

## § 865.6

of the case and will, unless the full relief requested is granted, inform applicants of their right to request review of the decision by the Secretary of Defense (SecDef). Applicants will also be informed:

(1) Of the name and address of the official to whom the request for review must be submitted.

(2) That the request for review must be submitted within ninety days after receipt of the decision by the Secretary of the Air Force.

(3) That the request for review must be in writing and include the applicant's name, address, and telephone number; a copy of the application to the AFBCMR and the final decision of the Secretary of the Air Force; and a statement of the specific reasons the applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the Secretary of the Air Force.

(4) That the request must be based on the Board record; requests for review based on factual allegations or evidence not previously presented to the Board will not be considered under this section but may be the basis for reconsideration by the Board under § 865.6.

(c) Decisions in cases filed under Section 507, Public Law 103-160. The Secretary will issue a decision within 60 days of receipt of the case of an officer who:

(1) Was offered the opportunity to be discharged or separated from active duty under the Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI) or Special Separation Benefit (SSB) programs,

(2) Elected not to accept such discharge or separation,

(3) Was thereafter discharged or separated from active duty, after September 30, 1990, as a result of selection by a board convened to select officers for early separation (a "RIF board"),

(4) Files an application with the Board within two years of the date of separation or discharge, or one year after March 1, 1996, whichever is later, alleging that the officer was not effectively counseled, before electing not to accept discharge or separation under the VSI/SSB programs, concerning the officer's vulnerability to selection for involuntary discharge or separation ("RIF"), and

(5) Requests expedited consideration under this section.

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(d) Upon finding of ineffective counseling, the Secretary will provide the officer with an opportunity to participate, at the officer's option, in the VSI or SSB programs or, if eligible, in an early retirement program.

(e) In cases under §§ 865.5(b) and 865.5(c) which involve additional issues not cognizable under those sections, the additional issues may be considered separately by the Board under §§ 865.3 and 865.4. The special time limits in §§ 865.5(b) and 865.5(c) do not apply to the decision concerning these additional issues.

### § 865.6 Reconsideration of applications.

The Board may reconsider an application if the applicant submits newly discovered relevant evidence that was not available when the application was previously considered. The Executive Director will screen each request for reconsideration to determine whether it contains new evidence.

(a) If the request contains new evidence, the Executive Director will refer it to a panel of the Board for a decision. The Board will decide the relevance and weight of any new evidence, whether it was reasonably available to the applicant when the application was previously considered, and whether it was submitted in a timely manner. The Board may deny reconsideration if the request does not meet the criteria for reconsideration. Otherwise the Board will reconsider the application and decide the case either on timeliness or merit as appropriate.

(b) If the request does not contain new evidence, the Executive Director will return it to the applicant without referral to the Board.

### § 865.7 Action after final decision.

(a) *Action by the Executive Director.* The Executive Director will inform the applicant or counsel, if any, of the final decision on the application. If any requested relief was denied, the Executive Director will advise the applicant of reconsideration procedures and, for cases processed under the Military Whistleblowers Protection Act, review by the SecDef. The Executive Director will send decisions requiring corrective