



CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE REVIEW v. DISCHARGE UPGRADE

CHARACTER OF DISCHARGE REVIEW

- Completed by the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Eligibility for VA Benefits that would normally be barred due to Character of Discharge
 - See fact sheet, “Benefits by Discharge Type” for benefits that barred forever under this program
- Does NOT change your discharge type – No correction to DD214
- Reviews your personal situation and can grant certain VA benefits based on extenuating circumstances
- Must be previously denied VA benefits OR applying for a VA benefit today

DISCHARGE UPGRADE

- Completed by the Active-Duty Military of your branch of service in Washington DC
- Changes your actual discharge & NEW DD214 is issued
- Eligibility for benefits will be based on your NEW Character of Discharge
- Eligibility for upgrade is based on the ERROR that your branch of service made in giving you that type of discharge
 - Some exceptions are made under law changes and the [“Kurta Memo”](#)
- It is not recommended that you do your own discharge upgrade. There are free and paid organizations to assist you