

GOMOR (General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand)

What is a GOMOR? A GOMOR is a memorandum written to a soldier by a General Officer reprimanding the soldier for any serious conduct that does not meet Army standards. Some examples include civilian criminal charges, inappropriate sexual relationships or conduct, SHARP or EO violations, toxic leadership environment, etc. A GOMOR can either be filed “locally” or in your “permanent” file. A locally filed GOMOR will remain in the soldier’s file for up to 18 months or until they PCS, whichever is sooner. A permanently filed GOMOR will go in a soldier’s Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) and will stay there for the entirety of the soldier’s career.

Why does it matter? A GOMOR placed in a soldier’s permanent file can be seen by practically everyone. This can negatively affect a soldier’s chances for promotion, re-enlistment, and future assignments.

What do you do if you get a GOMOR? After receiving the GOMOR, a soldier has seven days to file a “rebuttal” statement, which is his or her opportunity to respond to whatever facts were in the GOMOR. The rebuttal statement is a written statement that can deny, rebut, explain, or mitigate the facts presented in the GOMOR. A rebuttal statement gives soldiers the opportunity to explain his or her actions and may affect how the GOMOR is filed (either local or permanent).

What should I put in my rebuttal statement? Rebuttal statements should address the underlying facts mentioned in the GOMOR. Soldiers can elect to deny the facts, explain mitigating circumstances, or admit the actions discussed in the GOMOR. Additionally, soldiers should argue for a particular filing determination (local or permanent). If possible, soldiers should get statements from people that can attest to the soldier’s character. A legal assistance attorney can assist soldiers in editing and refining a rebuttal statement. If a soldier cannot make the seven day suspense date, the soldier must request an extension through the legal assistance office.

Can I appeal a locally filed GOMOR? There is no formal process for removing a GOMOR from a soldier’s local file; however, a soldier can request its removal by the General Officer who ordered the filing at any time. The appeal should be in memorandum format and should include any supporting documentation.

Can I appeal a GOMOR filed in my permanent OMPF file? Yes, a soldier can appeal to have a permanently filed GOMOR either removed or transferred to the local file. Details regarding this process are outlined in AR 600-37, Chapter 7. The Department of the Army Suitability and Evaluation Board (DASEB) is responsible for hearing all GOMOR appeals.

How can I request my permanently filed GOMOR be removed? To request removal, the soldier must provide clear and convincing evidence that the allegations in the GOMOR are untrue or unjust, in whole or in part, and therefore warrant removal. During the appeal for removal process, the burden of proof is on the soldier. The DASEB will typically only hear appeals from soldiers in the grade of E-6 or above. The DASEB will consider appeals from soldiers in the grade of E-5 or below only as an exception to policy.

How can I request my permanently filed GOMOR be transferred to my local file? To request transfer of the GOMOR to the local file, the soldier must provide evidence that the intended purpose of the GOMOR has been served. The soldier must also indicate that transferring the GOMOR to his or her local file would be in the best interest of the Army. During the appeal for transfer process, the burden of proof is on the soldier. The DASEB will typically only hear appeals from soldiers in the grade of E-6 or above. The DASEB will consider appeals from soldiers in the grade of E-5 or below only as an exception to policy.

***This information paper does not constitute legal advice and should not be used as substitute for a consultation with a Client Legal Services Attorney for specific questions about your personal circumstances.**

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Client Legal Services Office – Information Paper

