

established or determined under section 551–558 of title 37, the date of death is the date the Secretary concerned receives evidence that the person is dead, or the date the finding of death is made under section 555 of title 37.

(Added Pub. L. 89–718, §12(a)(1), Nov. 2, 1966, 80 Stat. 1117.)

CHAPTER 79—CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

- Sec. 1551. Correction of name after separation from service under an assumed name.
- 1552. Correction of military records: claims incident thereto.
- 1553. Review of discharge or dismissal.
- 1554. Review of retirement or separation without pay for physical disability.
- 1554a. Review of separation with disability rating of 20 percent disabled or less.
- 1554b. Confidential review of characterization of terms of discharge of members of the armed forces who are victims of sex-related offenses.
- 1555. Professional staff.
- 1556. Ex parte communications prohibited.
- 1557. Timeliness standards for disposition of applications before Corrections Boards.
- 1558. Review of actions of selection boards: correction of military records by special boards; judicial review.
- 1559. Personnel limitation.

AMENDMENTS

- 2017—Pub. L. 115–91, div. A, title V, §522(a)(2), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1380, added item 1554b.
- 2008—Pub. L. 110–181, div. A, title XVI, §1643(a)(2), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 467, added item 1554a.
- 2002—Pub. L. 107–314, div. A, title V, §552(b), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2552, added item 1559.
- 2001—Pub. L. 107–107, div. A, title V, §503(a)(2), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1083, added item 1558.
- 1998—Pub. L. 105–261, div. A, title V, §§542(a)(2), 543(a)(2), 544(b), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2020–2022, added items 1555 to 1557.
- 1962—Pub. L. 87–651, title I, §110(b), Sept. 7, 1962, 76 Stat. 510, substituted “discharge or dismissal” for “discharges or dismissals” in item 1553, and “retirement or separation without pay for physical disability” for “decisions of retiring boards and similar boards” in item 1554.
- 1958—Pub. L. 85–857, §13(v)(3), Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1268, added items 1553 and 1554.

§ 1551. Correction of name after separation from service under an assumed name

The Secretary of the military department concerned shall issue a certificate of discharge or an order of acceptance of resignation in the true name of any person who was separated from the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps honorably or under honorable conditions after serving under an assumed name during a war with another nation or people, upon application by, or on behalf of, that person, and upon proof of his identity. However, a certificate or order may not be issued under this section if the name was assumed to conceal a crime or to avoid its consequences.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 116.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| Revised section | Source (U.S. Code) | Source (Statutes at Large) |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 1551 | 5:200, 34:597. | Apr. 14, 1890, ch. 80; re-stated June 25, 1910, ch. 393, 36 Stat. 824. |

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES—CONTINUED

| Revised section | Source (U.S. Code) | Source (Statutes at Large) |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | Aug. 22, 1912, ch. 329, 37 Stat. 324. |

The word “shall” is substituted for the words “is authorized and required”. The word “separated” is substituted for the word “discharged”, since the revised section covers acceptances of resignations as well as certificates of discharge. The words “enlisted or” and “while minors or otherwise” are omitted as surplusage. The words “the War of the Rebellion” are omitted as obsolete. The word “with” is substituted for the words “between the United States and”. The words “honorably or under honorable conditions” are substituted for the word “honorably”.

PERSONNEL FREEZE FOR SERVICE REVIEW AGENCIES

Pub. L. 105–261, div. A, title V, §541, Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2019, provided that, during fiscal years 1999, 2000, and 2001, the Secretary of a military department could not carry out any reduction in the number of military and civilian personnel assigned to duty with the service review agency for that military department below the baseline number for that agency until: (1) the Secretary had submitted to Congress a report that described the reduction to be made and the rationale for that reduction, and specified the number of such personnel that would be assigned to duty with that agency after the reduction; and (2) a period of 90 days had elapsed after the date on which such report had been submitted.

§ 1552. Correction of military records: claims incident thereto

(a)(1) The Secretary of a military department may correct any military record of the Secretary’s department when the Secretary considers it necessary to correct an error or remove an injustice. Except as provided in paragraph (2), such corrections shall be made by the Secretary acting through boards of civilians of the executive part of that military department. The Secretary of Homeland Security may in the same manner correct any military record of the Coast Guard.

(2) The Secretary concerned is not required to act through a board in the case of the correction of a military record announcing a decision that a person is not eligible to enlist (or reenlist) or is not accepted for enlistment (or reenlistment) or announcing the promotion and appointment of an enlisted member to an initial or higher grade or the decision not to promote an enlisted member to a higher grade. Such a correction may be made only if the correction is favorable to the person concerned.

(3)(A) Corrections under this section shall be made under procedures established by the Secretary concerned. In the case of the Secretary of a military department, those procedures must be approved by the Secretary of Defense.

(B) If a board makes a preliminary determination that a claim under this section lacks sufficient information or documents to support the claim, the board shall notify the claimant, in writing, indicating the specific information or documents necessary to make the claim complete and reviewable by the board.

(C) If a claimant is unable to provide military personnel or medical records applicable to a claim under this section, the board shall make