

Home
Mission & Overview
Online Application
Correction of Military Records
Discharge Review
Grade Determination Review
Appealing Unfavorable Information in Military Records (DASEB)
Army Clemency and Parole Board
Army Corrections Command
Disability Appeals
Don't Ask, Don't Tell
FAQs
Links
Contact Us

Home / Army Discharge Review Board / Discharge Upgrades and PTSD

"NEW" Discharge Upgrades and PTSD

[Click here to apply](#)

On September 3, 2014, the Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum providing guidance to the Military Department Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records (BCM/NR) as they carefully consider each and every petition brought regarding under other than honorable conditions discharge upgrade requests by veterans claiming Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This includes a comprehensive review of all materials and evidence provided by the applicant.

This policy guidance is intended to ease the application process for veterans who are seeking redress and assist the Boards in reaching fair and consistent results in these cases. The guidance also mandates liberal waivers of time limits, ensures timely consideration of petitions, and allows for increased involvement of medical personnel in Board determinations.

The new guidance provides that liberal consideration will be given by Military Department Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records (BCM/NR) in petitions for changes in characterization of service. The supplemental guidance outlines specifically what type of records and evidence will be given special and liberal consideration by the boards. To read the memorandum and supplemental guidance, please [click here](#)

Who does this guidance apply to?

This guidance applies to veterans whose characterization of discharge was under other than honorable conditions and who assert that they suffered PTSD or related conditions that they believe mitigated the misconduct that led to the discharge. This memorandum focuses on those veterans who served before PTSD was a recognized diagnosis; however, the guidance will be applied to all veterans.

How do I apply?

For procedure on how to apply to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR), please [click here](#).

*Note: If it has been less than 15 years since the date of discharge, veterans must first apply to the Army Discharge Review Board for consideration of an upgrade of their discharge (For more information on applying to the Army Discharge Review Board, please [click here](#)).

Frequently Asked Questions

Does this guidance apply to those with a general discharge who wish to have their discharge upgraded to honorable?

This guidance only addresses those with under other than honorable condition discharges who are requesting upgrade.

What does "Liberal" mean?

The military service review boards have wide latitude and discretion to review and assess each case independently in order to correct errors and rectify inequity. While we cannot predict the outcomes, this guidance is intended to ease the application process for veterans who are

seeking redress by explaining what supporting evidence would aid their case and assist the Boards in reaching fair and consistent results in these cases.

What if I applied before to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) for discharge upgrade and they denied?

If a previous applicant reapplies, given the new guidance, the ABCMR will consider it as a new case.

How long should it take to process my application?

With few exceptions, the Board reviews applications in the order in which they are received out of fairness to all. Due to the large number of applications already on hand and the complexity of many of the cases, it may be as long as 12 months from the date the board receives an application before an applicant receives notification of the decision. Be assured that the Board will consider each application as soon as possible and will notify the applicant by mail as soon as a decision is made.

Who will know about my case?

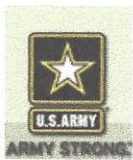
Submission of an application is a private matter between the applicant and the Board/Board staff. Only the applicant and those that the applicant authorizes in writing, such as counsel, will know about the case. However, some application information may be shared if the Board or Board staff requests an advisory opinion from other agencies that may possess relevant information or if any official agency that has a need to know requests information on individual cases. Under all circumstances, further release of information will be governed by the Privacy Act to protect the applicant's information.

Can I appeal the board's decision?

By Army regulation, an applicant may request reconsideration of an earlier ABCMR decision if the request is received within one year of the ABCMR's original decision and it has not previously been reconsidered.

Does the board have access to my health records?

The board does not have access to the applicant's health record. If an applicant wants their service health records or VA health records considered, the applicant must provide it. For information on requesting health records call the VA toll free number at 1-800-827-1000 to identify the current location of specific health records and to find out how to obtain releasable documents or information.



Contact Us | Privacy & Security | www.army.mil