

CIRCULAR, }  
 No. 11. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
 ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
 Washington, January 26, 1864.

The following instructions from the Secretary of War are furnished for your information and guidance :

The authority heretofore given to Military Commanders to order the discharge of enlisted men for disability is hereby revoked, and hereafter all discharges of Regulars, (except rejected recruits, whose cases are forwarded to this office,) and all discharges of Volunteers, except recruits rejected at the muster-in, (who are discharged by the Mustering Officer, and called "rejected recruits,") will be given ONLY on the order of the Commanding Officer of the Corps or Department in which the man may be serving at the time of discharge. This will not be understood to confer upon Corps or Department Commanders authority to grant discharges to enlisted men, except by Orders from the War Department, to accept promotion, or expiration of term of service, for disability, or by sentence of a General Court Martial. Officers and soldiers of the Volunteer force, discharged on expiration of term of service, should be mustered out of service by the Commissary or Assistant Commissary of Musters for their command.

I have the honor to be, sir,  
 Very respectfully,  
 Your obedient servant,

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

OFFICIAL:

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

