



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY COUNCIL OF REVIEW BOARDS
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WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5023

IN REPLY REFER TO
1850
CORB: 003
23 Jan 15

SECNAVCORB POLICY LETTER 2015-1

From: Director, Secretary of the Navy Council of Review Boards

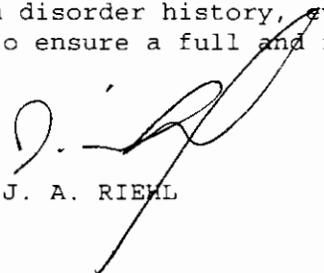
Subj: QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS SERVING ON NAVAL
DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD (NDRB) PROCEEDINGS

Ref: (a) NDAA FY15 (section 521)
(b) DoDD 1332.18

1. The purpose of this policy letter is to ensure compliance with reference (a) requiring physicians who serve on NDRB panels have "training on mental health issues" when considering cases involving post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI), or "special training on mental health disorders" when a case involves a former service member diagnosed with a mental health disorder during service. Psychiatrists and Clinical Psychologists are presumed to have the requisite training and are not included in the above.

2. Effective immediately, the President, NDRB will ensure that any physician member of a NDRB panel meet the qualifications set forth in reference (a). Medical Officers having completed the training required by reference (b) and formally certified in writing by the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) as qualified to adjudicate PEB cases are deemed as having met the statutory requirement necessary for physician board members in NDRB cases involving PTSD, TBI, or other mental health disorders.

3. The requirement in reference (a) (subsection e.) for an NDRB panel to include a qualified physician shall only be required in those cases in which the applicant's application or other communications with the board includes the Former Service Member in-service mental health disorder diagnosis as a decisional issue. However, the NDRB has discretionary authority to consider an applicant's in-service mental health disorder history, even if not raised by the applicant, if deemed necessary to ensure a full and fair evaluation of the applicant's petition.


J. A. RIEHL

Copy to:
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CORB Senior Legal Counsel
CORB Senior Medical Advisor