



**CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY**

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

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**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2022-02154

*Work-Product*

**COUNSEL:** NONE

**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO

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**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**

Her DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, dated 4 Apr 02, Block 24, *Character of Service*, be changed from "Uncharacterized" to "Honorable."

**APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS**

The period covered under that discharge was for her attendance at Officer Training School (OTS), which she successfully completed. The discharge was uncharacterized because the training was less than 180 days. She served an additional five years immediately following OTS. She did not discover nor understand the characterization until she was denied service credit for that time under the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS).

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The applicant is a former Air Force Captain (O-3).

On 4 Apr 02, the applicant received an entry level separation (ELS) with a character of service of "Uncharacterized" after serving 2 months and 21 days on active duty. Her narrative reason for separation was "Commissioned or Warrant in Same Branch of Service."

On 5 Apr 02, the applicant entered the Air Force as a commissioned officer and on 30 Jun 07, she was honorably discharged with a narrative reason for separation of "Reduction in Force." She was credited with 5 years, 2 months, and 26 days of active service for the period.

On 1 Jul 07, according to Reserve Order *Work-Product*, dated 23 Jun 10, the applicant was assigned to the Inactive Status List Reserve Section (ISLRS).

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

**APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

**Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-3211, *Military Separations***

4.9. Determining Eligibility. Eligibility for separation under this section is based on a change, or a proposed change, in a member's obligation to serve the full term of an enlistment contract.

**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2022-02154  
CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY**

Controlled by: SAF/MRB  
CUI Categories: SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY  
Limited Dissemination Control: N/A  
POC: [SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil)

**CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY**

4.9.1. A member may be separated for the following reasons:

4.9.1.3. Acceptance of a regular component or ARC commission or appointment, or acceptance into a program leading to such commission or appointment in any branch of the Military Services.

4.10. Type of Separation. Characterize the service of members separated for a reason in paragraph 4.11 through paragraph 4.18 as honorable unless an entry level separation is needed in accordance with paragraph 3.17.

4.11. Completion of Officer Training. Discharge graduates of officer training contingent on their acceptance of appointment as commissioned officers. Make the discharge effective the day before they take the oath of office as AF or SF officers. Do not deliver the discharge documents until after the oath of office has been executed. See Table 4.1 for an itemized list of reasons and authority for required separations. For more information about these separations, see AFMAN 36-2032.

**Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1332.14, *Enlisted Administrative Separations***

Enclosure 3 - Reasons for Separation

Section 2 - Selected Changes in Service Obligation

a. Basis. An enlisted Service member may be separated for the following reasons:

(3) Acceptance of an active-duty commission or appointment, or acceptance into a program leading to such commission or appointment in any branch of Military Services.

b. Characterization or Description. Honorable, unless the separation is under one of the following circumstances:

(1) An entry-level separation is required in accordance with Section 3 of Enclosure 4.

Enclosure 4 – Guidelines on Separation and Characterization

Section 3 - Characterization of Service or Description of Separation

c. Uncharacterized Separation.

(1) Entry-Level Separation

(a) A separation will be described as an entry-level separation if separation processing is initiated while an enlisted Service member is in entry-level status, except when:

2. The Secretary concerned, on a case-by-case basis, determines that characterization of service as honorable is clearly warranted by the presence of unusual military duty. The characterization is authorized when the Service member is separated under Enclosure 3 by reason of selected changes in service obligation (see Section 2 of Enclosure 3).

The guidance can be found at Exhibit B.

**AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP2SSR recommends denying the application. Airmen are in entry level status during the first 180 days of continuous active military service. The Department of Defense (DoD) determined if a member served less than 180 days continuous active service, it would be unfair to the member and the service to characterize their limited service. Based on review of the applicant's request, there is no error or injustice with the discharge processing.

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 18 Aug 22 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

**ADDITIONAL AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP2SSR recommends granting the application. Individuals attending OTS are there in an active-duty status and therefore fall under active-duty personnel policy. AFPC has reviewed the current DAFI 36-3211 and former enlisted separations AFI 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, and they both offer flexibility to give OTS graduates an honorable service characterization even though they are in entry level status.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit E.

**APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

The Board sent a copy of the revised advisory opinion to the applicant on 3 May 23 for comment (Exhibit F) 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 conflicting advisory opinions prepared in this case; however, after thoroughly reviewing this application, the Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DP2SSR advisory opinion, dated 3 May 23 and finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant's contentions. Specifically, the Board notes service members attending OTS are there in an active duty status and therefore, fall under the active duty personnel policy. 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 the APPLICANT be corrected to show on 4 Apr 02, she was honorably discharged and furnished an Honorable Discharge certificate.

**CERTIFICATION**

The following quorum of the Board, as defined in the 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-2022-02154 in Executive Session on 24 May 23 and 26 Jun 23:

 Panel Chair  
 Panel Member  
 Panel Member

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

**CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY**

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 8 Aug 22.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DP2SSR, dated 23 May 22.
- Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 18 Aug 22.
- Exhibit E: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DP2SSR, dated 3 May 23.
- Exhibit F: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 3 May 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.

1/4/2024

*Work-Product*

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: *Work-Product*