

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-01557

XXXXXXXXXX

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His narrative reason for separation be changed.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He was allowed to separate early due to his Air Force Specialty Code being overmanned. He applied for a home loan with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA); however, his application was rejected based on his narrative reason for separation. He was told he could receive DVA benefits if the issue was corrected.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force airman first class (E-3).

According to DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, provided by the applicant, he served in the Regular Air Force from 12 Apr 94 to 27 Jun 95.

On 27 Jun 95, according to DD Form 214 provided by the applicant, he received an honorable discharge with a separation code and corresponding narrative reason for separation of MND (Miscellaneous/General Reasons). He was credited with 1 year, 2 months, and 15 days of active duty service.

For more information, see the excerpt of the applicant's record at Exhibit B and the advisory at Exhibit C.

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

According to DoDI 1332.14, *Enlisted Administrative Separations* and AFI 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*. An enlisted Service member may be separated for Convenience of the Government for numerous reasons. Airmen who do not qualify for separation for another reason may ask for separation under the "Miscellaneous Reasons" provision. As a rule, applications when the airman's early separation will serve the best interest of the Air Force should be approved. A discharge under this authority is considered a Voluntary Convenience of the Government separation.

According to AFI 36-3202, *Separation Documents* and DD Form 214 Total Force Personnel Services Delivery Guide, Enlisted members who are discharged for the Convenience of the Government should have, "Convenience of the Government" entered after the Narrative Reason for Separation in Block 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation). For Example, Miscellaneous/General Reasons (Convenience of the Government).

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP2SSR recommends denying the application, indicating there is no error or injustice with the discharge processing. Based on the presumption of regularity with the Force Shaping Program, the applicant would have been afforded the opportunity to voluntarily separate from active duty prior to completion of his active duty service contract. Traditionally, under the Force Shaping Program, individuals who elect to voluntarily separate would do so under the “miscellaneous/general” provision of the Air Force Instruction. Additionally, there is no SPD code for “overmanned specialty” as requested by the applicant. The applicant separated with only one year of active duty service under the miscellaneous/general provisions of the Air Force Instruction; therefore, the narrative reason and separation code are correct as indicated on the DD Form 214.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT’S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 14 Jul 21 for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

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 concludes the applicant is the victim of an error or injustice. While the Board notes the recommendation of AFPC/DP2SSR against correcting the record, the Board finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant’s contentions. Specifically, as noted in the applicable authority, a discharge for “Miscellaneous” reasons, is considered a “Convenience of the Government.” However, although the OPR states there is no error in the applicant’s separation code and corresponding narrative reason for discharge, they failed to indicate that enlisted members who are discharged for the Convenience of the Government should have "Convenience of the Government" entered after the Narrative Reason for Separation in Block 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation). While the applicant states he was told he could receive DVA benefits if his record was corrected, the Board’s recommendation does not guarantee this will be the case. Therefore, the Board recommends correcting the applicant’s records as indicated below.

RECOMMENDATION

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show, DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, issued on 27 Jun 95, be amended in block 28, *Narrative Reason for Separation*, to reflect Miscellaneous/General Reasons (Convenience of the Government).

CERTIFICATION

The following quorum of the Board, as defined in Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 1.5, considered Docket Number BC-2021-01557 in Executive Session on 17 Mar 22:

- , Panel Chair
- , Panel Member
- , Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 17 Feb 21.

Exhibit B: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP2SSR, dated 13 Jul 21.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 14 Jul 21.

Taken together with all Exhibits, this document constitutes the true and complete Record of Proceedings, as required by AFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.11.9.

X

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR