

**APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF DISCHARGE  
FROM THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES**

*(Please read instructions on Pages 3 and 4 BEFORE completing this application.)*

OMB No. 0704-0004

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**PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT**

**AUTHORITY:** 10 U.S.C. 1553; E.O. 9397.

**PRINCIPAL PURPOSE(S):** To apply for a change in the characterization or reason for military discharge issued to an individual.

**ROUTINE USE(S):** None.

**DISCLOSURE:** Voluntary; however, failure to provide identifying information may impede processing of this application. The request for Social Security Number is strictly to assure proper identification of the individual and appropriate records.

**1. APPLICANT DATA** *(The person whose discharge is to be reviewed).* **PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE INFORMATION.**

|   |  |                               |                                       |                                   |   |                                      |
|---|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>a. BRANCH OF SERVICE</b> <i>(X one)</i>  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> ARMY | <input type="checkbox"/> MARINE CORPS | <input type="checkbox"/> NAVY     | <input type="checkbox"/> AIR FORCE                    | <input type="checkbox"/> COAST GUARD |
| <b>b. NAME</b> <i>(Last, First, Middle Initial)</i>   |  |                               |                                       | <b>c. GRADE/RANK AT DISCHARGE</b> |   | <b>d. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER</b>     |
| <b>e. CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT OR PERSON NAMED IN ITEM 11</b> <i>(Forward notification of any change in address.)</i> |  |                               |                                       |                                   | <b>f. TELEPHONE NUMBER</b> <i>(Include Area Code)</i> |                                      |
|   |  |                               |                                       |                                   | <b>g. E-MAIL</b>                                      |                                      |
|   |  |                               |                                       |                                   | <b>h. FAX NUMBER</b> <i>(Include Area Code)</i>       |                                      |

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>2. DATE OF DISCHARGE OR SEPARATION</b><br><i>(YYYYMMDD) (If date is more than 15 years ago, submit a DD Form 149)</i> | <b>4. DISCHARGE CHARACTERIZATION RECEIVED</b><br><i>(X one)</i>   |  | <b>5. BOARD ACTION REQUESTED</b><br><i>(X all that apply)</i>  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> HONORABLE<br><input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL/UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS<br><input type="checkbox"/> UNDER OTHER THAN HONORABLE CONDITIONS     |  |  |
| <b>3. UNIT AND LOCATION AT DISCHARGE OR SEPARATION</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> BAD CONDUCT <i>(Special Court-Martial only)</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> UNCHARACTERIZED<br><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <i>(Explain)</i> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE TO UNCHARACTERIZED <i>(Not applicable to Air Force or service members with over 6 months of service)</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE NARRATIVE REASON FOR SEPARATION: |

**6. ISSUES: WHY AN UPGRADE OR CHANGE IS REQUESTED AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REQUEST** *(Continue in Item 13. See instructions on Page 3.)*

**7. (X if applicable) AN APPLICATION WAS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED ON (YYYYMMDD) \_\_\_\_\_ AND THIS FORM IS SUBMITTED TO ADD ADDITIONAL ISSUES, JUSTIFICATION, OR EVIDENCE.**

**8. IN SUPPORT OF THIS APPLICATION, THE FOLLOWING ATTACHED DOCUMENTS ARE SUBMITTED AS EVIDENCE:** *(Continue in Item 14. If military documents or medical records are relevant to your case, please send copies.)*

**9. TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED** *(X one)*

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CONDUCT A RECORD REVIEW OF MY DISCHARGE BASED ON MY MILITARY PERSONNEL FILE AND ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED BY ME. I AND/OR <i>(counsel/representative)</i> WILL NOT APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I AND/OR <i>(counsel/representative)</i> WISH TO APPEAR AT A HEARING AT NO EXPENSE TO THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. METROPOLITAN AREA.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I AND/OR <i>(counsel/representative)</i> WISH TO APPEAR AT A HEARING AT NO EXPENSE TO THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE A TRAVELING PANEL CLOSEST TO <i>(enter city and state)</i> <small>(NOTE: The Naval and Coast Guard Discharge Review Boards do not have traveling panels.)</small> |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>10.a. COUNSEL/REPRESENTATIVE</b> <i>(If any)</i> <b>NAME</b> <i>(Last, First, Middle Initial)</i> <b>AND ADDRESS</b><br><i>(See Item 10 of the instructions about counsel/representative.)</i> | <b>b. TELEPHONE NUMBER</b> <i>(Include Area Code)</i> |
|   | <b>c. E-MAIL</b>                                      |
|   | <b>d. FAX NUMBER</b> <i>(Include Area Code)</i>       |

**11. APPLICANT MUST SIGN IN ITEM 12.a. BELOW. If the record in question is that of a deceased or incompetent person, LEGAL PROOF OF DEATH OR INCOMPETENCY MUST ACCOMPANY THE APPLICATION. If the application is signed by other than the applicant, indicate the name *(print)* \_\_\_\_\_ and relationship by marking a box below.**

|                                 |                                |                                  |                                      |   |   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SPOUSE | <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOW | <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWER | <input type="checkbox"/> NEXT OF KIN | <input type="checkbox"/> LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <i>(Specify)</i> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>12. CERTIFICATION.</b> I make the foregoing statements, as part of my claim, with full knowledge of the penalties involved for willfully making a false statement or claim. <i>(U.S. Code, Title 18, Sections 287 and 1001, provide that an individual shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.)</i> |   | <b>CASE NUMBER</b><br><i>(Do not write in this space.)</i> |
| <b>a. SIGNATURE - REQUIRED</b> <i>(Applicant or person in Item 11 above)</i>   | <b>b. DATE SIGNED - REQUIRED</b><br><i>(YYYYMMDD)</i> |  |

13. CONTINUATION OF ITEM 6, ISSUES (If applicable)

14. CONTINUATION OF ITEM 8, SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (If applicable)

15. REMARKS (If applicable)

**MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO APPROPRIATE ADDRESS BELOW.**

**ARMY**

Army Review Boards Agency  
ADRB  
1901 South Bell Street  
Arlington, VA 22202-4508  
(See <http://arba.army.pentagon.mil>)

**NAVY AND MARINE CORPS**

Secretary of the Navy  
Council of Review Boards  
ATTN: Naval Discharge Review Board  
720 Kennon Ave S.E., Suite 309  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5023

**AIR FORCE**

Air Force Review Boards Agency  
SAF/MRBR  
550-C Street West, Suite 40  
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4742

**COAST GUARD**

Commandant (CG-122)  
Attn: Office of Military Personnel  
US Coast Guard  
2100 2nd Street S.W., Stop 7801  
Washington, DC 20593-7801

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF DD FORM 293

### REQUESTING COPIES OF YOUR OFFICIAL MILITARY PERSONNEL FILE

Information on how to obtain military or health records is available at the National Personnel Records Center website at [www.nara.gov/regional/mpr.html](http://www.nara.gov/regional/mpr.html) or at your local Veterans Administration office.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit any request for their military records prior to applying for a discharge review rather than after submitting a DD Form 293 in order to avoid substantial delays in processing of the application and scheduling of review. Applicants and their counsel may also examine their military personnel records at the site of their scheduled review prior to the review. The Board shall notify applicants of the date of availability of the records for examination in their standard scheduling information.

Submission of a request for an applicant's military records (including a request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act or Privacy Act) after the DD Form 293 has been submitted will automatically result in the suspension of processing of the application for discharge review until the requested records are sent to an appropriate location for copying, are copied, and are returned to the possession of the headquarters of the Discharge Review Board. Processing of the application shall then be resumed at whatever stage of the discharge review process is practicable.

### DD FORM 293 - PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE INFORMATION.

(Items on the form are self-explanatory unless otherwise noted below.)

**ITEM 1b.** Use the name which you served under while in the Armed Forces. If your name has since changed, then also include your current name after adding the abbreviation "AKA". If the former member is deceased or incompetent, see Item 11.

**ITEM 1e.** Indicate the address to be used for all future correspondence regarding this application. If you change this address while this application is pending, you must notify the Discharge Review Board immediately. Failure to attend a hearing as a result of an unreported change in address may result in a waiver of your right to a hearing.

**ITEM 2.** If you received more than one discharge, the information in this item should refer to the discharge that you want changed. Discharge Review Boards cannot consider any type of discharge resulting from a sentence given by a general court-martial.

**ITEM 3.** If the discharge you want reviewed was issued over 15 years ago, instead of applying on a DD Form 293, you must petition the appropriate Board for Correction of Military Record using DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record Under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552.

**ITEM 5.** If you request a change of narrative reason for separation, you must list the specific reason for discharge that you believe to be appropriate, otherwise the Board will presume that you do not want a change in reason for discharge. If you do not request a change of discharge characterization in this item, the Board will presume you want to change discharge to Honorable.

If you were separated on or after 1 October 1982 while in an entry level status with an under other than honorable conditions discharge and less than 180 days of active service, you can request a change of discharge characterization to "Uncharacterized" and discharge reason to "Entry Level Separation".

**ITEM 6.** "Issues" are the reasons why you think your discharge should be changed. You are not required to submit any issues with your application. However, if you want the Board to respond in writing to the issues of concern, you must list your specific issues in accordance with those instructions and regulations governing the Board. Issues must be stated clearly and specifically. Your issues should address the reasons why you believe that the discharge received was improper or inequitable. It is important to focus on matters that occurred while you served in the Armed Forces.

The following examples demonstrate one way in which issues may be stated (the example issues do not indicate, in any way, the only type of issues that should be submitted to the Board):

Example 1. My discharge was inequitable because it was based on one isolated incident in 28 months of service with no other adverse action.

Example 2. The discharge is improper because the applicant's pre-service civilian conviction, properly listed on his enlistment documents, was used in the discharge proceedings.

In Item 6 list each of your issues that you want the Board to address. There is no limit to the number of issues that you may submit. If you need additional space, continue in Item 14 or on a plain sheet of paper and attach it to this application.

**NOTE:** If an issue is not listed in Item 6, it may result in the Board not addressing the issue even if the issue is discussed in a legal brief or other written submissions or at the hearing. Changes or additions to the list may be made on the DD Form 293 anytime before the Discharge Review Board closes the review process for deliberation. Please be sure that your issues are consistent with the Board Action Requested (Item 5). If there is a conflict between what you say in your issues and what you requested in Item 5, the Board will respond to your issue in the context of the action requested in Item 5. For example, if you request a General Discharge in Item 5 but your issue in Item 6 indicated you want an Honorable Discharge, the Board will respond to the issue in terms of your request for a General Discharge. Therefore, if you are submitting issues for the purpose of obtaining an Honorable Discharge, be sure to mark the box for an Honorable Discharge in Item 5.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF DD FORM 293 (Continued)

**Incorporation by Reference.** Issues that are listed on a legal brief or other written submissions may be incorporated by reference in Item 6. The reference must be specific enough for the Board to clearly identify the matter being submitted as an issue. At a minimum, it shall identify the page, paragraph, and sentence incorporated.

Example: Issue 1. Brief, page 2, paragraph 1, sentences one and two.

Applicants should be as specific as possible with all references so the Board can clearly distinguish the scope of the issue. Because it is to your benefit to bring such issues to the Board's attention as early as possible in the review, if you submit a brief, you are strongly urged to set forth all such issues as a separate item at the beginning of the brief.

**ITEM 8.** Evidence not in your official records should be submitted to the Board before the review date. It is to your advantage to submit such documentation with this application. This also applies to legal briefs or counsel submissions. However, you have the right to submit evidence until the time the Discharge Review Board closes the review process for deliberation. Documents that are of the most benefit are those which substantiate or relate directly to your issues in Item 6. Other documents that may be helpful are character references, criminal, credit and employment reports, educational achievements, exemplary post-service conduct, and medical reports. You should add your name and Social Security Number to each document submitted. The Board will consider all documents submitted in your behalf, but will respond in writing only to those issues set forth in Item 6.

### ITEM 9. TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED

A Discharge Review is conducted in two basic ways:

(1) Records Review or (2) Hearing.

1. **Records Review.** You may have the Board conduct a discharge review based solely on military records and any additional documentation that you provide. This review is conducted without personal appearance by you and/or your counsel appearing. A personal appearance hearing can be requested, however, you forfeit your right to a record review.

2. **Hearing.** You may appear personally (alone or assisted by a representative/counsel) before the Board in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area or before a Traveling Panel of the Board in selected locations throughout the U.S., if appropriate. The Department of Defense is not responsible for, nor will it pay for, any costs incurred by the applicant or representative/counsel for appearance or providing testimony or documentation. Detailed notification and/or scheduling information for all personal appearances will be provided after the application has been processed. In addition, without appearing yourself, you may have your case presented by a representative/counsel of your choice.

Applicants participating in a personal appearance or hearing examination may make sworn or unsworn statements, introduce witnesses, documents, or other information on their behalf.

Applicants may make oral or written arguments personally and/or through representative/ counsel. Applicants and witnesses who present sworn or unsworn statements may be questioned by the Board.

**FAILURE TO APPEAR AT A HEARING OR RESPOND TO A SCHEDULING NOTICE.** If you do not appear at a scheduled hearing or respond as required to a scheduling notice, and you did not make a prior, timely request for a continuance, postponement, or withdrawal of the application, you will forfeit the right to a personal appearance and the Board shall complete its review of the discharge based upon the evidence of record.

**ITEM 10.a - d.** Omit if you do not have a representative/counsel. If you later obtain the services of either, inform the Board immediately.

The military services do not provide counsel representation or evidence for you, nor do they pay the cost of such representation under any circumstance. The following organizations regularly furnish representation at no charge to you. Representatives may or may not be lawyers.

1. American Legion
2. Disabled American Veterans
3. Veterans of Foreign Wars
4. State or Regional Veterans Offices

In addition, there are other organizations willing to assist you in completing this application and to provide representation at no cost. It is to your advantage to coordinate with your counsel prior to submitting this application. This will insure that your counsel is able to appear at the location you listed in Item 9. Please note that some of the organizations listed above only represent applicants who appear before the Board in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area. Contact your local veterans affairs office, Veterans Administration Office or veterans service organization for further information.

**ITEM 11.** If the former member is deceased or incompetent, the application may be submitted by the next of kin, a surviving spouse or a legal representative. Legal proof of death or incompetency and satisfactory evidence of the relationship to the former member must accompany this application.

**ITEM 12.a. and b.** A signature and date entered by the applicant or person identified in Item 11 are required.