



**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS**

ADDENDUM TO RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2016-00848-2

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

The Board reconsider her request for a medical separation.

RESUME OF THE CASE

The applicant is a former Air National Guard airman basic (E-1) who was discharged on 16 Jul 80 with an honorable discharge.

On 18 Apr 17, the Board considered and denied her request for a medical separation; finding the applicant had provided insufficient evidence of an error or injustice to justify relief. The Board concurred with the rationale and recommendations of ARPC/DPTT and the AFBCMR Medical Advisor and found a preponderance of the evidence did not substantiate the applicant's contentions. Specifically, the Board found the applicant's request for a change of service characterization from honorable to medical honorable was not permitted per AFI 36-3209, *Procedures for Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Members*, as there are only three service characterizations, with no characterization of medical honorable. Furthermore, the Board found the applicant's medical condition did not represent a condition so severe as to impart a possible permanent medical disqualification condition warranting Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) and Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) processing under, AFR 35-4, *Physical Evaluation for Retention, Retirement, and Separation*. Given this, the applicant was afforded the option to remain in-place at the training site until her knee healed sufficiently to complete her training or be discharged and the applicant elected discharge action. Therefore, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the Board found no basis to recommend granting the requested relief.

For an accounting of the applicant's original request and the rationale of the earlier decision, see the AFBCMR Letter and Record of Proceedings at Exhibit F.

On 17 Jun 24, the applicant requested reconsideration of her request for an honorable medical discharge. She again contends her military records reflect her patellar fracture of the right knee as incurred during Basic Military Training (BMT) to which she was separated for failing to meet the minimum military training requirements. This error has prevented the issuance of her DD Form

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Work-Product

214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, and has denied her Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) benefits.

In support of her reconsideration request, the applicant submitted the following new evidence: (1) a congressional letter from her daughter requesting help with her mother's application for emergency housing through the DVA to prevent her from becoming homeless.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit G.

On 20 Nov 24, a DD Form 214 was generated to annotate the time the applicant spent on active duty. This form indicates she was honorably discharged on 16 Jul 80 after serving 2 months and 10 days of active service. Her narrative reason for discharge is "Miscellaneous/General Reasons" (Exhibit H).

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

The military's Disability Evaluation System (DES), established to maintain a fit and vital fighting force, can by law, under Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), only offer compensation for those service incurred diseases or injuries which specifically rendered a member unfit for continued active service and were the cause for career termination; and then only for the degree of impairment present at or near the time of separation and not based on post-service progression of disease or injury. To the contrary, the DVA, operating under a different set of laws, Title 38, U.S.C., is empowered to offer compensation for any medical condition with an established nexus with military service, without regard to its impact upon a member's fitness to serve, the narrative reason for release from service, or the length of time transpired since the date of discharge.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The AFRBA Psychological Advisor completed a review of all available records and finds insufficient evidence to support the applicant's request. The applicant is petitioning the Board to change her honorable discharge to a medical honorable discharge and check marked Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) on her application. However, there is no evidence to support the applicant had PTSD or any other mental health condition during her military service or at discharge. Her available records during service do not diagnose her with any mental health conditions. Her available post-service records do not diagnose her with PTSD. There is no evidence to support the applicant has PTSD or she was unfit for service from a psychological perspective during her two months of military service.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit I.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion along with the medical advisory from her previous case to the applicant on 26 Feb 25 for comment (Exhibit J) but has received no response. A DD Form 214 was generated and sent to the applicant for her time spent on active duty.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was timely filed.
2. The applicant exhausted all available non-judicial relief before applying to the Board.
3. After reviewing all Exhibits, the Board remains unconvinced the evidence presented demonstrates an error or injustice. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of the AFRBA Psychological Advisor and the previous recommendation from the AFBCMR Medical Advisor and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. The Board finds no evidence the applicant suffered a mental health condition to include PTSD during service. Furthermore, regarding the applicant's knee injury, the mere existence of a medical diagnosis does not automatically determine unfitness and eligibility for a medical separation or retirement. The applicant's knee injury was not a permanent, disabling condition warranting processing through the DES. The applicant was given the choice to remain in training until her injury healed or be discharged to which she chose to be discharged. A Service member shall be considered unfit when the evidence establishes the member, due to physical disability, is unable to reasonably perform the duties of his or her office, grade, rank, or rating. The military's DES established to maintain a fit and vital fighting force, can by law, under Title 10, U.S.C., only offer compensation for those service incurred diseases or injuries, which specifically rendered a member unfit for continued active service and were the cause for career termination; and then only for the degree of impairment present at or near the time of separation and not based on post-service progression of disease or injury. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, and the Board will reconsider the application only upon receipt of relevant evidence not already presented.

CERTIFICATION

The following quorum of the Board, as defined in Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2016-00848-2 in Executive Session on 16 Apr 25:

[REDACTED], Panel Chair

[REDACTED], Panel Member

[REDACTED], Panel Member

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All members voted against correcting the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit F: Record of Proceedings, w/ Exhibits A-E, dated 18 Apr 17.
- Exhibit G: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 17 Jun 24.
- Exhibit H: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit I: Advisory Opinion, AFRBA Psychological Advisor, dated 12 Dec 24.
- Exhibit J: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 26 Feb 25.

Taken together with all Exhibits, this document constitutes the true and complete Record of Proceedings, as required by DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.12.9.

4/29/2025

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: USAF