

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 27 February 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240005214

APPLICANT REQUESTS:

- credit for 20 years of active federal service (AFS)
- in effect, retroactive Continuation on Active Duty (COAD) enrollment
- a video/telephonic appearance before the Board

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Forms 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) for the period ending 18 April 2017

FACTS:

1. The applicant did not file within the 3-year time frame provided in Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b); however, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) conducted a substantive review of this case and determined it is in the interest of justice to excuse the applicant's failure to timely file.

2. The applicant states, in effect, a Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) found him unfit for duty, and he was subsequently retired due to his disabilities with 19 years, 2 months, and 20 days of AFS. He was notified by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) due to his 19 years of AFS, he should submit a COAD application so he may continue to serve till he completes 20 years of AFS. A COAD packet was never processed, which resulted in his discharge with over 19 years of AFS. If approved, he can actually receive his retirement on time and without any delays. According to Title 10, United States Code (USC) (Armed Forces), section 12686 (Reserves on active duty within two years of retirement eligibility: limitation on release from active duty), once he has completed 18 of AFS, he should be authorized to complete his service with 20 years of AFS.

3. The applicant's service record shows the following:

- a. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 18 May 1993, followed by one reenlistment.

b. His DD Form 214 shows he was honorably released from active duty on 20 February 1999, for completion of required active service. He completed 5 years, 9 months, and 3 days.

c. He reenlisted in the Army National Guard (ARNG) on 22 October 1999.

d. On 8 October 2001, he was ordered to active duty, and was honorably released on 29 May 2002, for completion of required active service. He completed 7 months, and 22 days.

e. On 3 September 2002, he was ordered to active duty, and was honorably released on 6 August 2003, for completion of required active service. He completed 11 months, and 4 days.

f. NGB Form 22, shows he was honorably discharged from the Tennessee Army National Guard (TNARNG), on 21 October 2004, after 5 years of service.

g. He reenlisted in the Army Reserve on 24 June 2005, followed by two reenlistments.

h. DA Form 199 (Informal PEB Proceedings) shows the PEB convened on 22 June 2016, wherein the applicant was found physically unfit with a recommended disability rating of 50 percent (%), and that the disposition be permanent disability retirement, due to Degenerative arthritis of the lumbar spine, Right meniscus tear diagnosed by medical treatment facility as residual right meniscus tear and multi focal chondromalacia, and Left meniscus tear diagnosed by medical treatment facility as residual left meniscus tear and multi focal chondromalacia. Onset of these conditions was 2003 and 2009. This document further shows the PEB made the following administrative determinations:

(1) The applicant concurred with the findings, and waived a formal hearing of his case.

(2) These conditions:

- Were incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in a duty status
- It was not due to intentional misconduct, willful neglect, or unauthorized absence
- They are permanent and stable

(3) The disability disposition is not based on disease or injury incurred in the line of duty in combat with an enemy of the United States and as a direct result of armed conflict or caused by an instrumentality of war and incurred in the line of duty during a period of war (5 USC 8332, 3502, and 6303). (This determination is made for all

compensable cases but pertains to potential benefits for disability retirees employed under Federal Civil Service.)

(4) Evidence of record reflects the Soldier was not a member or obligated to become a member of an armed force or Reserve thereof, or the NOAA or the USPHS on 24 September 1975.

(5) The disability did not result from a combat-related injury under the provisions of 26 USC 104 or 10 USC 10216.

i. Orders C-02-791358, dated 15 February 2017, show the applicant was to be retired because of a physical disability incurred while entitled to basic pay and under conditions that permit retirement for permanent physical disability. The percentage of disability is 50%, with an effective date of retirement of 18 April 2017.

j. His DD Form 214 shows he was honorably retired from active duty on 18 April 2017 due to Disability, Permanent (Enhanced). He completed 11 years, 7 months, 20 days of active service, and 7 years, 7 months, and 1 day of prior active service. His grade at the time of discharge was staff sergeant (SSG)/E-6. He was awarded and/or qualified for the following awards:

- Army Commendation Medal
- Army Achievement Medal (third award)
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal
- National Defense Service Medal (second award)
- Army Service Ribbon
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M device

4. The service record does not show, and the applicant does not provide a COAD application, request or denial.

5. Army Regulation 15-185 (ABCMR), currently in effect, states an applicant is not entitled to a hearing before the Board; however, the request for a hearing may be authorized by a panel of the Board or by the Director of ABCMR.

6. MEDICAL REVIEW:

a. The Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA) Medical Advisor reviewed the supporting documents, the Record of Proceedings (ROP), and the applicant's available records in the Interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System (iPERMS), the Health Artifacts Image Management Solutions (HAIMS) and the VA's Joint Legacy Viewer (JLV). The applicant requests credit for 20 years of service. He

was discharged due to medical disability at 19 plus years of service while pending COAD decision.

b. The ABCMR ROP summarized the applicant's record and circumstances surrounding the case. The applicant enlisted in the Army Reserve 18May1993. He enlisted in the Army 21Feb1996. His MOS was 92Y Unit Supply Specialist. He was retired due to permanent medical disability under AR 635-40 chapter 4. His service was characterized as honorable. He was placed on the Retired List 19Apr2017 with 19 years, 02 months, and 21 days.

c. The applicant was discharged through the IDES (Integrated Disability Evaluation System).

(1) The 01Aug2016 MEB NARSUM (narrative summary) identified Degenerative Arthritis of the Lumbar Spine; Right Meniscus Tear diagnosed by MTF as Residual Right Meniscus Tear and Multifocal Chondromalacia and Left Meniscus Tear diagnosed by MTF as Complex Left Meniscus Tear and Multifocal Chondromalacia, as conditions not meeting retention standards. Multiple functional activity limitations were listed in the 29June2016 permanent physical profile (DA Form 3349): P2U1L3H1E1S1. The applicant non-concurred with the MEB proceedings, petitioning for bilateral shoulder conditions to be added. The medical evidence was reviewed during a 20Oct2016 Impartial Medical Review, which resulted in a few nonconsequential changes to the MEB proceedings.

(2) The 18August2016 Knee and Lower Leg Conditions DBQ (Disability Benefits Questionnaire) exam. Injury to the bilateral knees occurred during physical training in 2014. He underwent left meniscectomy on 15Apr2016. The physical exam revealed that right knee flexion was 0 to 70 degrees (normal 0 to 140 degrees); and extension was from 70 to 0 degrees (normal 140 to 0 degrees). There was objective evidence of localized tenderness on palpation of the joint or associated soft tissues. Left knee flexion was 0 to 75 degrees; and extension was from 75 to 0 degrees. There was objective evidence of localized tenderness on palpation of the joint or associated soft tissues. Muscle strength testing was 5/5 (normal). Joint stability testing was normal. 18Aug2016 views of both knees were normal. He did not use an assistive device to ambulate. The 18Aug2016 Back Conditions DBQ showed diagnosis Lumbar Degenerative Joint Disease. He stated that he started having low back pain while lifting heavy gears while in training. The physical exam revealed forward flexion 0 to 50 degrees (normal is 0 to 90 degrees); and extension 0 to 30 degrees (normal). Straight leg raise testing was positive for both legs, which suggests radiculopathy. He had associated Mild to Moderate Lower Extremity Radiculopathy, Bilateral (Back Conditions DBQ and Peripheral Nerves DBQ) involving the sciatic nerve.

(3) 05Oct2016 Commander's Performance and Functional Statement indicated that the applicant performed duties in his MOS; he was performing in the appropriate position for grade and MOS; his medical conditions/limitations impacted the unit accomplishing its mission; and his retention was not recommended. They noted that there was occasional decrease in work efficiency and there was mild difficulty completing tasks/duties to standard. He did have effective relationships with both supervisors and co-workers. The NCO Evaluation Report covering the period from 20130314 thru 20140113 documented the following: His principal duty title was Property Book NCO with MOS 92Y20. He passed the APFT on 17Dec2013. His overall performance and potential were 'fully capable'. However, in the NCO ER from 20140101 thru 20140920, it was noted that he failed to perform the APFT during May Battle Assembly weekend as directed and did not meet the semi-annual APFT requirement and he frequently displayed an excessive amount of exhaustion after minimal physical activity. His overall performance and potential were 'marginal'. It should be noted that the applicant did not sign this evaluation. In the most recent NCO ER from 20140921 thru 20150920, he passed the 12Apr2015 APFT and his overall performance and potential was 'fully capable'. He did receive a 'needs improvement' mark for the following: He reported late on more than one occasion throughout the rating period; and he received counseling for delays incurred during the time-sensitive change of command inventory.

(4) The 27Nov2016 DES Proposed Rating completed for IDES purposes, recorded the following evaluations by the VA: The lumbar condition was rated at 20% for forward flexion of the thoracolumbar spine greater than 30 degrees but not greater than 60 degrees. The right knee and left knee conditions were each assigned a 20% evaluation for meniscal tear, based on dislocated semilunar cartilage with frequent episodes of "locking," pain, and effusion into the joint. The left knee arthroscopic repair was noted.

(5) The PEB convened 22Dec2016 (DA Form 199) found that the following conditions were unfitting for continued service: Degenerative Arthritis of the Lumbar Spine under code 5242-5243 at 20%; Right Meniscus Tear diagnosed by medical treatment facility as residual right meniscus tear and multifocal chondromalacia under code 5258 at 20%; and Left Meniscus Tear diagnosed by medical treatment facility as residual left meniscus tear and multifocal chondromalacia under code 5258 at 20%. There were no combat designations for the conditions. The recommended disposition was permanent disability retirement at 50% total. The applicant concurred with the PEB findings and waived a formal hearing of his case.

d. Continuation on Active Duty (COAD)

(1) The following medical (and related) evidence was noted in reference to COAD

eligibility/requirements in accordance with AR 635-40, chapter 6): The applicant was found unfit by the PEB. He was less than 10 months short of 20 years in service. Command did not recommend retaining the applicant (DA Form 7652 dated 05Oct2016). They noted that the applicant's condition was worsening, and his profiles inhibited job performance—they assessed that he was not capable of continuing in service. During the 23Aug2016 Mental Disorders DBQ, when the BH examiner was assessing his level of activity/social engagement, the applicant endorsed that because of his ailments, it was hard for him "to do too much". He had difficulty standing, walking, sitting for prolonged periods of time because of the back condition (18Aug2016 Back Conditions DBQ). He also had associated moderate bilateral lumbar radiculopathy. The applicant endorsed that TENS unit and physical therapy provided no relief. He was taking Tramadol (a narcotic) for his back pain which he endorsed provided little relief. The applicant endorsed that his back condition had progressed. He also endorsed the bilateral knee condition had progressed with occasional popping and locking of the knees (Knee and Lower Leg Conditions DBQ).

(2) The applicant was seen by his PCP for medical clearance for COAD on 08Mar2017. He had completed a MEB but then found out that he was 9 months short of retirement. He requested for his primary care physician to complete the COAD checklist for history of Low Back Pain, Bilateral Shoulder Pain, and Bilateral Knee Pain. He was also requesting refills for Zanaflex (muscle relaxant), Lipitor and Tramadol. He was in constant pain. The pain was present 5 years, and it was rated 6-7/10 on the average. Tramadol made it better. The pain was worse with lying supine, overhead raise for shoulders, sitting long periods for bilat knees. The note indicated that the applicant felt he was eligible for COAD. He reported they already had a replacement for his position. The applicant would be in an adjunctive/sedentary position. He had a P3 profile for chronic back and knee pain and was not deployable. He was approved participation in COAD with some caveats. The physician's letter was uploaded.

e. Summary/Opinion

(1) The IDES proceedings and ratings were reviewed. The undersigned concurs that the Degenerative Arthritis of the Lumbar Spine; Right Meniscus Tear and Left Meniscus Tear did not meet medical retention standards of AR 40-401 chapter 3 at the time of discharge. The VA ratings were applied in accordance with VASRD principles.

(2) Concerning the applicant's request for retroactive COAD enrollment, with reference to AR 635-40, chapter 6: The back pain required use of a narcotic. The applicant endorsed that the knee and back condition have progressed, and that his ailments limited his activity significantly. In addition, he described occasional locking of his knees which could potentially present a mobility issue. And finally, Command noted increasing limitations with impact on his performance and did not recommend his retention in service. It does not appear that medically, the applicant was a good

candidate for COAD placement. However, he was likely a fair candidate for COAD given the length of time he needed to reach 20 years: His medical conditions did not preclude him from being physically capable of performing some useful duty. The conditions were chronic, caused constant moderate to severe pain and required use of a narcotic but did not currently require undue loss of time from duty for medical treatment. His conditions did not pose a risk to the health or safety of other Soldiers. And his primary care physician cleared him to participate in the program with modest concerns noted.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition, and executed a comprehensive review based on law, policy, and regulation. The applicant was permanently retired due to disability. At the time he retired from active duty and was placed on the retired list, he had completed 11 years, 7 months, and 20 days of active service with 7 years, 7 months, and 1 day of prior active service. The Board noted the applicant's contention that a COAD packet was never processed and therefore he was retired at 19 years, 2 months, and 20 days of active service, prior to reaching his 20 years of active federal service. The Board determined despite the applicant not providing a completed COAD packet, that an injustice occurred and the applicant should have been continued on active duty until his 20 years of service. Therefore, the Board granted relief.
2. The applicant's request for a personal appearance hearing was carefully considered. In this case, the evidence of record was sufficient to render a fair and equitable decision. As a result, a personal appearance hearing is not necessary to serve the interest of equity and justice in this case.
3. Prior to closing the discussion, the Board reviewed and concurred with the administrative notes below.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

:XX	:XX	:XX	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by:

- Showing the applicant submitted a request for continuation on active duty and his request was timely received and approved
- Amending (or reissuing) U.S. Army Human Resources Command Orders C-02-791358, issued on 15 February 2017, to retire him at 20 years of service and place him on the retired list in his retired grade of SSG/E-6
- Amend block 12b (Separation Date This Period) of his DD Form 214, for the period ending 18 April 2017 to show his separation date as 26 January 2018 and Block 12c (Net Active Service This Period) to show 12 years, 4 months, and 29 days
- Paying him any active duty or retired pay as a result of this correction



X //SIGNED//

CHAIRPERSON

Signed by:

I certify that herein is recorded the true and complete record of the proceedings of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records in this case.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE(S):

A review of the applicant's records shows he is authorized additional awards not currently listed on his DD Form 214 for the period ending 18 April 2017. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 by adding to item 13 (Awards):

- Meritorious Service Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

REFERENCES:

1. Title 10, United States Code (USC) (Armed Forces), section 1552(b), provides that applications for correction of military records must be filed within 3 years after discovery of the alleged error or injustice. This provision of law also allows the ABCMR to excuse an applicant's failure to timely file within the 3-year statute of limitations if the ABCMR determines it would be in the interest of justice to do so.

2. Army Regulation 15-185 Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR), currently in effect, prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army acting through the ABCMR. The ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence. The ABCMR may, in its discretion, hold a hearing (sometimes referred to as an evidentiary hearing or an administrative hearing) or request additional evidence or opinions. Applicants do not have a right to a hearing before the ABCMR. The Director or the ABCMR may grant a formal hearing whenever justice requires.

3. Army Regulation 635-40 (Disability Evaluation for Retention, Retirement, or Separation) establishes the Army Disability Evaluation System (DES) according to the provisions of Title 10, United States Code, Chapter 61 (10 USC Chapter 61) and DODD 1332.18. It sets forth policies, responsibilities, and procedures that apply in determining whether a Soldier is unfit because of physical disability to reasonably perform the duties of his or her office, grade, rank, or rating. If a Soldier is found unfit because of physical disability, this regulation provides for disposition of the Soldier according to applicable laws and regulations.

a. Continuation on Active Duty (COAD) and Continuation on Active Reserve Status (COAR) of Unfit Soldiers. The criteria for Soldiers to be COAD and continuation on COAR, as applicable, subsequent to being found unfit after completion of the duty-related DES process. The purpose of this exception to policy is to conserve manpower by effective use of needed skills or experience in a limited duty status. The fact that a Soldier has or has not applied for COAD or COAR will not influence the determination of fitness or the determination of the disability rating percentage, when applicable.

b. A Soldier who has been found unfit by a Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) for further military Service has no inherent or vested right to continuation. Soldiers must elect to be considered for COAD or COAR. However, the Secretary of the Army (SECARMY), or designee, may involuntarily continue the Soldier in consideration of the Soldier's service obligation, special skill, or experience. Requests will be approved based on the needs of the Army. Requests will not be approved solely to increase the Soldier's separation or retirement benefits. A status of COAD or COAR is not authorized until a finding of unfit is approved by U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency (USAPDA).

c. Duty statuses eligible for continuation on active duty and continuation on active Reserve status. The categories of Soldiers listed below are eligible to request COAD:

(1) Officers on the active-duty list.

(2) Enlisted Soldiers who are Active Army.

(3) Soldiers in the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program or who are on full-time National Guard duty requesting continuation as AGR or full-time National Guard duty.

d. Eligibility criteria for requests to be considered (adjudicated). The Soldier must meet the criteria listed below to have their request for COAD or COAR, as applicable, considered. The USAPDA will screen all requests and return requests ineligible for consideration to the Soldier through the Soldier's Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officer (PEBLO).

e. The Soldier is not on the Temporary Disability Retired List (TDRL). Soldiers pending placement on the TDRL remain eligible to request COAD or COAR if they otherwise meet the qualifications of this paragraph.

f. The Soldier's request must be submitted within the timeline and with the documents required by DA Pam 635-40 (Procedures for Disability Evaluation for Retention, Retirement, or Separation).

g. The disability for which the Soldier was found unfit must not be due to the Soldier's misconduct, willful negligence, or incurred when the Soldier was absent without authority.

h. The Soldier must meet at least one of the criteria listed below:

(1) For COAD, have at least 15 but less than 20 years of active Service. For COAR, have at least 15 but less than 20 years of qualifying service for non-regular retirement.

(2) Be qualified in a critical skill or shortage Military Occupational Specialty (MOS).

(3) The disability resulted from combat or terrorism.

i. Approval and disapproval authority. The approving authority for Soldier's request for continuation in the Active Component and U.S. Army Reserve enlisted Soldiers, to include Active Guard Reserve members is the Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command (AHRC-EPO-A), 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox,

KY 40122. The Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS), G-1 is the disapproval authority for requests from combat-wounded Soldiers tracked by the Army Wounded Warrior Program. The Commanding General (CG), U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC) has authority to delegate the approval authority given to him in paragraphs 6-4a and 6-4b, at his/her discretion without approval or coordination from the DCS, G-1 office. It is recommended that such delegation, if made, be limited to no lower than a commissioned officer in the grade of colonel or civilian equivalent.

4. Title 10, United States Code (USC) (Armed Forces), chapter 61, provides the Secretaries of the Military Departments with authority to retire or discharge a member if they find the member unfit to perform military duties because of physical disability. The U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency is responsible for administering the Army physical disability evaluation system and executes Secretary of the Army decision-making authority as directed by Congress in chapter 61 and in accordance with Department of Defense (DOD) Directive 1332.18 and AR 635-40 (Physical Evaluation for Retention, Retirement, or Separation).

a. Soldiers are referred to the disability system when they no longer meet medical retention standards in accordance with Army Regulation 40-501 (Standards of Medical Fitness), chapter 3, as evidenced in a Medical Evaluation Board (MEB); when they receive a permanent medical profile rating of 3 or 4 in any factor and are referred by an MOS Medical Retention Board; and/or they are command-referred for a fitness-for-duty medical examination.

b. The disability evaluation assessment process involves two distinct stages: the MEB and the Informal Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) Proceedings. The purpose of the MEB is to determine whether the service member's injury or illness is severe enough to compromise his/her ability to return to full duty based on the job specialty designation of the branch of service. A PEB is an administrative body possessing the authority to determine whether or not a service member is fit for duty. A designation of "unfit for duty" is required before an individual can be separated from the military because of an injury or medical condition. Service members who are determined to be unfit for duty due to disability either are separated from the military or are permanently retired, depending on the severity of the disability and length of military service. Individuals who are "separated" receive a one-time severance payment, while veterans who retire based upon disability receive monthly military retired pay and have access to all other benefits afforded to military retirees.

c. The mere presence of a medical impairment does not in and of itself justify a finding of unfitness. In each case, it is necessary to compare the nature and degree of physical disability present with the requirements of the duties the Soldier may reasonably be expected to perform because of his or her office, grade, rank, or rating. Reasonable performance of the preponderance of duties will invariably result in a

finding of fitness for continued duty. A Soldier is physically unfit when a medical impairment prevents reasonable performance of the duties required of the Soldier's office, grade, rank, or rating.

5. Title 10, United States Code (USC) (Armed Forces), section 12686 (Reserves on active duty within two years of retirement eligibility): limitation on release from active duty.

a. Limitation. Under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary concerned, which shall be as uniform as practicable, a member of a reserve component who is on active duty (other than for training) and is within two years of becoming eligible for retired pay or retainer pay under a purely military retirement system (other than the retirement system under chapter 1223 of this title), may not be involuntarily released from that duty before he becomes eligible for that pay, unless the release is approved by the Secretary.

b. Waiver. With respect to a member of a reserve component who is to be ordered to active duty (other than for training) under section 12301 of this title pursuant to an order to active duty that specifies a period of less than 180 days and who (but for this subsection) would be covered by subsection (a), the Secretary concerned may require, as a condition of such order to active duty, that the member waive the applicability of subsection (a) to the member for the period of active duty covered by that order. In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary concerned may require that a waiver under the preceding sentence be executed before the period of active duty begins.

6. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards), prescribes Department of the Army (DA) policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards. The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (GWOTSM) was established by EO 13289, 12 March 2003. It is authorized for award to Servicemembers of the Armed Forces of the United States who have participated in or served in support of a Global War on Terrorism operations outside of the designated AOE defined in paragraph 2-21d on or after 11 September 2001 to a future date to be determined. All Soldiers on active duty, including Reserve Component (RC) Soldiers mobilized, or Army National Guard (ARNG) Soldiers activated on or after 11 September 2001 until a date to be determined and having served 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days are authorized the GWOTSM.

7. Title 10, United States Code (USC) (Armed Forces), section 1556 (Ex Parte Communications Prohibited) requires the Secretary of the Army to ensure that an applicant seeking corrective action by the Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA) be provided with a copy of any correspondence and communications (including summaries of verbal communications) to or from the Agency with anyone outside the Agency that directly pertains to or has material effect on the applicant's case, except as authorized

by statute. ARBA medical advisory opinions and reviews are authored by ARBA civilian and military medical and behavioral health professionals and are therefore internal agency work product. Accordingly, ARBA does not routinely provide copies of ARBA Medical Office recommendations, opinions (including advisory opinions), and reviews to Army Board for Correction of Military Records applicant's (and/or their counsel) prior to adjudication.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//