

# Annual Report



## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

This has been another busy year for the Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA). We continue to work toward meeting the challenges of BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Act) moves while ensuring that our applicants receive prompt and accurate review of their claims.

We sadly bid farewell to some good friends and hardworking colleagues in St. Louis as we transferred work from that location to ARBA Arlington. While prompted by the BRAC directed move of Human Resources Command to Fort Knox, we expect

that the consolidation of our case management functions will ultimately provide greater efficiencies.

We also continue to grow in our missions. This year we assumed oversight of Army Law Enforcement and went through our first full year of processing recommendations from the Department of Defense Physical Disability Board of Review on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

Our normal cadence of processing cases through our various Boards saw an uptick in

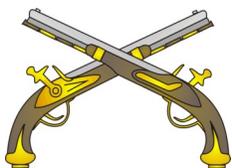
both volume and complexity. Statutory changes impacting the way we handle cases involving Soldiers and Veterans with PTSD resulted in the need for process adjustments; and we continue to see claims by groups of similarly situated applicants who request relief from ARBA from sometimes unanticipated effects of Army policies.

Our organization is busily planning for its BRAC-directed move to Ft. Belvoir in September 2011. We are focused, as always, on the needs of our Soldiers and Veterans.

### October 2010

#### Highlights for FY 2010

- Discontinued operations at ARBA St. Louis and transferred work to Arlington, VA
- Merged the Special Review Boards with the Discharge Review Board under the newly-formed Military Review Boards
- Assumed oversight of Army Law Enforcement
- Gained initial accreditation for the Clemency and Parole Board



The tragic event at Ft. Hood and its ensuing investigations demonstrated that more attention should be focused on the Army Law Enforcement mission. HQDA General Orders

## Law Enforcement

No. 3 provides that ASA(M&RA) responsibilities include law enforcement oversight. ARBA has long enjoyed an excellent relationship with the Provost Marshall General (PMG) as a result of our Corrections oversight mission and this year began meeting with the PMG to expand our oversight role to include

all Army Law Enforcement. We have already established a comprehensive oversight plan and begun influencing policy decisions to shape the future. We had an excellent visit to review the activation of the 15th Military Police Brigade at Ft. Leavenworth and continue to engage in this important mission.

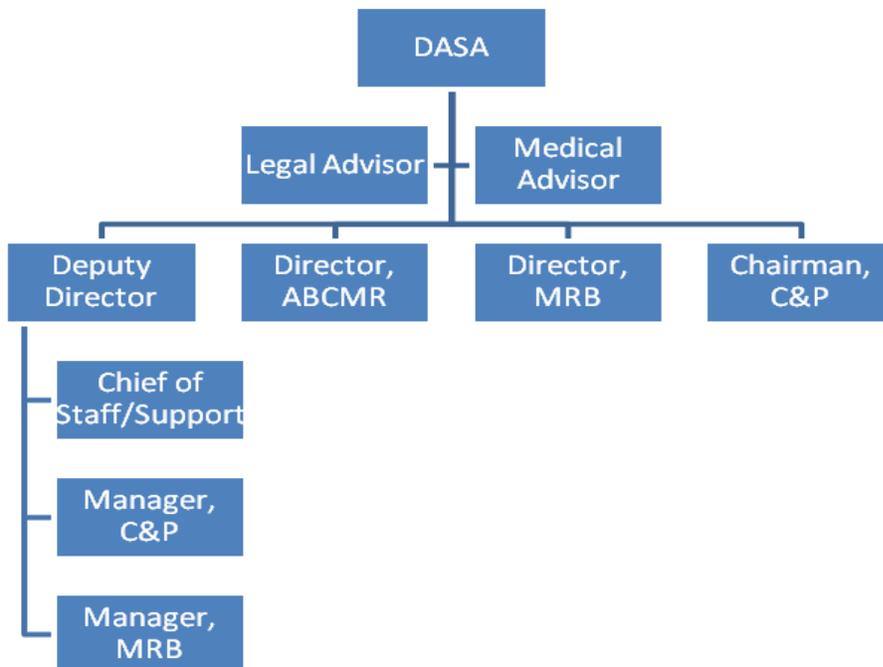
# Organizational Changes

The personnel changes brought about by BRAC moves, the addition of new missions and the increased complexity of cases require us to respond with a more nimble organization. Last year we began our reorganization by planning the transfer of case management functions to Arlington and by separating our analytical functions from our decision-making functions. This latter move provides even more procedural fairness to our applicants while allowing for greater cross training and assignment flexibility with our staff.

This year we continued by merging the members of the Special Review Boards (DASEB, OSRB, ESRB and DACORB) with the Army Discharge Review Board. This will allow us to better utilize our assigned officer Board members, absorb impacts of pending retirements and reassignments, grow organizational expertise and generally meet increasing demands without requiring additional resources.

At the end of FY2010, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower

and Reserve Affairs decided to realign the Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance and Complaints Review (EEOCCR) function from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Review Boards) to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Diversity and Leadership). This move combines functions with similar missions in one area and furthers the Army's commitment to having a model EEO program.



# Accreditation of the Clemency & Parole Board

This summer the Army Clemency & Parole Board (C&PB) was awarded American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation and is now the only DoD Parole Board accredited and only one of six national parole

boards accredited under the Adult Parole Authority standards. This was the result of an intensive preparation and review process including two days of independent on-site audit during which the C&PB received a

score of 97.7% compliance. This process helps ensure we are protecting the rights of our prisoners and providing the best possible service to crime victims and other interested stakeholders.

# Case Production

BOARD	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10
ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS (ABCMR)	14,583	13,578	16,756	13,628	15,913
ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD (ADRB)	1,745	2,498	3,421	2,832	3,429
CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR REVIEW BOARD (DACORB)	52	32	29	34	27
SUITABILITY EVALUATION BOARD (DASEB)	342	327	410	523	538
ENLISTED SPECIAL REVIEW BOARD (ESRB)	60	57	114	126	209
OFFICER SPECIAL REVIEW BOARD (OSRB)	164	161	153	148	141
PHYSICAL DISABILITY BOARD OF REVIEW (PDBR)	0	0	1	1	248
ARMY DISABILITY RATING REVIEW BOARD (ADRRB)	0	0	1	0	1
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY ACTIVE DUTY BOARD (DAADB)	0	0	0	0	0
ARMY BOARD FOR REVIEW OF ELIMINATION (Officer Elimination)	17	18	17	23	33
AD HOC REVIEW BOARDS (Probationary Officer Elimination)	36	44	37	54	44
(Resignation/Discharge in Lieu of Elimination)	57	77	85	65	74
(Resignation for the Good of the Service)	77	71	51	46	49
ARMY GRADE DETERMINATION REVIEW BOARD (AGDRB)	199	278	296	284	282
CLEMENCY AND PAROLE BOARD (C&P)	892	1,079	877	930	762
EEOCCR	391	402	383	426	433
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,606</b>	<b>17,643</b>	<b>22,631</b>	<b>19,120</b>	<b>22,183</b>

## ARBA Reflects an Actively Engaged Army

The cases above reflect various claims filed by Soldiers, Veterans and Civilian Employees for redress from claimed errors or injustices. In many ways the cases handled by our Agency reflect the emerging issues being confronted by our Army during this era of persistent conflict. Complex issues involving post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury, eligibility for disability retirement and entitlement to new statutory programs all cross our threshold.

The ABCMR continues to provide clear, concise and executable records of proceedings while meeting its Congressional mandate to complete 90% of its cases within 10

months of receipt and 100% within 18 months. This year we developed and institutionalized a process for ABCMR handling of special project cases involving numerous applicants identically affected by an Army program or policy. This streamlined process allows for rapid decision making on identified cases and is a significant service to Soldiers, Veterans and the Army. These special projects benefitted from this process: Army College Fund cases pursuant to special legislation; Basic Allowance for Housing/Military Transition Team cases; PTSD cases pursuant to class action litigation; and shadow area Post-Deployment Mobilization Respite Absence cases for Reserve and National Guard personnel.

The ADRB complied with a new Congressional mandate this year to expedite and include medical officer review of cases involving applicants diagnosed with PTSD and conducted four travel panels to serve applicants opting for personal appearances who could not travel to our Arlington offices.

The ADRB, DASEB and ESRB all continue to see raising numbers of claims. Many applicants contend they are adversely impacted by the economy and feel compelled to remain in the Army for financial security or to seek amendment of their discharge documents to enhance future job prospects.

## Army Review Boards Agency

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***We're on the Web:***

***http://  
www.arba.army.pentagon.mil***

The Army Review Boards Agency, on behalf of the Secretary of the Army, serves as the highest administrative level for review of personnel actions taken by lower levels of the Army and administers 15 boards. The Agency headquarters is located in Arlington, Virginia. We are authorized a staff of 151 personnel comprised of civilians (many of whom have served in the military) and military. We oversee the Army Corrections and Law Enforcement functions and interface frequently with the Bureau of Prisons, US Parole Commission, various state and federal law enforcement agencies and the nation's court system.

It is our privilege and honor to do this important work.

Catherine C. Mitrano

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army  
Director, Army Review Boards Agency

***Serving Soldiers, Veterans, their Families,  
and Civilian Employees  
with Justice, Equity, and Compassion***

## ARBA Year in Review

