



CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY

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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2022-02200

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, dated 15 May 86, Block 24, *Character of Service*, be changed from "Not Applicable" to "Honorable."

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He is trying to "Buy Back" his time in service for retirement benefits. However, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will not accept his DD Form 214 because block 24 is showing "Not Applicable." His time was "Honorable" because he was commissioned as an Officer in the Air Force immediately after Officer Training School (OTS).

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

On 15 May 86, the DD Form 214, provided by the applicant, indicates he received an entry level separation (ELS) with a character of service of "Not Applicable" after serving four months and six days on active duty. His narrative reason for separation was "To Accept Commission in the Air Force from Officer Training Program."

On 16 May 86, the DD Form 214, provided by the applicant, indicates he entered the Air Force as a commissioned officer and on 31 Dec 92 he was honorably discharged with a narrative reason for separation of "Invol Release: Strength Adjustment." He was credited with 6 years, 7 months, and 15 days of active service for the period.

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-2022-02200
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

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.

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 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 C.

APPLICANT’S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the revised advisory opinion to the applicant on 10 Aug 23 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. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DP2SSR and finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant’s contentions. Specifically, the Board notes service members attending OTS have no break in service between their enlisted time at OTS and their commission date on active duty; therefore, their time spent at OTS qualifies as a change in service obligation and is characterized as honorable service. 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 on 15 May 1986, he was discharged with service characterized as honorable.

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-2022-02200 in Executive Session on 6 Mar 24:

-  Panel Chair
-  Panel Member
-  Panel Member


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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 24 May 23.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DPMSSR, dated 12 Jul 23.
- Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 10 Aug 23.

CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY

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.

9/3/2024



Work-Product

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: USAF

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2022-02200
CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY