



Kim Vickers
Executive Director

TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Technical Assistance Bulletin

To: All Texas Law Enforcement Agencies/Contract Training Providers/Licensees
From: Kenny Merchant/Director, Credentialing and Field Services
Regarding: **Licensing Eligibility based on Military Discharge Status**
Date: October 25, 2019

One of the minimum standards for licensure in Texas concerns the military discharge status of an applicant. Commission Rule 217.1(b)(13) states that a person may only be licensed if the person "has never received a dishonorable or other discharge based on misconduct which bars future military service." The current Rule gives a two-part test, both of which must be satisfied for a person to be ineligible for licensing.

Beginning October 22, 2019, the Commission has, by policy, made a change to the two-part test mentioned above. Effective immediately, the only discharge status which will be a bar to licensure is "Dishonorable Discharge." Variations of this status, which may contain the word(s) dishonorable, or bad misconduct, are not a bar. Re-enlistment codes which indicate a bar for future military service are also no longer a bar to TCOLE licensing. Rule 217.1(b)(13), and any other applicable Rules, will be modified as soon as possible to reflect this policy.

Please note that the DD214 is not the only type of discharge document. Some branches of the military, including Reserves or State/National Guard Units have different types of discharge documents. It is up to the appointing or enrolling entity to confirm the validity of the discharge document.

Lastly, dishonorable discharges occurring after appointment can still affect licensees. Agencies should, therefore, track the military status of any current licensees until such enlistment ends, to insure continued eligibility. Individual licensees are also required by Rule (211.27) to report any military discharge which meets the above ineligibility requirements to the Commission within 30 days.