

§ 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 armed force who has dependents may be discharged for hardship.

(Added Pub. L. 93-64, title I, §102, July 9, 1973, 87 Stat. 147.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1973, see section 206 of Pub. L. 93-64, set out as a note under section 401 of Title 37, Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services.

§ 1174. Separation pay upon involuntary discharge or release from active duty

(a) REGULAR OFFICERS.—(1) A regular officer who is discharged under chapter 36 of this title (except under section 630(1)(A) or 643 of such chapter) or under section 580 or 8372 of this title and who has completed six or more, but less than twenty, years of active service immediately before that discharge is entitled to separation pay computed under subsection (d)(1).

(2) A regular commissioned officer of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Space Force who is discharged under section 630(1)(A), 643, or 1186 of this title, and a regular warrant officer of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Space Force who is separated under section 1165 or 1166 of this title, who has completed six or more, but less than twenty, years of active service immediately before that discharge or separation is entitled to separation pay computed under subsection (d)(1) or (d)(2), as determined by the Secretary of the military department concerned, unless the Secretary concerned determines that the conditions under which the officer is discharged or separated do not warrant payment of such pay.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), an officer discharged under any provision of chapter 36 of this title for twice failing of selection for promotion to the next higher grade is not entitled to separation pay under this section if either (or both) of those failures of selection for promotion was by the action of a selection board to which the officer submitted a request in writing not to be selected for promotion or who otherwise directly caused his nonselection through written communication to the Board under section 614(b) of this title.

(4) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), an officer who is subject to discharge under any provision of chapter 36 of this title or under section 580 or 8372 of this title by reason of having twice failed of selection for promotion to the next higher grade is not entitled to separation pay under this section if that officer, after such second failure of selection for promotion, is selected for, and declines, continuation on active duty for a period that is equal to or more than the amount of service required to qualify the officer for retirement.

(b) REGULAR ENLISTED MEMBERS.—(1) A regular enlisted member of an armed force who is discharged involuntarily or as the result of the denial of the reenlistment of the member and who has completed six or more, but less than 20, years of active service immediately before that discharge is entitled to separation pay computed