

From: TerrieGent@aol.com
Subject: Mike, please forward to UVC EMail List
Date: September 21, 2014 at 5:31:33 AM MST
To: mi33csm@gmail.com, mi33csm@icloud.com

Mike,

Please broadcast this message to the UVC email list. Thanks, Terrie

Veteran Leaders,

This is very important news. Thank you to the *Herald/Review* for reporting it.

Tom Philpott has a great article in the 20 Sep 2014 issue of the *Herald/Review* explaining the results of a lawsuit filed by students at Yale Law School asking a federal court to issue an injunction requiring the boards of correction of military records to take into account evidence of PTSD when reviewing requests for discharge upgrades. The DoD responded to this suit by changing the rules boards of corrections use when considering discharge upgrades based on PTSD. The students at Yale Law School were hugely successful with this lawsuit. Although the new guidelines should accomplish what the students asked the court to do, the students have decided not to withdraw this lawsuit until they see that the boards of correction of military records are actually doing what the DoD has indicated they should do. As President Reagan said, "Trust but verify."

DoD Secretary Hagel sent a memo to the services containing "supplemental guidance" that the boards of correction of military records should use when veterans ask to have a discharge upgraded based upon PTSD. According to the *Herald/Review*, Hagel instructed the boards to give "liberal consideration" to any language found in medical records (presumably DoD records) describing one or more symptoms that meet diagnostic criteria for PTSD or related conditions. Liberal consideration is also to be given when a civilian provider has diagnosed PTSD. This is a **tremendous step forward** and it came about because of the efforts of a small number of law students and their professor. All volunteers, all pro bono.

Please make sure all your members are aware of this new opportunity to have discharges upgraded based upon evidence of PTSD. I suggest that we in the UVC consider sending a letter to the students and their professor thanking them for taking on this very, very important issue. We need to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. <http://www.law.yale.edu/academics/18094.htm> If you want to read the lawsuit, or the "complaint" as it is called, click on this link. The lawsuit is 31 pages long, but you'll find all of what the students outline much, much too familiar.

Terrie