GENERAL OFFICER MEMORANDUM OF REPRIMAND (GOMOR)

WHAT IS A GOMOR?

A General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand (GOMOR) is a Letter of Reprimand (LOR) by a general officer, or officer with general courts-martial jurisdiction (GCMCA), concerning a Soldier under his or her command. At the general officer's discretion, a GOMOR may be filed in the Soldier's Military Personnel Record Jacket (i.e., MPRJ or "local file) or in their Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR).

HOW DO I RESPOND TO A GOMOR?

In accordance with Army Regulation 600-37, you are entitled to reply to the allegations made against you before a filing decision is made since the GOMOR is "unfavorable information." You will have a reasonable amount of time (generally 7 to 10 calendar days) to prepare and submit a written statement to deny, rebut, explain, or mitigate the reprimand. Your statement should **address the underlying facts** of the GOMOR (e.g., whether you choose to deny, explain mitigating circumstances, or admit your actions and ask for a second chance), and argue for a particular filing determination. Your statement will be attached if the letter is filed.

Your local Legal Assistance Attorney (LAA) can assist with your written statement. To help the LAA understand what occurred, you will need to prepare a draft memorandum with a complete description of the events surrounding the reprimand. This memorandum will be the foundation of your statement and must be properly formatted (i.e., IAW AR 25-50). A template is available at the Legal Assistance Office (LAO) to ensure your memorandum is in the correct format. Make sure you provide a copy of your draft to the LAO prior to your appointment.

You should include supporting documents. If you have witnesses for certain events, list their full name and unit information when mentioned in your statement, and obtain separate written statements (preferably sworn) from them. You should also enclose copies of your most recent favorable ratings, letters attesting to your character, and awards received. The LAA can assist you with revising your statement. When ready, you will submit your prepared matters on or before your suspense date to the officer who notified you of the GOMOR, or the individual indicated in the instructions on your notification memorandum. Make sure that you retain a copy of your prepared matters.

If you are unable to prepare and submit your matters within the required timeline, a LAA can assist with requesting an extension.

CAN I GET A GOMOR REMOVED OR TRANSFERRED THAT HAS BEEN FILED IN MY OFFICIAL PERSONNEL RECORD?

Army Regulation 600-37, Chapter 7, outlines procedures for requesting the Department of the Army Suitability and Evaluation Board (DASEB) remove a GOMOR from your AMHRR or transfer a GOMOR to the restricted portion of your record.

HOW DO I REQUEST REMOVAL?

Once filed in your AMHRR, a GOMOR is presumed to be administratively correct. Therefore, you have the burden to **provide evidence of a clear and convincing nature** that the allegations are untrue or unjust, in whole or in part; thereby, warranting removal. Appeals that merely allege an injustice or error without supporting evidence are not acceptable and will not be considered.

Appeals are generally restricted to grades E6 and above, officers, and warrant officers. For Soldiers in grades below E6, an appeal will only be considered as an exception to policy.

Appeals should be in military memorandum format and accompanied by relevant, substantive evidence. Once prepared, appeals should be sent directly to the President, DA, Suitability Evaluation Board, HQDA (DAPE-MPC-E):

1901 South Bell Street, 2nd Floor

Arlington, VA 22202-4508

HOW DO I REQUEST A TRANSFER?

Only Letters of Reprimand, admonition, or censure can be the subject of an appeal for transfer to the restricted fiche. Such appeals may be made on the basis of proof that their intended purpose has been served, and transfer would be in the best interests of the Army. As with removal, the burden of proof rests with the Soldier.

Appeals are normally restricted to grades E6 and above, officers, and warrant officers.

Appeals for transfers may only be made if at least one year has elapsed since imposition of the letter **and** at least one evaluation report (other than academic) has been received.

Appeals should be in military memorandum format and accompanied by relevant, substantive evidence. Once prepared, appeals should be sent directly to the President, DA, Suitability Evaluation Board, HQDA (DAPE-MPC-E):

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If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment, please contact the Fort Jackson Legal Assistance Office.

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
Legal Assistance Office
2600 Liberty Division Road
Fort Jackson, SC 29207
803-751-4287
usarmy.jackson.army-tng-ctr.mbx.legal-assistance@army.mil

What to Include in Your GOMOR Rebuttal

In ONE PDF your rebuttal matters should include the GOMOR rebuttal itself, which is a written statement establishing reasons why the GOMOR should not be filed or should be filed locally, and any enclosures. Enclosures should include letters of support from supervisors, evidence of awards, positive evaluations, etc. The message should convey that you meet the Army's standards and that the GOMOR should not be filed, or should be locally filed.

What do I Write in my Rebuttal Statement?

Your statement should explain the incident behind the GOMOR from your point of view. Consider taking responsibilities for your actions, but be wary of admitting guilt; especially if there is an ongoing investigation.

It should also emphasize your military/civilian education, leadership or critical positions held, job positions held, how you contributed to the success of your subordinates, military awards or medals, desire to serve, honorable service that outweighs deficiencies, and any other actions that mitigate the GOMOR.

Establish your personal values, competence, physical fitness/military bearing, leadership, training, responsibility, and accountability. You should show why you are an asset and what your future potential service will be to the Army.

Your letters of support should be from current and prior supervisors detailing your accomplishments, duty titles, impact on the unit, their opinion of your future potential, and whether they would serve with you again.

If appropriate, you should include evidence of improvement since the incident giving rise to the GOMOR. This can include upward trend on evaluations, recent awards, completion of service schools, recent volunteer work, or significant leadership achievements.

Submission

Submit your final packet back through your chain of command.

What Happens After I Submit my GOMOR Rebuttal?

The Commanding General (CG) will review the packet and make a final determination. Your chain of command will receive the final decision and report it back to you.

Fort Jackson Legal Assistance
2600 Liberty Division Road
Fort Jackson, SC 29207
803-751-4287

GENERAL OFFICER MEMORANDUM OF REPRIMAND (GOMOR) PRE-APPOINTMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Please review the following instructions in preparation for your GOMOR rebuttal appointment with a legal assistance attorney.

- **Use the provided GOMOR rebuttal template to begin drafting your response.**
  - Should be compliant with AR 25-50 writing/formatting requirements.
  - Recommend no more than 1-2 pages; anything longer should only be included if absolutely necessary.
  - The attorney will need the electronic, editable Word document.

- **Start asking for Letters of Support now. You do not need to wait until your appointment.**
  - These are recommendations from people who know you and can speak to your character/performance as a Soldier.
  - These letters are most impactful when they are from higher-ranking individuals (i.e., officers or senior NCOs), to include previous members of your chain of command.
  - Letters from peers are generally less persuasive.
  - The letters are submitted to you directly and will be attached as an enclosure to your rebuttal.

- **Provide a copy of all related documents when requesting an appointment.**
  - This includes the GOMOR itself (i.e., notification memorandum and receipt of acknowledgment) and the evidence packet (e.g., 15-6 investigation or police report). Bring any additional documents you have related to the incident to your appointment, if needed.

- **Our office can help prepare an extension request for your GOMOR rebuttal if we are unable to schedule an appointment within the required timeline.**
  - Extensions CANNOT be requested for Servicemembers who choose to request an appointment the day before or day of their suspense date.
  - **You will turn in your GOMOR response**; typically, you will be instructed to submit matters to your brigade legal office or specified point of contact if not co-located with your brigade legal office.
  - **We turn in the extension request to the Military Justice section** within the OSJA and will notify you once a decision is made.

Please arrive on time for your appointment. If you are a "no-show," we will not request another extension on your behalf to accommodate a rescheduled appointment.