

of the discharge or separation from the armed forces of an individual described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the military department concerned shall instruct boards of the military department concerned established in accordance with this chapter—

(1) to give due consideration to the psychological and physical aspects of the individual's experience in connection with the sex-related offense; and

(2) to determine what bearing such experience may have had on the circumstances surrounding the individual's discharge or separation from the armed forces.

(c) **PRESERVATION OF CONFIDENTIALITY.**—Documents considered and decisions rendered pursuant to the process required by subsection (a) shall not be made available to the public, except with the consent of the individual concerned.

(d) **SEX-RELATED OFFENSE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “sex-related offense” means any of the following:

(1) Rape or sexual assault under subsection (a) or (b) of section 920 of this title (article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(2) Forcible sodomy under section 925 of this title (article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(3) An attempt to commit an offense specified in paragraph (1) or (2) as punishable under section 880 of this title (article 80 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(Added and amended Pub. L. 115–91, div. A, title V, § 522(a)(1), (b), (c), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1380, 1381.)

CODIFICATION

Text of section, as added by Pub. L. 115–91, is based on text of Pub. L. 113–291, div. A, title V, § 547, Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 3375, which was formerly set out in a note under section 1553 of this title before being transferred to this chapter and designated as the text of this section.

AMENDMENTS

2017—Pub. L. 115–91, § 522(a)(1), inserted section enumerator and catchline and transferred text of section 547 of Pub. L. 113–291 to this section. See Codification note above.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115–91, § 522(c)(2), substituted “boards of the military department concerned established in accordance with this chapter” for “boards for the correction of military records of the military department concerned” and “being the victim of a sex-related offense” for “being the victim of such an offense”.

Pub. L. 115–91, § 522(c)(1), substituted “armed forces” for “Armed Forces” in two places.

Pub. L. 115–91, § 522(b), substituted “who was the victim of a sex-related offense, or alleges that the individual was the victim of a sex-related offense,” for “who was the victim of a sex-related offense”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 115–91, § 522(c)(3), substituted “boards of the military department concerned established in accordance with this chapter” for “boards for the correction of military records” in introductory provisions.

Pub. L. 115–91, § 522(c)(1), substituted “armed forces” for “Armed Forces” in two places.

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 115–91, § 522(c)(4)(B), substituted “this title” for “title 10, United States Code”.

Subsec. (d)(2), (3). Pub. L. 115–91, § 522(c)(4)(C), substituted “this title” for “such title”.

§ 1555. Professional staff

(a) The Secretary of each military department shall assign to the staff of the service review agency of that military department at least one attorney and at least one physician. Such assignments shall be made on a permanent, full-time basis and may be made from members of the armed forces or civilian employees.

(b) Personnel assigned pursuant to subsection (a)—

(1) shall work under the supervision of the director or executive director (as the case may be) of the service review agency; and

(2) shall be assigned duties as advisers to the director or executive director or other staff members on legal and medical matters, respectively, that are being considered by the agency.

(c) In this section, the term “service review agency” means—

(1) with respect to the Department of the Army, the Army Review Boards Agency;

(2) with respect to the Department of the Navy, the Navy Council of Personnel Boards and the Board for Correction of Naval Records; and

(3) with respect to the Department of the Air Force, the Air Force Review Boards Agency.

(Added Pub. L. 105–261, div. A, title V, § 542(a)(1), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2020; amended Pub. L. 106–65, div. A, title V, § 582, Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 634.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 106–65 inserted “the Navy Council of Personnel Boards and” after “Department of the Navy,”.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 105–261, div. A, title V, § 542(b), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2020, provided that: “Section 1555 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 17, 1998].”

§ 1556. Ex parte communications prohibited

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of each military department shall ensure that an applicant seeking corrective action by the Army Review Boards Agency, the Air Force Review Boards Agency, or the Board for Correction of Naval Records, as the case may be, is provided a copy of all correspondence and communications (including summaries of verbal communications) to or from the agency or board, or a member of the staff of the agency or board, with an entity or person outside the agency or board that pertain directly to the applicant's case or have a material effect on the applicant's case.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Subsection (a) does not apply to the following:

(1) Classified information.

(2) Information the release of which is otherwise prohibited by law or regulation.

(3) Any record previously provided to the applicant or known to be possessed by the applicant.

(4) Any correspondence that is purely administrative in nature.

(5) Any military record that is (or may be) provided to the applicant by the Secretary of the military department or other source.

(Added Pub. L. 105-261, div. A, title V, §543(a)(1), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2020.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 105-261, div. A, title V, §543(b), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2021, provided that: “Section 1556 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to correspondence and communications made 60 days or more after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 17, 1998].”

§ 1557. Timeliness standards for disposition of applications before Corrections Boards

(a) TEN-MONTH CLEARANCE PERCENTAGE.—Of the applications received by a Corrections Board during a period specified in the following table, the percentage on which final action by the Corrections Board must be completed within 10 months of receipt (other than for those applications considered suitable for administrative correction) is as follows:

| For applications received during— | The percentage on which final Correction Board action must be completed within 10 months of receipt is— |
|--|---|
| the period of fiscal years 2001 and 2002 | 50 |
| the period of fiscal years 2003 and 2004 | 60 |
| the period of fiscal years 2005, 2006, and 2007 | 70 |
| the period of fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 | 80 |
| the period of any fiscal year after fiscal year 2010 | 90. |

(b) CLEARANCE DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS.—Final action by a Corrections Board on all applications received by the Corrections Board (other than those applications considered suitable for administrative correction) shall be completed within 18 months of receipt.

(c) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the military department concerned may exclude an individual application from the timeliness standards prescribed in subsections (a) and (b) if the Secretary determines that the application warrants a longer period of consideration. The authority of the Secretary of a military department under this subsection may not be delegated.

(d) FAILURE TO MEET TIMELINESS STANDARDS NOT TO AFFECT ANY INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION.—Failure of a Corrections Board to meet the applicable timeliness standard for any period of time under subsection (a) or (b) does not confer any presumption or advantage with respect to consideration by the board of any application.

(e) REPORTS ON FAILURE TO MEET TIMELINESS STANDARDS.—The Secretary of the military department concerned shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report not later than June 1 following any fiscal year during which the Corrections Board of that Secretary’s military department was unable to meet the applicable timeliness standard for that fiscal year under subsections (a) and (b). The report shall specify

the reasons why the standard could not be met and the corrective actions initiated to ensure compliance in the future. The report shall also specify the number of waivers granted under subsection (c) during that fiscal year.

(f) CORRECTIONS BOARD DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Corrections Board” means—

- (1) with respect to the Department of the Army, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records;
- (2) with respect to the Department of the Navy, the Board for Correction of Naval Records; and
- (3) with respect to the Department of the Air Force, the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records.

(Added Pub. L. 105-261, div. A, title V, §544(a), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2021; amended Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title X, §1067(1), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 774; Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title X, §1084(d)(12), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2062.)

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 108-375 substituted “Final” for “Effective October 1, 2002, final”.

1999—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 106-65 substituted “and the Committee on Armed Services” for “and the Committee on National Security”.

TERMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

For termination, effective Dec. 31, 2021, of provisions in subsec. (e) of this section requiring submittal of report to Congress, see section 1061 of Pub. L. 114-328, set out as a note under section 111 of this title.

§ 1558. Review of actions of selection boards: correction of military records by special boards; judicial review

(a) CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS.—The Secretary of a military department may correct a person’s military records in accordance with a recommendation made by a special board. Any such correction may be made effective as of the effective date of the action taken on a report of a previous selection board that resulted in the action corrected in the person’s military records.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SPECIAL BOARD.—(A) The term “special board” means a board that the Secretary of a military department convenes under any authority to consider whether to recommend a person for appointment, enlistment, reenlistment, assignment, promotion, retention, separation, retirement, or transfer to inactive status in a reserve component instead of referring the records of that person for consideration by a previously convened selection board which considered or should have considered that person.

(B) Such term includes a board for the correction of military records convened under section 1552 of this title, if designated as a special board by the Secretary concerned.

(C) Such term does not include a promotion special selection board convened under section 628 or 14502 of this title.

(2) SELECTION BOARD.—(A) The term “selection board” means a selection board convened under section 573(c), 580, 580a, 581, 611(b), 637, 638, 638a, 14101(b), 14701, 14704, or 14705 of this