

Eugene Vindman Says He Will Always Tell The Truth, Yet He Continues To Say He's A Retired Colonel Even Though He Didn't Serve The Necessary Years To Retire At That Rank

Vindman Served In The United States Army For 25 Years, Achieving The Rank Of Colonel On June 15, 2021

Vindman Served In The United States Army For 25 Years, Achieving The Rank Of Colonel On June 15, 2021. “Colonel Yevgeny “Eugene” Vindman, is an Army colonel and JAG Officer who was assigned as a deputy legal advisor on the National Security Council (NSC) where his portfolio included NATO, the International Criminal Court, African affairs, international organizations, emerging technologies, international humanitarian law, human rights, and ethics. On the NSC he briefed Pentagon officials, cabinet secretaries, the national security advisor, and the deputy national security advisor; drafted memoranda, sanctions E.O.'s and correspondence for the President's signature; and chaired interagency lawyer's group meetings. Prior to the National Security Council, he served in a variety of roles in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps, including senior policy attorney-adviser for the labor and employment division at the Pentagon, senior prosecutor (DA equivalent) for Fort Hood, and as an operational law attorney for U.S. Forces-Iraq. Eugene served for 12 years as an infantry officer, including an assignment as an airborne infantry platoon leader in the 82nd Airborne Division. He has a master's degree in administration and an L.L.M. and is a graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law and Binghamton University. Eugene is an expert in the law of armed conflict, military law, government ethics, and national security law. He is the author of multiple articles on national security, cyber, and international relations featured in Foreign Affairs magazine, Foreign Policy magazine, Lawfare and Just Security blog. Eugene was promoted to full Colonel on June 15, 2021. He retires this summer from the U.S. Army after 25 years of service. He is licensed to practice law in Georgia.” (“Colonel Yevgeny ‘Eugene’ Vindman,” [Legal Talk Network](#), Accessed 5/8/24)

While In The Military, Eugene Vindman Held The Rank Of Colonel, But Would Retire As A Lieutenant Colonel, Having Not Served The Minimum Requirement Of Three Years To Retire Under His Current Rank.

In An August 31, 2022, Article, *Newsweek* Reported That Eugene Vindman Was Set To Retire From The U.S. Army At The Rank Of Lt. Colonel, Despite Vindman And His Supporters Seeking A Waiver That Would Allow Him To Retire As A Colonel. “On Wednesday, the man who helped expose the phone call between former President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, which led to Trump's first impeachment trial, will retire from the U.S. Army — at a rank that his supporters believe is unbecoming the level of service he has provided his country. Yevgeny ‘Eugene’ Vindman currently holds the rank of colonel, but will retire as a lieutenant colonel, having not served the minimum requirement of three years to retire under his current rank.” (Alex Rouhandeh, “Trump Whistleblower On Ukraine Seeks Retirement Help Only Biden Can Offer,” [Newsweek](#), 8/31/22)

In August 2022, Eugene Vindman Said He Was Asking To Retire As A Colonel, In Spite Of Not Having Served For The Required Three Years In That Rank. “Excellent article in Newsweeks today about why I'm asking to retire as a Colonel. It's about honor, dignity and supporting the values I've lived by for 25 year. To the best Soldiers in the world, see you on top of the hill. Fmr. COL, U.S. Army, retired.” (Eugene Vindman, [Twitter](#), 8/31/21)



(Eugene Vindman, [Twitter](#), 8/31/21)

Vindman And His Supporters Worked To Receive A Presidential Waiver For Vindman In Order For Him To Retire As A Colonel, Despite Not Serving The Minimum Three Years At The Rank

Eugene Vindman Worked With Lawyers Defending American Democracy To Seek For A Waiver To Retire As A Colonel. “President Biden is facing calls to allow Col. Yevgeny ‘Eugene’ Vindman, who alongside his twin brother Alexander blew the whistle on former President Trump’s July 2019 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, to retire with the title of colonel. Vindman was promoted to colonel in March of last year by Biden after his career was sidetracked by a bad review — something the Defense Department’s inspector general later determined was likely a reprisal for his involvement in expressing concerns over Trump’s actions on the phone call but to officially retire as a colonel, one must hold the rank for three years. Lawyers Defending American Democracy, which wrote the letter to Biden, said the move would have significance beyond a formal title. ‘In granting this waiver, you will reinforce a critical message: those who stand up with courage for the constitution and the rule of law will be rewarded, and retaliation will not be tolerated,’ they write.” (Rebecca Beitsch, “Biden Faces Calls To Let Vindman Twin Retire As Colonel,” [The Hill](#), 8/26/22)

Eugene Vindman’s Lawyer Said That Retiring Vindman At The Rank Of Colonel Would Be Merely “Honorific,” And Would Not Affect His Retirement Compensation. Vindman’s lawyer, Mark Zaid, who founded the nonprofit Whistleblower Aid to offer legal services to others like him, told Newsweek that retiring Vindman at the rank of colonel would be merely “honorific,” and would not affect his retirement compensation. Zaid told Newsweek this honor would acknowledge Vindman’s commitment to upholding the Constitution and the sacrifice he made. Vindman said it’s also about recognizing the Army’s core values. “The thunderous silence from the Army and the military supporting me, and Alex, undercuts the values that the military is based on,’ he told Newsweek. ‘This abrogation of values will have a larger impact on the military than adhering to some misguided notion of remaining apolitical.’ (Alex Rouhandeh, “Trump Whistleblower On Ukraine Seeks Retirement Help Only Biden Can Offer,” [Newsweek](#), 8/31/22)

In An August 22, 2022 Open Letter From Lawyers Defending American Democracy, It Was Argued That Vindman Ought To Receive A Presidential Waver For His Role In In Trump’s First Impeachment. “Yevgeny ‘Eugene’ Vindman now seeks a small measure of honor for doing what we hope every lawyer would do had we been in his important position. Eugene was on the National Security Council due to his experience as a national security lawyer and ethics counsel on July 25, 2019. His twin brother, Alex Vindman, listened in on President Donald Trump’s call to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky, the call that resulted in Trump’s first impeachment. Eugene

is the person to whom Alex went following the call. Together, they reported the call's potential legal violations and the then-president's abuse of power and harm to national security to their supervisors. On February 7, 2020 - two days after the Senate acquitted Trump - both men were escorted out of the White House. Their promotions to Colonel were delayed. Alex retired. Eugene received a career-damaging negative performance review after that same superior, one year earlier, called him the best military lawyer and officer he'd ever worked with in his evaluation. The Army's Inspector General subsequently found that to be retaliatory." ("Open Letter In Support Of Eugene Vindman," [Lawyers Defending American Democracy](#), 8/22/22)

- **Lawyers Defending American Democracy Further Added That Vindman Being Rewarded The Rank Of Colonel Would Be Purely Honorific.** "He seeks the pure honor of retiring as a Colonel, which, by statute, would take President Biden's waiver of the requirement that Eugene have served three years in rank; he has served more than a year as Colonel. A waiver would not raise his pension. Eugene seeks only the honor and recognition due for his service to the country." ("Open Letter In Support Of Eugene Vindman," [Lawyers Defending American Democracy](#), 8/22/22)

The U.S. Army Declined To Submit Eugene Vindman's Request To President Joe Biden, Saying, "It Is Extremely Rare For This Type Of Time-In-Grade Waiver To Be Granted. There Have Been Only Three Such Waivers For Army Officers Since 1997"

The U.S. Army Declined To Submit Eugene Vindman's Request To President Joe Biden, Saying, "It Is Extremely Rare For This Type Of Time-In-Grade Waiver To Be Granted. There Have Been Only Three Such Waivers For Army Officers Since 1997." "The U.S. Army, which declined to submit Vindman's request to President Joe Biden, the only individual who can alter a military retirement title, declined to address the situation directly, but did provide Newsweek with insight into the process. 'It is extremely rare for this type of time-in-grade waiver to be granted,' Matt Leonard, an Army spokesperson, told Newsweek in a statement. 'There have been only three such waivers for Army officers since 1997.' 'Due to the extreme rarity of these actions, and the fact that these are individual personnel actions, we are not able to comment on when such waivers are 'generally approved,' he added. 'The statute requires that the waivers be for 'extreme hardship or unusual circumstances. Examples of situations that might be illustrative of an 'unusual circumstance' include an officer whose rank is upgraded by statute mid-way through a four-year tour, or an officer who is appointed to a civilian position in a Presidential administration.'" (Alex Rouhandeh, "Trump Whistleblower On Ukraine Seeks Retirement Help Only Biden Can Offer," [Newsweek](#), 8/31/22)

Despite Not Receiving A Presidential Waiver To Retire As A Colonel, Vindman Has Consistently Referred To Himself As A Retired Colonel

In November 2022, In Spite Of The Army's Declining To Submit His Request To President Biden, In His Biography For A Speaking Engagement At William & Mary, Eugene Vindman Is Referred To As "Eugene Vindman, Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired." "The Russian and Post-Soviet Studies Program invites you to a Tepper Talk by Eugene Vindman, Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired; and U.S. Mission Deputy/Director, Military Analysis Cell, Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group, Kyiv, Ukraine. The talk, entitled 'The Political, Military and Legal Implications of the War in Ukraine,' is free and open to the public." ([Press Release](#), "The Political, Military and Legal Implications of the War in Ukraine," William & Mary, Nov. 29, 2022)

In A February 2024 Campaign Video, Eugene Vindman Identifies Himself As Army Colonel [Ret]. "I served in the Army for 25 years. When I heard how Donald Trump tried to extort President Zelensky, I blew the whistle, putting my career on the line in the process. Now, I'm running for Congress. Will you join me and answer the call?" (Eugene Vindman, [Twitter](#), 2/3/24)



(Eugene Vindman, [Twitter](#), 2/3/24)

In At Least Four Social Media Posts From His Campaign, Eugene Vindman Is Identified As Colonel Eugene Vindman

On His Campaign Social Media, Eugene Vindman Has Posted The Following Endorsements That Refer To Him As Colonel Vindman:



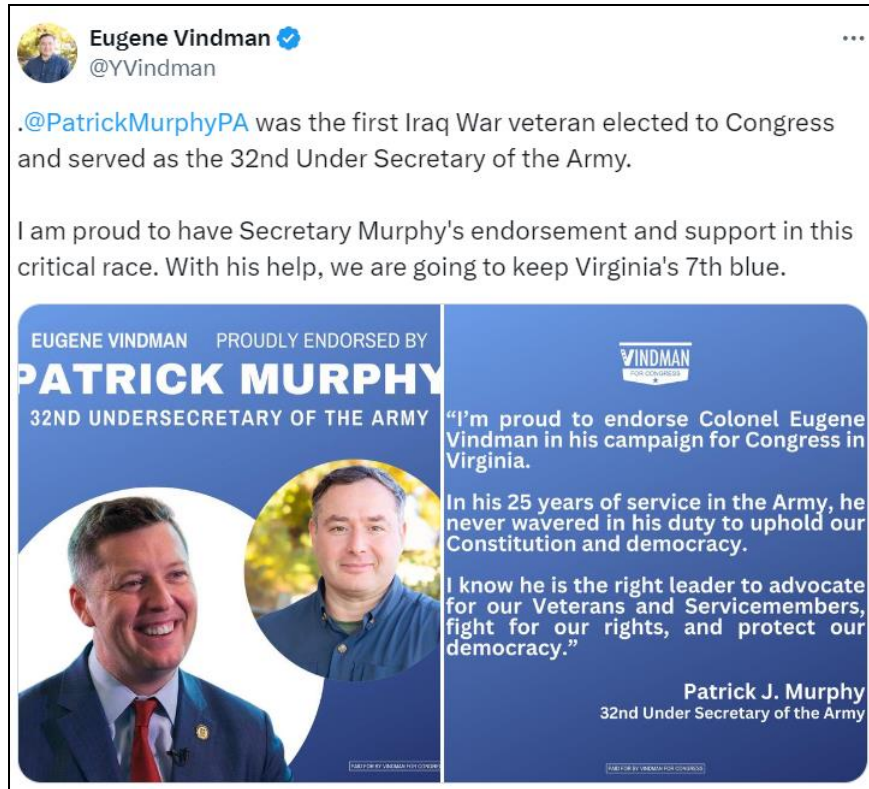
(Eugene Vindman For Congress, [Facebook](#), 3/25/24)



(Eugene Vindman For Congress, [Facebook](#), 3/27/24)



(Eugene Vindman For Congress, [Facebook](#), 3/11/24)



(Eugene Vindman, [Twitter](#), 2/5/24)

Eugene Vindman’s Biography On The Here, Right Matters Foundation Website Lists Him As “Colonel (Former), U.S. Army (Retired)”

According To The Here, Right Matters Foundation’s Website Biography Of Eugene Vindman, “Eugene Vindman “Colonel (Former), U.S. Army (Retired). “Eugene Vindman is a distinguished retired U.S. military officer, human rights lawyer, international law expert and advocate for democratic principles. With degrees in history, law, and management, he served in various roles, specializing in military law, government ethics, criminal justice, and national security. Notably, he worked at the National Security Council, focusing on ethics, NATO, International Criminal law, and human rights. Vindman retired to become the Director of Military Analysis.” (“About Our Founders,” [Here, Right Matters Foundation](#), Accessed 5/8/24)



(“About Our Founders,” [Here, Right Matters Foundation](#), Accessed 5/8/24)