# Biden Set to Pardon U.S. Veterans Convicted Under Gay Sex Ban in Military Law



President Joe Biden is expected to announce a pardon for U.S. military veterans convicted under a now-repealed law that banned gay sex. According to three U.S. officials, the pardon could affect around 2,000 veterans.

The pardon targets convictions from 1951 to 2013 under Article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which criminalized sodomy, including consensual acts. Those convicted of non-consensual acts will not be pardoned. While this development provides an opportunity for affected veterans to apply for a certificate of pardon, it does not automatically alter their military records or benefit eligibility.

This initiative is distinct from an ongoing Pentagon review addressing discharges due to sexual orientation. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin emphasized the historical injustices faced by LGBTQ+ service members and their sacrifices for the country.

Veterans seeking to benefit from this pardon must complete an online application, which will be reviewed by their military department and the Department of Justice. Subsequently, they may need to request corrections to their military records through their respective military boards.