



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

**PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

FEB 24 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

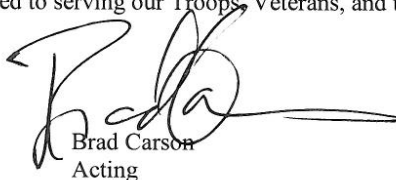
**SUBJECT:** Consideration of Discharge Upgrade Requests Pursuant to Supplemental Guidance to Military Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records (BCMRs/BCNR) by Veterans Claiming Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

On September 3, 2014, the Secretary of Defense issued Supplemental Guidance to Military Boards of Correction of Military/Naval Records Considering Discharge Upgrade Requests by Veterans Claiming PTSD or related conditions, such as TBI. The Department has implemented this robust guidance in comprehensive and coordinated fashion, thereby easing the burden on Veterans seeking redress while simultaneously ensuring fair and consistent results in these difficult cases.

This guidance remains exceptionally important, and we must renew and re-double our efforts to ensure that all Veterans who have sacrificed so much in service to our great Nation receive all of the benefits that the Supplemental Guidance may afford. Accordingly, the BCMRs/BCNR will waive, if it is applicable and bars consideration of cases, the imposition of the statute of limitation. Fairness and equity demand, in cases of such magnitude, that a Veteran's petition receives full and fair review, even if brought outside of the time limit.

Similarly, cases considered previously, either by Discharge Review Boards, or by BCMRs or the BCNR, but without benefit of the application of the Supplemental Guidance, shall be, upon petition, granted de novo review utilizing the Supplemental Guidance.

The Department remains committed to serving our Troops, Veterans, and their families, with justice, equity and compassion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Carson".

Brad Carson  
Acting