

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-03724

XXXXXXXXXX

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

The narrative reason for separation on his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, be changed based on the repeal of Title 10, United States Code, Section 654 (10 U.S.C. § 654).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He has to share his DD Form 214 for employment and loans and he feels it can negatively affect the decisions. He is not ashamed of what is stated; however, he does not want it to affect his financial future or employment.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

On 14 May 02, according to DD Form 214, the applicant received an honorable discharge. His separation code and corresponding narrative reason for separation is HRB, *Homosexual Admission*, and his reentry code is 2C, *Involuntarily separated with an honorable discharge; or entry level separation without characterization of service*. He was credited with 1 year, 1 month, and 21 days of total active service.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

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.

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 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 that on 14 May 02, he was discharged with a separation code and corresponding narrative reason for separation of JFF, *Secretarial Authority* and a reentry code of 1J.

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-2021-03724 in Executive Session on 1 Sep 22:

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

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, dated 15 Nov 21.

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

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.

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR