

time after the sentence to confinement has become final under chapter 47 of this title and the member has served in confinement for a period of six months.

(Added Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, § 563(a)(1)(A), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 325; amended Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title X, § 1074(a)(6), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2659.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1167, acts Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 91; June 28, 1962, Pub. L. 87-509, § 4(a), 76 Stat. 121; Sept. 7, 1962, Pub. L. 87-649, § 6(f)(3), 76 Stat. 494, related to severance pay of regular warrant officers, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 96-513, title I, § 109(b)(3), title VII, § 701, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2870, 2955, effective Sept. 15, 1981.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-201 substituted “member has served” for “person has served”.

§ 1168. Discharge or release from active duty: limitations

(a) A member of an armed force may not be discharged or released from active duty until his discharge certificate or certificate of release from active duty, respectively, and his final pay or a substantial part of that pay, are ready for delivery to him or his next of kin or legal representative.

(b) This section does not prevent the immediate transfer of a member to a facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs for necessary hospital care.

(Added Pub. L. 87-651, title I, § 106(b), Sept. 7, 1962, 76 Stat. 508; amended Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title XVI, § 1621(a)(4), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1603.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

The new section 1168 of title 10 is transferred from section 1218(a) and (c) of title 10 as being more appropriate in the chapter on separation.

AMENDMENTS

1989—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-189 substituted “facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Veterans’ Administration facility”.

MODIFICATION OF CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY (DD FORM 214)

Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, § 596, Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 139, provided that: “The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall modify the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) in order to permit a member of the Armed Forces, upon discharge or release from active duty in the Armed Forces, to elect that the DD-214 issued with regard to the member be forwarded to the following:

“(1) The Central Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the District of Columbia.

“(2) The appropriate office of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the State or other locality in which the member will first reside after such discharge or release.”

§ 1169. Regular enlisted members: limitations on discharge

No regular enlisted member of an armed force may be discharged before his term of service expires, except—

- (1) as prescribed by the Secretary concerned;
- (2) by sentence of a general or special court martial; or
- (3) as otherwise provided by law.

(Added Pub. L. 90-235, § 3(a)(1)(A), Jan. 2, 1968, 81 Stat. 757.)

§ 1170. Regular enlisted members: minority discharge

Upon application by the parents or guardian of a regular enlisted member of an armed force to the Secretary concerned within 90 days after the member’s enlistment, the member shall be discharged for his own convenience, with the pay and form of discharge certificate to which his service entitles him, if—

- (1) there is evidence satisfactory to the Secretary concerned that the member is under eighteen years of age; and
- (2) the member enlisted without the written consent of his parent or guardian.

(Added Pub. L. 90-235, § 3(a)(1)(A), Jan. 2, 1968, 81 Stat. 757.)

§ 1171. Regular enlisted members: early discharge

Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned and approved by the President, any regular enlisted member of an armed force may be discharged within one year before the expiration of the term of his enlistment or extended enlistment. A discharge under this section does not affect any right, privilege, or benefit that a member would have had if he completed his enlistment or extended enlistment, except that the member is not entitled to pay and allowances for the period not served.

(Added Pub. L. 90-235, § 3(a)(1)(A), Jan. 2, 1968, 81 Stat. 757; amended Pub. L. 112-81, div. A, title V, § 525, Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1401.)

AMENDMENTS

2011—Pub. L. 112-81 substituted “within one year” for “within three months”.

EX. ORD. NO. 11498. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Ex. Ord. No. 11498, Dec. 1, 1969, 34 F.R. 19125, provided: By virtue of the authority vested in me by section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, and as President of the United States, it is ordered that the Secretary of Defense is hereby designated and empowered to approve regulations issued by the Secretaries concerned under section 1171 of title 10, United States Code, effective January 2, 1968, which relate to the early discharge of regular enlisted members of the armed forces.

RICHARD NIXON.

§ 1172. Enlisted members: during war or emergency; discharge

A person enlisted under section 518 of this title may be discharged at any time by the President, or otherwise according to law.

(Added Pub. L. 90-235, § 3(a)(1)(A), Jan. 2, 1968, 81 Stat. 757.)

§ 1173. Enlisted members: discharge for hardship

Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, a regular enlisted member of an