
12.A.9. Discharging Active Duty Reserve Officers

When it is necessary to recommend a Reserve officer serving on active duty for discharge from the U. S. Coast Guard Reserve, the following guidance applies.

1. Reserve officers with fewer than **five** years commissioned service being considered for an honorable discharge for the reasons in Article 12.A.15.c.1. will be processed as outlined in Article 12.A.11.b. Commander, (CGPC-rpm) will serve as a member of the panel of officers established in Article 12.A.11.b.
2. Reserve officers with fewer than **five** years commissioned service being considered for a general discharge for reasons contained in Article 12.A.15.c.2. or 3. will be processed by a single, special board of officers guided by the applicable procedures outlined in Article 12.A.15.h. A Reserve officer shall serve as a member of the board.
3. All Reserve officers with at least **five** years commissioned service being considered for discharge will be processed using the three-board process described in Article 12.A.15. A Reserve officer shall serve as a member of each board if possible.
4. Reserve officers discharged due to board action or at their request in lieu of board action receive an honorable discharge if Article 12.A.15.c.1. applies and a general discharge if Article 12.A.15.c.2. or 3. applies. Determine the amount of separation pay, if entitled, by computing years of service and basic pay as defined in the U.S. Coast Guard Pay Manual, COMDTINST M7220.29 (series).

12.A.10. Physical Examination

12.A.10.a. Terminology

The term “unfit for continued service” is used in this Article rather than “not fit for duty.” “Not fit for duty” is a local medical term meaning the member is unable to perform the immediate duties to which assigned for a short period of time. A finding of “not fit for duty” does not qualify the member for processing in the Physical Disability Evaluation System (PDES), and does not mean the member is not qualified for separation. A member could be “not fit for duty” and still be separated if the existing impairment does not lead to a physical disability as defined in the Physical Disability Evaluation System, 1850.2 (series) unless Commander (CGPC-opm) or (CGPC-epm) with the advice of Commander (CGPC-adm) considers it necessary to correct a physical defect. “Unfit for continued service” means a physical disability exists which renders the member unfit to perform the duties of his or her office, grade, rank, or rating. This determination can be made only through the PDES and could lead to the member’s separation, except as provided in Article 17.A.2.