

## MILPERSMAN 1920-210

### TYPES OF DISCHARGE FOR OFFICERS

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1. **Types of Discharge Certificates.** Officers who have been separated from the Navy, as distinguished from those merely released from an active duty status, with certain infrequent exceptions, are entitled to one of the following types of discharge certificates:

a. An honorable discharge certificate will generally be granted to officers under circumstances that would warrant such a discharge in the case of an enlisted member in the Navy. The following will govern the issuance of honorable discharge certificates:

(1) Acceptance of unqualified resignations; use proper letter format per [MILPERSMAN 1920-190](#);

(2) Discharge of reserve officers on inactive duty for age, failure to maintain physical qualifications, physical standards, or for reasons which, by administrative determination, entitle them to honorable discharges;

(3) Discharge by reason of no future need for the services that an officer is qualified to perform;

(4) Discharge because of failure to pass professional examination for promotion or failure of selection for promotion; or

(5) Administrative separation for cause in cases wherein the cause of separation is not deemed to be of such nature as to preclude honorable discharge, for example:

(a) Academic failures despite honest effort;

(b) Personality defects or physical deficiencies, despite the member concerned is believed to have performed service to the best of his or her ability; or

(c) Other conditions generally resulting in an honorable discharge for enlisted personnel.

b. A general discharge certificate must be granted to officers administratively separated for causes wherein the cause for separation or the previous record of the officer concerned is of such a nature to preclude an honorable discharge, but is not of such a nature to require discharge under conditions other than honorable, for example:

(1) Acceptance of qualified resignations;

(2) Academic failures due at least in part to lack of effort;

(3) Personality defects or physical deficiencies unaccompanied by a record of performance deemed to represent the best of which the member is capable;

(4) Separation for habitual drunkenness and chronic default in the fulfillment of legal obligations; or

(5) Separation for any cause wherein review of the concerned member's record of service indicates performance of duty of a consistently below average or unsatisfactory character.

c. No certificate must be awarded to an officer separated whenever the circumstances prompting separation are not deemed consonant with traditional Navy concepts of "honor;" examples of situations in which this type of discharge must be awarded are:

(1) Acceptance of a resignation to escape dismissal. Such resignations are typified for the "good of the Service" and submitted using proper letter format per [MILPERSMAN 1920-190](#);

(2) Acceptance of a resignation to escape trial by general court-martial. Such resignations are typified for the "good of the Service" and submitted using proper letter format per [MILPERSMAN 1920-190](#);

(3) Acceptance of a resignation for the "good of the Service." This type of resignation must be submitted using proper letter format per [MILPERSMAN 1920-190](#);

(4) Separation of an officer by reason of record of civilian criminal conviction;

**Note:** Exception is for an officer dropped from the rolls under statutory provisions to whom no certificate of discharge is awarded.

(5) Separation for drug addiction; or

(6) Separation for other reasons generally resulting in the award of an "other than honorable."

d. Officers separated from the Service by dismissal pursuant to sentence of general a court-martial must not be awarded a certificate of discharge of any of the characters set forth above. Their only separation document must be a letter signed by the Secretary of the Navy or by an authority to whom he or she has lawfully delegated the function, informing the officers concerned of their trial, conviction, sentence, and departmental action upon and approval of the sentence and fact of dismissal. This is the lowest type of separation from the Navy. It is now officially, in all respects, equivalent to a dishonorable discharge.

2. **Administrative Separation.** The authority recommending the administrative separation of an officer must also recommend the type of discharge per paragraph 1 above.

3. **Determination of Name and Characterization of Separation.** Ultimate determination as to the type and character of separation of an officer must be made by the separation authority. The following is emphasized:

a. Certificates of discharge must be issued from the Department of the Navy alone. Under no circumstances will a ship or station issue any form of certificate of discharge to a member separated from the Service as a warrant or commissioned officer

b. Certificates must be issued only following separation (only) from the Service and not upon release to inactive duty.

4. **Submission.** Follow personally identifiable information guidelines published on the Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM) Web site under NAVPERSCOM, Officer and Performance Separations Branch (Pers-834) organization code at:  
<http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/career/personnelconductandseparations/Pages/OfficerPerformanceSeparations.aspx>.