



CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

Work-Product

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2023-02274

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: YES

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, Block 24, *Character of Service* for the period 19 Apr 10 through 19 Jul 10 be changed from "Uncharacterized" to "Honorable."

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He commissioned from Officer Training School (OTS) on 19 Jul 10 and all other DD Form 214s he has received reflect "Honorable." He continues to serve in the Air Force Reserve (AFR) to this day and noticed the error when he attempted to "Buy Back" his time as a Civil Service employee. He has tried to solve the issue at the lower levels but has been unsuccessful. If his DD Form 214 is not corrected it will have ramifications on his retirement.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is currently serving as an AFR major (O-4).

According to the applicant's DD Form 214, for period of 19 Apr 10 to 19 Jul 10, he was discharged in the grade of staff sergeant (E-5) after he completed three months and one day of active service to attend OTS. Block 23, *Type of Separation*, states "Entry Level Separation" and Block 24, *Character of Service*, states "Uncharacterized."

On 20 Jul 10, according to AF Form 133, *Oath of Office (Military Personnel)*, the applicant was appointed a second lieutenant (O-1) in the Regular Air Force.

According to DD Form 214 and DD Form 215, *Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, for period of 20 Jul 10 to 2 Jan 12, the applicant was discharged in the grade of second lieutenant (O-1) after he completed 1 year, 5 months, and 14 days of active service. Block 23, states "Discharged" and Block 24, states "Honorable."

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

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

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2023-02274
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Controlled by: SAF/MRB
CUI Categories: SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY
Limited Dissemination Control: N/A
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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).

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 and finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant’s contentions. The Board notes the applicant was separated on 19 Jul 10 in the grade of staff sergeant when he completed OTS and was immediately appointed an officer on active duty with no break in service. In accordance with DoDI, 1332.14, *Enlisted Administrative Separations*, section 3 of Enclosure 4 the separation was for a change in the applicant’s service obligation, which authorizes an “Honorable” character of service. Furthermore, AFI 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, paragraph 2.10, *Type of Separation*, states an “Honorable” characterization should be provided for reasons listed in paragraphs 2.11 through 2.18 and according to the reason in paragraph 2.11., completion of officer training is one of the reasons the service can be characterized as “Honorable.” 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 period of 19 Apr 10 through 19 Jul 10, Block 24, *Character of Service*, be changed from “Uncharacterized” to “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-2023-02274 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 11 Jul 23.
- 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 DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.12.9.

4/5/2024

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