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## Types of Discharges

Why is the type of discharge an important factor? When a service member leaves military service, the type of discharge determines whether veteran benefits, like VA financing, will be available. There are five types of discharges.

### ADMINISTRATIVE DISCHARGES

- ▶ **HONORABLE—ALL BENEFITS**  
An honorable discharge says the service member completed all duties with admirable personal and professional conduct. The service member is eligible for full benefits and often has an easier time finding employment. An honorable discharge is a plus on a résumé.
- ▶ **GENERAL—SOME BENEFITS**  
A general discharge under honorable conditions is a step down from honorable. It can result from illness, injury, or other circumstance that prevents the service member from fulfilling duties. However, unacceptable behavior can also bring about a general discharge. When the service member leaves under a general discharge, the commander makes known the reason in writing. A general discharge makes the service member ineligible for some benefits, such as GI Bill education benefits.
- ▶ **OTHER THAN HONORABLE—NO BENEFITS**  
An other-than-honorable (OTH) discharge is deemed appropriate when the service member's pattern of behavior differs significantly from the standard of conduct or when actions or omissions endanger the military service, fellow service members, or other people. In some market areas (Madison, Wisconsin, for example), OTH discharge is a fair housing protected class.

### PUNITIVE DISCHARGES (COURT MARTIAL)

- ▶ **BAD CONDUCT—NO BENEFITS**
- ▶ **DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE—NO BENEFITS**