

MILPERSMAN 1910-304

DESCRIPTION OF CHARACTERIZATION OF SERVICE

Responsible Office	NAVPERSCOM (PERS-832)	Phone:	DSN	882-4433
			COM	(901) 874-4433
			FAX	882-2624

1. **Types of Characterization.** Use this table along with [MILPERSMAN 1910-302](#) to determine a member's characterization of service upon separation, except for entry level separation (ELS) and uncharacterized separations (see [MILPERSMAN 1910-308](#)).

NOTE: For determining characterization of service for members separating at expiration of active obligated service (EAOS) refer to [MILPERSMAN 1910-104](#).

ASSIGN	WHEN
Honorable (HON)	the quality of the member's service generally met the standard of acceptable conduct and performance for naval personnel, or is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization of service would be clearly inappropriate.
General (Under Honorable Conditions) (GEN)	the quality of the member's service has been honest and faithful; however, significant negative aspects of the member's conduct or performance of duty outweighed positive aspects of the member's service record. In the absence of a specific finding from an administrative board, a characterization of service as GEN may be awarded based on a review of a Sailor's overall service record.

ASSIGN	WHEN
Under Other Than Honorable (OTH)	<p>Conduct involving one or more acts of omissions that constitute a significant departure from the conduct expected of members of Naval Service. Examples of factors that may be considered include the use of force or violence to produce serious bodily injury or death, abuse of special position of trust, disregard by a superior of customary superior-subordinate relationships, acts or omissions that endanger the security of the United States (U.S.) or the health and welfare of other servicemembers of the military service, those punishable by punitive discharges, extended unauthorized absence (UA), drug abuse and drug distribution (trafficking).</p> <p>OTH can be awarded only if administrative board procedures were used, regardless of whether the board was held, when a member requests an OTH in lieu of trial by court-martial (see MILPERSMAN 1910-106), or when a member requests transfer to the Fleet Reserve in lieu of administrative processing (see MILPERSMAN 1910-166). The OTH must be approved by a General Court-Martial Convening Authority (GCMCA), Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM), or Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) (see MILPERSMAN 1910-704).</p>