

NATIONAL GUARD IS FINED  
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The state Freedom of Information Commission on Wednesday fined the Connecticut National Guard and the state's adjutant general for failing to give two Air National Guard pilots information about the military's mandatory anthrax inoculation program.

The pilots, Thomas Rempfer and Russell E. Dingle, said they were forced to resign from the guard in January 1999. Their resignations, they had testified before the commission, came after a guard commander asked them to investigate the effectiveness and safety of the vaccine. The guard, however, then refused to give them the necessary data on the drug, they said.

The commission found that Air National Guard officers delayed for eight or nine months in supplying the pilots any records; they then supplied Dingle with the wrong records, and gave Rempfer some wrong records and not all the documents he requested.

Despite protest from Staff Judge Advocate Lt. Col. Michael J. Tuohy, the four-member FOI panel unanimously decided to fine Tuohy \$100 and his boss, Adjutant General William A. Cugno, \$200. Tuohy argued the National Guard had done everything it could to comply with the pilots' requests for information.

Dingle and Rempfer said top-ranking officers of the guard stonewalled their efforts to get information on both the anthrax vaccine and on how guard officers had pushed for their resignations.