

COMPARISON - BCMR VERSUS PDBR REVIEW OF RATING

CHARACTERISTIC	BCMR	PDBR
Panel Composition	3 civilians in grade of GS-15 and above	3 military officers in grade of 05/06 (or civilian equivalents); Board president 06 or civilian equivalent only
Review Authority	May apply for review of military record, within three years of error/injustice, (may be waived in the interest of justice)	Medical separation 20% or less where member did not retire finalized between 11 September 2001 and 31 December 2009
Review Process	Application submitted, medical, personnel or legal advisories prepared and served on applicant with chance to comment before panel review and vote	Application submitted, then case summarized by PDBR medical member (or other experts) for presentation to PDBR before vote. Applicant can submit records from non DOD sources
Panel Outcome	Recommendation or Decision	Recommendation only
Decision Authority	Director, Review Boards Agencies (Army, Air Force, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (M&RA) or Assistant General Counsel (M&RA) (Navy)	Director, Review Boards Agencies (Army, Air Force), Assistant Secretary of the Navy (M&RA) or Assistant General Counsel (M&RA) (Navy)
Burden of Proof	Member has the burden of proof to establish error or injustice. There is a presumption of regularity	Member need not allege anything, review accomplished upon request
Effective Date of Correction and Benefits Computation	Benefits retroactive to date of separation	Benefits forward only as of date of final decision
Standards	Will correct errors in records	Rating reviewed for fairness and

	and/or remove an injustice	accuracy
Impact of Subsequent VA Rating	Within discretion of the Board	Will compare VA rating with particular attention to one given within 12 months of separation