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR VENUE TO HOST A CAMP? Find an application here: <https://thecmp.org/youth/junior-air-rifle-camps-and-clinics/application-to-host-a-cmp-summer-camp/>.

A Brief History of CMP Junior Camps:

The CMP Junior Air Rifle Camp mission has always been to help juniors who have a desire to improve their marksmanship skills

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