



**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-2023-02188

*Work-Product*

**COUNSEL:** NONE

**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO

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**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**

His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, Block 24, *Character of Service* for the period 21 Nov 01 through 28 Feb 02, be changed from "Uncharacterized" to "Honorable."

**APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS**

There was no adverse action during Officer Training School (OTS) and he went on as an officer to perform 13 years of honorable active service. While the entry on his DD Form 214 is not an injustice, he believes it is an administrative error that should be corrected. He did not notice the error until Dec 22 when his Hawaii National Guard Human Resources Office pointed it out and suggested he get a DD Form 215, *Correction to DD Form 214/214-1, Reissuance and DD Form 215 Issuance*, amending the DD Form 214. He indicates he wants the correction so there are no questions from potential employers, the Department of Veterans Affairs because of the odd characterization.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The applicant is an Air Reserve Technician (ART) lieutenant colonel (O-5).

According to DD Form 214, for period 21 Nov 01 to 28 Feb 02, the applicant was discharged in the grade of staff sergeant (E-5) after he completed three months and eight days of active service to attend OTS. Block 23, *Type of Separation*, states "Entry Level Separation" and Block 24, *Character of Service*, reflects "Uncharacterized."

On 1 Mar 02, according to AF Form 133, *Oath of Office (Military Personnel)*, the applicant was appointed a second lieutenant (O-1) in the Reserve of the Air Force. On this same date, effective 1 Mar 02, according to Special Order *Work-Product* published on 25 Feb 02, the applicant was ordered to extended active duty per 10 USC 672(d).

According to the applicants DD Form 214, for the period of 1 Mar 02 to 30 Apr 15, he was discharged in the grade of major (O-4) after he completed 13 years and 2 months of active service. Block 23, states "Resignation" and Block 24, reflects "Honorable."

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

**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2023-02188  
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Controlled by: SAF/MRB  
CUI Categories: SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY  
Limited Dissemination Control: N/A  
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**APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

**DoDI 1332.14, *Enlisted Administrative Separations*, incorporating changes through 23 Jun 22:**

Enclosure 3, section 2 – Selected Changes in Service Obligation

Paragraph a(3) states an enlisted Service member may be separated due to an acceptance of an active duty commission or appointment, or acceptance into a program leading to such commission or appointment in any branch of Military Service.

Paragraph b(1) states the characterization or description is honorable unless the separation is an entry-level separation and is required in accordance with section 3 of Enclosure 4.

Enclosure 4, section 3 – Characterization of Service or Description of Separation

Paragraph c(1)(a)2 states an uncharacterized separation will be described as an entry-level if separation is initiated while an enlisted Service member is in entry-level status, except when the Secretary concerned, on a case-by-case basis, determined 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.

**AFI 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, Section 2B—Changes in Service Obligation:**

1.19.1. Entry Level Separation. Airmen are in entry-level status during the first 180 days of continuous active military service or the first 180 days of continuous active military service after a break of more than 92 days of active service. Determine the member's status by the date of notification; thus, if the member is in entry-level status when initiating the separation action, describe it as an entry-level separation unless:

1.19.1.2. The Secretary of the Air Force determines, on a case-by-case basis, that characterization as honorable is clearly warranted by unusual circumstances of personal conduct and performance of military duty. Use this characterization if the reason for separation is:

1.19.1.2.1. A change in military status according to Chapter 2

2.9. 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. Such a change may involve appointment to officer status, a new term of enlistment, separation from the active force to serve with one of the Reserve forces, or a defect in the enlistment. On receipt of evidence that a member is qualified for separation for one of the reasons in this section, the separation authority: 2.9.1. concurs in the action and establishes a DOS consistent with the reason for the separation; etc.

2.10. Type of Separation. Characterize the service of airmen separated for a reason in paragraphs 2.11 through 2.18 as honorable unless an entry-level separation is required according to paragraph 1.19. Separation from a void enlistment under paragraph 2.19 will be by order of release from custody and control of the Air Force. Describe separation under paragraph 2.20 for minority as an entry-level separation.

2.11. 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 Air Force officers. Do not deliver the discharge documents until after the oath of office has been executed. For more information about these separations, see AFI 36-2013, *Airman Commissioning Programs and Officer Training School* (formerly AFR 53-20).

### **AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DPMSSR (Transitions), recommends granting the applicants request to change the service characterization from “Uncharacterized” to “Honorable” on his DD Form 214. DPMSSR states for many years, OTS operated under their own internal policy with regards to characterizing the service of their graduates. Discussions with them have indicated their policy has shifted from time to time through the years, with some periods in the 1970s being characterized and some periods in the 1980s and 1990s listed as uncharacterized. OTS has been allowed to make the determination since they prepare DD Form 214s on all of their OTS students.

DPMSSR further states 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, *Military Separations* and former enlisted separations AFI 36-3208, and they both offer flexibility to give OTS graduates an honorable service characterization even though they are in entry-level status. As a result, and in consultation with AFPC Legal representatives (AFPC/JA), AFPC recommends approval of the change of characterization to “honorable” for anyone submitting an AFBCMR application who is a graduate from OTS who was given characterization of “uncharacterized” or “N/A” and who is requesting a favorable service characterization. Paragraph 2.11. 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 Air Force officers. Do not deliver the discharge documents until after the oath of office has been executed. For more information about these separations, see AFI 36-2013, *Airman Commissioning Programs and Officer Training School* (formerly AFR 53-20).

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 21 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/DPMSSR and finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant’s contentions. 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 his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, for the period of 21 Nov 01 through 28 Feb 02, Block 24, *Character of Service*, be changed from “Uncharacterized” to reflect “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-2023-02188 in Executive Session on 12 Mar 24:

*Work-Product* [Redacted] Panel Chair  
*Work-Product* [Redacted] Panel Member  
*Work-Product* [Redacted] Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 28 Jun 23.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DPMSSR, dated 15 Aug 23.
- Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 21 Aug 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.

4/5/2024

*Work-Product*