

1004. CHARACTERIZATION OF SERVICE1. Importance of Proper Characterization

a. Characterization is recognition of the quality of a Marine's performance and conduct. Determining the proper characterization should not be underestimated. Characterization serves as a goal for each Marine and as a meaningful endorsement to potential employers.

b. Most Marines serve honorably. In fairness to those Marines, commanders and separation authorities should ensure that undeserving Marines receive no higher characterization than is due.

2. Types of Characterization or Description. Characterization of service or description of separation based upon administrative action is authorized as follows:

a. Honorable. This is the highest quality of characterization.

(1) Honorable upon EAS separation. Honorable characterization is appropriate when the quality of the member's service has met the standards of accepted conduct and performance of duty for military personnel. Therefore, characterization will be honorable for Marines with average proficiency marks of 3.0 or higher and average conduct marks of 4.0 or higher.

(2) Honorable upon involuntary separation under chapter 6 or separation in lieu of trial by court-martial. Honorable is appropriate only if the Marine's service, notwithstanding the basis for separation, is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be clearly inappropriate. See paragraph 1004.3 and the specific basis in chapter 6.

b. General (Under Honorable Conditions). This is the second highest quality of characterization.

(1) General upon EAS separation. Characterization should be general for Marines with average proficiency marks below 3.0 and average conduct marks below 4.0. The separation authority may determine a fully honorable characterization of service is warranted, however, this discretion should only be used in rare circumstances.

(2) General upon involuntary separation under chapter 6 or separation in lieu of trial by court-martial. General (under honorable conditions) is appropriate if the member's service has been honest and faithful but significant negative aspects of the member's conduct or performance outweigh positive aspects of the member's military record. See also paragraph 1004.3 and the specific basis in chapter 6.

c. Under Other Than Honorable Conditions (OTH). This is the least favorable characterization.

(1) OTH upon EAS separation. Not authorized.

(2) OTH upon involuntary separation under chapter 6 or separation in lieu of trial by court-martial. OTH is appropriate when the basis for separation is commission or omission of an act that constitutes a significant departure from the conduct expected of a Marine. Examples of factors that may be considered include, but are not limited to, the use of force or violence to produce serious bodily injury or death; abuse of special positions of trust;

2 Retention is warranted under the limited circumstances described in paragraph 6207.2a or 6207.2b.

(3) If there has been a waiver of the board proceedings, the separation authority shall dispose of the case in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) If the separation authority determines that there is insufficient evidence to support separation, the separation authority shall direct retention unless there is another basis for separation for which the member has been duly notified; or

(b) If the separation authority determines that one or more of the circumstances authorizing separation as described has occurred, the member shall be separated unless retention is warranted under the limited circumstances described in paragraph 6207.2a or 6207.2b.

8. Limitations. Nothing in these procedures:

a. Limits the authority of the Secretary of the Navy to take appropriate action to ensure that there has been compliance with the provisions of this policy;

b. Requires that a member be processed for separation when a determination is made that:

(1) The member engaged in acts, made statements, or married or attempted to marry a person known to be of the same biological sex for the purpose of avoiding or terminating military service; and

(2) Separation of the member would not be in the best interest of the Marine Corps;

c. Precludes retention of a member for a limited period of time in the interests of national security as authorized by the Secretary of the Navy;

d. Authorizes a member to seek Secretarial review unless authorized in procedures promulgated by the Secretary of the Navy;

e. Precludes separation in appropriate circumstances for another reason as described in this chapter; or

f. Precludes trial by court-martial in appropriate cases.

6208. RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE

6209. ALCOHOL ABUSE REHABILITATION FAILURE

1. A Marine who has been referred to a program of rehabilitation for personal alcohol abuse and/or dependency, may be separated for failure through inability or refusal to participate in, cooperate in, or successfully complete such a program in the following circumstances:

a. There is a lack of potential for continued naval service; or

- b. Long term rehabilitation is determined necessary and the Marine is transferred to a civilian medical facility for rehabilitation.
2. Initiate separation proceedings following the procedures in paragraph 6303 or 6304 as appropriate.
 3. Characterization is honorable, general (under honorable conditions), or uncharacterized per table 6-1.
 4. Nothing in this paragraph precludes separation under other provisions in this Manual. See MCO ~~5300.1A~~ ^{P1700.24B} for further information. (CL-17)

MARINE CORPS SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT MANUAL

APPENDIX K

BENEFITS AT SEPARATION

E = Eligible
 NE = Not Eligible
 TBD = To Be Determined by Administering Agency
 DV = Eligibility for these benefits depend upon specific disabilities of the veteran

Legend

A = Honorable (DD Form 256 MC)
 B = General Under Honorable Conditions (DD Form 257A)
 C = Other Than Honorable
 D = Bad Conduct Discharge
 E = Dishonorable Discharge (General Court-Martial, (1))

Service Administered	A	B	C	D	E	Authority and References (7)
1. Payment for Accrued Leave	E	E	NE	NE	NE	37 USC 501-503; DODPEM par. 40401a
2. Death Gratuity (six months pay)	E	E	E	E	NE	10 USC 1480; DODPEM par. 40501b
3. Wearing of Military Uniform	E	E	NE	NE	NE	10 USC 771a, 772
4. Admission to Naval Home (2)	E	E	NE	NE	NE	24 USC 49, 50
5. Burial in National Cemeteries	E	E	NE	NE	NE	38 USC 1002
6. Burial in Army Post Cemeteries (3)	E	NE	NE	NE	NE	AR 210-190
7. Navy Board for Correction of Military Records	E	E	E	E	E	10 USC 1552
8. Navy Discharge Review Board	E	E	E	NE(8)	NE	10 USC 1553
9. Transportation to Home (4)	E	E	E	E	E	37 USC 404; JFTR par. U7500-7506
10. Transportation of Dependents and Household Goods to Home	E	E	TBD (7)	TBD (7)	TBD (7)	37 USC 406; JFTR par. U5225, par. U5370
Transitional Benefits and Services (13)						
1. Pre-Separation Counseling	E	E	E	E	E	10 USC Section 1142
2. Employment Assistance	E	E	E	E	NE	10 USC Section 1143, 1144

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Service Administered	A	B	C	D	E	Authority and References (7)
3. Health Benefits	E	E	NE	NE	NE	10 USC Section 1145
4. Commissary/Exchange	E	E	NE	NE	NE	10 USC Section 1146
5. Military Family Housing	E	E	NE	NE	NE	10 USC Section 1147
6. Overseas Relocation Assistance	E	E	NE	NE	NE	10 USC Section 1148
7. Excess Leave/Permissive TAD	E	E	NE	NE	NE	10 USC Section 1149, Def Auth Act 1999, Sec. 561
8. Preference for USMCR	E	E	NE	NE	NE	10 USC Section 1150
9. Montgomery G.I. Bill (Additional Opportunity)	E	NE	NE	NE	NE	38 USC Section 3011
Department of Veterans Affairs (5,6,9)						
1. Dependency and Indemnity Compensation	E	E	E	E	NE	38 USC 410(b)
2. Pension for Non-Service Connected Disability or Death	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	38 USC 521; 38 USC 3103
3. Medal of Honor Roll Pension	E	E	TBD (10)	TBD (10)	NE	38 USC 562, 38 USC 3103
4. Insurance	E	E	TBD (10)	TBD (10)	TBD (10)	38 USC 711, 773
5. Vocational Rehabilitation (DV)	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	38 USC 1502, 1503
6. Educational Assistance	E	NE	NE	NE	NE	38 USC 1411
7. Survivors & Dependents Educational Assistance	E	E	E	E	NE	38 USC 1701-1765

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8. Home and other Loans	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	38 USC 1802, 1818
9. Hospitalization & Domiciliary Care	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	38 USC 610; 38 USC 3103
10. Medical and Dental Services`	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	38 USC 612; 38 USC 3103
11. Prosthetic Appliances (DV)	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	38 USC 614; 38 USC 612(d); 38 USC 3103
12. Guide Dogs & Equipment For Blindness (DV)	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	38 USC 614; 38 USC 3103
13. Special Housing (DV)	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	38 USC 801; 38 USC 3103
14. Automobiles (DV)	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	38 USC 1901; 38 USC 3103
15. Funeral and Burial Expenses	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	38 USC
16. Burial Flag	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	38 USC 901; 38 USC 3103
17. Burial in National Cemeteries	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	38 USC 1002
18. Headstone Marker	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	38 USC 906; 38 USC 1003
Administered by Other Federal Agencies						
1. Preference for Farm Loan (Dept. of Agriculture)	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	7 USC 1983(5)
2. Preference for Farm & other Rural Housing Loans (Dept. of Agriculture)	E	E	E	E	NE	42 USC 1477
3. Civil Service Preference (12) (Office of Personnel Mgmt.)	E	E	NE	NE	NE	5 USC 2108, 3309-3316, 3502, 3504

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4. Civil Service Retirement Credit	E	NE	NE	NE	NE	5 USC 8331, 8332
5. Reemployment Rights (Dept. of Labor)	E	E	NE	NE	NE	38 USC 2021- 2026
6. Job Counseling & Employment Placement (Dept. of Labor)	E	E	E	E	NE	38 USC 2001- 2014
7. Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service Members (Dept. of Labor)	E	E	NE	NE	NE	5 USC 8501, 8521
8. Naturalization Benefits (Dept. of Justice, Immigration & Naturalization Service)	E	E	NE	NE	NE	8 USC 1439, 1440
9. Old Age, Survivors & Disability Insurance (Social Security Administration)	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE (11)	42 USC 417
10. Job Preference, Public Works Projects (12) (Dept. of Commerce) Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)	E	E	TBD	TBD	NE	42 USC 6706; 13 CFR.317. 35

General Eligibility. The eligibility for benefits set forth are not the sole determining factors, but only list the effect of the various types of discharge. The states also provide various benefits that will be influenced by the type of discharge, but information on state benefits should be obtained from state agencies.

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FOOTNOTES:

- (1) Including commissioned and warrant officers who have been convicted and sentenced to dismissal as a result of general courts martial.
- (2) The veteran must have served "honestly and faithfully" for 20 years or been disabled and excludes convicted felons, deserters, mutineers, or habitual drunkards, unless rehabilitated or the Marine may become ineligible if that person, following discharge, is convicted of a felony, or is not free from drugs, alcohol, or psychiatric problems.
- (3) Only if an immediate relative is buried in the cemetery.
- (4) Only if no confinement is involved, or if confinement is involved, parole, or release is from U.S. military confinement facility or a confinement facility located outside the U.S.
- (5) An officer who resigns for the good of the service (usually to avoid court martial charges) will be ineligible for benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). 38 USC 3103.
- (6) Additional references include Once a Veteran; Rights, Benefits and Obligations, DA Pam 360-526; and Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents, (VA Fact Sheet 15-1)
- (7) To be determined by the Secretary of the Navy on a case-by-case basis.
- (8) Only if the Bad Conduct Discharge was the result of conviction by general court martial.
- (9) Benefits from the DVA are not payable to (1) a person discharged as a conscientious objector who refused to perform military duty or refused to wear the uniform or otherwise comply with lawful orders of competent military authority, (2) by reason of a sentence of a general court-martial, (3) resignation by an officer for the good of the service, (4) as a deserter, and (5) as an alien during a period of hostilities. 38 USC 3103. A discharge (1) by acceptance of an other than honorable discharge to avoid court martial (2) for mutiny or spying, (3) for a felony offense involving moral turpitude, (4) for willful and persistent misconduct, or (5) for homosexual acts, involving aggravating circumstances or other factors will be considered to have been issued under dishonorable conditions and thereby bar veterans benefits. A discharge under dishonorable conditions from one period of service does not bar payment if there is another period of eligible service on which the claim may be predicated (Administrator's Decision, Veterans Admin. No. 655, 20 June 1945).
- (10) Any person guilty of mutiny, spying, or desertion, or who, because of conscientious objections, refuses to perform service in the Armed Forces or refuses to wear the uniform shall forfeit all rights to National Service Life Insurance and Servicemember's Group Life Insurance. 38 USC 711, 773.

(11) Applies to Post-1957 service only. Post-1957 service qualifies for Social Security benefits regardless of type of discharge. Pre-1957 service under conditions other than dishonorable qualifies a service member for a military wage credit for Social Security purposes.

(12) Disabled and Vietnam-era veterans only. Post-Vietnam-era veterans are those who first entered on active duty as or first became members of the Armed Forces after 7 May 1975. To be eligible, they must have served for a period of more than 180 days active duty and have other than a dishonorable discharge. The 180 day service requirement does not apply to (1) veterans separated from active duty because of a service-connected disability, or (2) reserve and guard members who served on active duty (under 10 USC 672a, d or g, 673, or 673(b) during a period of war (such as the Persian Gulf War) or in a military operation for which a campaign or expeditionary medal is authorized.

(13) Some transitional benefits and services are available only to those separated involuntarily, under other than adverse conditions.

See Department of Veterans Affairs: <http://www.va.gov>