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

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**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2020-02875

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**COUNSEL:** Work-Product

**HEARING REQUESTED:** Work-...

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**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**

His under other than honorable conditions (UOTHC) discharge be upgraded to honorable, based on the repeal of Title 10, United States Code, Section 654 (10 U.S.C. § 654).

**APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS**

Based on changes in administrative rules, he would like his discharge upgraded to honorable before he dies.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The applicant is a former Air Force airman first class (E-4).

On 19 Apr 61, according to Special Orders Work-P..., provided by the applicant, the applicant was relieved from assignment for the purpose of separation under the provisions of AFR 35-66, *Discharge of Homosexuals*.

According to Special Orders Work-Product, dated 19 May 61, provided by the applicant, the applicant was discharged under other than honorable conditions, effective 22 May 61.

On 22 May 61, according to DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, provided by the applicant, the applicant received a UOTHC discharge with Reason and Authority, AFR 39-17, *Discharge of Airmen Because of Unfitness*, and SDN (Service Designation Number) 257 (Homosexual - Class II). He was credited with 3 years, 4 months, and 14 days of active duty service.

For more information, see the applicant's submission at Exhibit A.

**APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

AFR 35-66, *Discharge of Homosexuals*, dated 31 May 54. Homosexuals are classified within several categories and are classified as follows:

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**Class I:** Those cases accompanied by assault or coercion as characterized by any act in or to which the other person involved did not willingly cooperate or consent, or where the consent was obtained through force, fraud, or actual intimidation; thereby, constituting the invasion of the rights of another, or the commission of a homosexual act with a minor under the age of consent, whether the minor cooperated or not. Trial by court-martial is usually appropriate. In no case will persons in Class I be administratively discharged until the entire case has been submitted to the Secretary of the Air Force who will determine whether such action is in the best interest of the service.

**Class II:** Those cases wherein personnel have willfully engaged in one or more homosexual acts, or where evidence supports proposal or attempt to perform an act of homosexuality which do not fall into the Class I category. Distinction is not made in the administrative handling of cases of alleged participation in homosexual acts based upon whether or not the role of the person in any particular act was active or passive. Discharge for Class II homosexuals will normally be under conditions other than honorable.

**Class III:** Those cases wherein personnel exhibit, profess, or admit homosexual tendencies, or habitually and knowingly associate themselves with true, confirmed homosexuals and wherein there are no specific homosexual acts or offenses.

On 20 Sep 11, with the repeal of the law commonly known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT), 10 U.S.C. § 654, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued supplemental policy guidance on correcting military records of former service members who had been discharged under that law or a precursor. The guidance applied to the following types of requests: changing the narrative reason for a discharge; re-characterizing service as honorable; changing a reentry code to one allowing immediate eligibility to reenter service. The guidance directed that such requests should normally be granted when both of the following conditions are true: (1) the original discharge was based solely on DADT or a similar policy in place prior to enactment of DADT; and (2) there were no aggravating factors in the record, such as misconduct. For meritorious cases, the guidance further directed the use of “Secretarial Authority” as the new narrative reason for separation, with Separation Program Designator (SPD) code “JFF” and reentry code “1J.” Finally, the guidance noted that while each request must be evaluated individually, an honorable or under honorable conditions (general) discharge should normally be considered to indicate the absence of aggravating factors.

The complete DoD policy is at Exhibit B.

On 25 Jul 18, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD P&R) issued supplemental guidance to military corrections boards in determining whether relief is warranted based on equity, injustice, or clemency. These standards authorize the board to grant relief in order to ensure fundamental fairness. Clemency refers to relief specifically granted from a criminal sentence and is a part of the broad authority Boards have to ensure fundamental fairness. This guidance applies to more than clemency from sentencing in a court-martial; it also applies to any other corrections, including changes in a discharge, which may be warranted on equity or relief from injustice grounds. This guidance does not mandate relief, but rather provides standards and principles to guide Boards in application of their equitable relief authority. Each case will be assessed on its own merits. The relative weight of each principle and whether the principle supports relief in a particular case, are within the sound discretion of each Board. In determining whether to grant relief on the basis of equity, an injustice, or clemency grounds, the Board should refer to the supplemental guidance, paragraphs 6 and 7.

AFI 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, describes the types of service characterization:

**Honorable.** The quality of the airman's service generally has met Air Force standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty or when a member's service is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be inappropriate.

**Under Honorable Conditions (General).** If an airman's service has been honest and faithful, this characterization is warranted when significant negative aspects of the airman's conduct or performance of duty outweigh positive aspects of the airman's military record.

**Under Other than Honorable Conditions.** When basing the reason for separation on a pattern of behavior or one or more acts or omissions that constitute a significant departure from the conduct expected of airmen. The member must have an opportunity for a hearing by an administrative discharge board or request discharge in lieu of trial by court-martial. Examples of such behavior, acts, or omissions include, but are not limited to:

- The use of force or violence to produce serious bodily injury or death.
- Abuse of a special position of trust.
- Disregard by a superior of customary superior - subordinate relationships.
- Acts or omissions that endanger the security of the United States.
- Acts or omissions that endanger the health and welfare of other members of the Air Force.
- Deliberate acts or omissions that seriously endanger the health and safety of other persons.
- Rape, sexual assault, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, rape of a child, sexual assault of a child, sexual abuse of a child, forcible sodomy and attempts to commit these offenses.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed, but it is in the interest of justice to excuse the delay.
2. The applicant exhausted all available non-judicial relief before applying to the Board.
3. After reviewing all Exhibits, the Board concludes the applicant is the victim of an injustice. While the Board finds no error in the original discharge process, the Board recommends relief based on the repeal of 10 U.S.C. § 654. The absence of aggravating factors in the applicant's record meets the criteria of the DoD policy on records correction following the repeal of DADT. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's record.

## RECOMMENDATION

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show the DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, issued in conjunction with his 22 May 61 discharge, be amended to reflect he was discharged under the provisions of AFR-39-10, with service characterized as Honorable, a Separation Code and corresponding Narrative Reason for Separation of JFF, *Secretarial Authority*, and a Reentry Code of 1J.

## CERTIFICATION

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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-2020-02875 in Executive Session on 29 Feb 24:

Work-Product, Panel Chair  
Work-Product, Panel Member  
Work-Product, Panel Member

All members voted to correct the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 8 Nov 22.
- Exhibit B: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: DoD Policy on Correcting Military Records after Repeal of DADT, 20 Sep 11.
- Exhibit D: Notification of DoD Policy, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 21 Sep 23.

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.

6/25/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR  
Signed by: USAF

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