

(2) Types of Characterization

(a) Honorable. The honorable characterization is appropriate when the quality of the Service member's service generally has met the standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty for military personnel, or is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be clearly inappropriate. In the case of an honorable discharge, an Honorable Discharge Certificate (DD Form 256) will be awarded and a notation will be made on the appropriate copies of the DD Form 214/5 "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)," in accordance with DoDI 1336.1 (Reference (r)).

(b) General (Under Honorable Conditions). If a Service member's service has been honest and faithful, it is appropriate to characterize that service under honorable conditions. Characterization of service as general (under honorable conditions) is warranted when the positive aspects of the Service member's conduct or performance of duty outweigh negative aspects of the Service member's conduct or performance of duty as documented in their service record.

(c) Under Other Than Honorable Conditions

1. This characterization may be issued in the following circumstances:

a. When the reason for separation is based upon a pattern of behavior that constitutes a significant departure from the conduct expected of Service members of the Military Services.

b. When the reason for separation is based upon one or more acts or omissions that constitute a significant departure from the conduct expected of Service members of the Military Services. Examples of factors that may be considered include the use of force or violence to produce serious bodily injury or death; abuse of a special position of trust; disregard by a superior of customary superior-subordinate relationships; acts or omissions that endanger the security of the United States or the health and welfare of other Service members of the Military Services; and deliberate acts or omissions that seriously endanger the health and safety of other persons.

2. This characterization is authorized only if the Service member has been afforded the opportunity to request an Administrative Board action, except as provided in paragraph 12 of Enclosure 3 (separation in lieu of trial by courts-martial).

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