



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

JUL - 9 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF LEGAL POLICY, OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE UNDER  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

SUBJECT: Sunset of Physical Disability Board of Review

Reference: Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum,  
"Coordination on Sunset of Physical Disability Board of Review, Repurpose  
Physical Disability Board of Review Manpower and Transfer of Quality Assurance  
Program," December 16, 2022

Effective October 1, 2024, the Physical Disability Review Board (PDBR) will cease operating. Any cases or requests for review pending before the PDBR at that time, shall transfer to the Secretary of the Military Department concerned for assignment to their respective Board of Correction of Military/Naval Records (BCMR/BCNRs). Any requests received by the Department for review by the PDBR after October 1, 2024, shall be referred to Secretary of the Military Department concerned for referral to their respective BCMR/BCNR.

The PDBR was established in 2008 pursuant to section 1643 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 (Public Law 110-181). The Department designated the Air Force as the lead agent for the PDBR in Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6040.44, "Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR)," August 8, 2015, as amended. Section 522 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry NDAA for FY 2021 (Public Law 116-283) authorized the Secretary of Defense to sunset the PDBR at his discretion. Based on input received from DoD stakeholders, and pursuant to my authority under Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 5124.02, "Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness," June 23, 2008, I have determined that the PDBR has completed its mission.

In preparation of the termination of the PDBR, I am directing the following actions:

- The Secretary of the Air Force take appropriate action consistent with this memorandum, to ensure that the Air Force Review Board's eApplication Portal is deactivated and all Air Force instructions and guidance related to PDBR administration and operations are cancelled effective October 1, 2024.
- The Secretary of the Air Force and the Director, Defense Health Agency (DHA), in coordination with the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health

Services Policy and Oversight (ODASD(HSP&O)), continue to perform the Disability Evaluation System (DES) quality assurance (QA) review function authorized by section 524 of the NDAA for FY 2013 (Public Law 112-239). The DES QA review assesses the accuracy and consistency of decisions made by the Physical Evaluation Boards of the Military Departments based on the use of constructed cases, and targeted evaluation themes or high-level items of interest identified by the ODASD(HSP&O). This activity is currently nested in the PDBR. Upon termination of the PDBR, the Air Force will continue to perform this activity on a reimbursable basis pursuant to the terms of DHA Agreement Number: DHA-2021-R-1919 and the supporting memorandum of agreement signed September 13, 2022.

- The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Office of Legal Policy, will update DoDD 1332.41, "Boards for Correction of Military Records (BCMRs) and Discharge Review Boards (DRBs)," March 8, 2004, as amended, to reflect this change.
- The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (OASD(HA)) will update the Disability Advisory Council Charter and other documents to reflect changes directed in this memorandum, including preparing a package for my signature to cancel DoDI 6040.44.
- OASD(HA) will notify the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) that PDBR funding is terminated effective October 1, 2024.
- The Secretaries of the Military Departments will update regulations authorizing their respective BCMR/BCNRs to review and act on cases that previously fell under the purview of the PDBR.

My point of contact for this matter is Al Bruner, Director, Disability Evaluation Policy OASD(HA), at [alfred.e.bruner.civ@mail.mil](mailto:alfred.e.bruner.civ@mail.mil) or (571) 242-3171.



Ashish S. Vazirani  
Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of  
Defense for Personnel and Readiness