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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2023-02511

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

1. His debt for \$5,714.53 for his Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship (HPSP) be canceled and he be refunded the debt payment.
2. His date of separation (DOS) from the Air Force Reserve be 3 Aug 20, instead of 31 May 22.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

After leaving the HPSP program in Aug 18, he was in the Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR). In Mar 20, he was approved for a conditional release and commissioned in the Navy. He was told he would incur no debt for his HPSP participation since he accepted an eight year active duty service (ADSC).

Five years later, he checked his credit score and learned it had dropped 114 points due to a report of a debt from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). The Air Force Reserve reported to DFAS that they had attempted to contact him in Dec 22, Jan 23 and Feb 23. However, they had his prior address from when he was attending medical school and he received no notification. The debt had already been sent to the United States Treasury. Due to his concerns for his security clearance and military career, he immediately paid the debt in full. The DFAS also advised him their records showed his DOS from the Air Force Reserve as 31 May 22.

He attempted to rectify the errors and provides an email from the HPSP program manager that he should not have incurred any debt since he is serving on active duty.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force Reserve second lieutenant (O-2) and current lieutenant junior grade (O-2) in the Navy.

On 29 May 17, the applicant signed the FY17 Armed Forces Service Agreement for the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP). Item 18 states he would incur an eight year military service obligation for any participation in the program.

On 29 May 17, the applicant was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve for purpose of HPSP participation.

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A
POC: SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil

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On 3 Mar 20, the applicant requested a conditional release from the Air Force Reserve, which was approved.

Per Reserve Order dated 20 Aug 20, the applicant was relieved from HPSP and honorably discharged from the Air Force Reserve on 3 Aug 20. On 4 Aug 20, he joined the Navy.

On 6 Dec 22, DFAS informed the applicant of his debt due to overpayment of military pay or allowance related to entitlement from 1 Jan 18 to 15 Mar 18.

On 10 Apr 23, the DFAS informed the applicant his payment of \$5,714.53 was received and his account was paid in full.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

ARPC/JA is unable to review the applicant's date of discharge in Air Force systems but recommends partial grant for confirmation his discharge from the Air Force Reserve is 3 Aug 20, consistent with his order.

With respect to the debt cancellation, ARPC/JA finds no error or injustice in the applicant's debt. The recoupment is not due to the applicant's ultimate removal from HPSP, but as evidenced in the HPSP Program Manager's email of 16 Mar 18, it is for the collection of a stipend overpayment from 1 Jan 18 to 15 Mar 18. The recoupment was initiated in Mar 18 when the applicant voluntarily elected to take a leave of absence from the HPSP program to remediate his academic requirements, resulting in the stoppage of his HPSP stipend. The applicant was ultimately dismissed from the college and withdrawn from HPSP on 20 Jul 18. He sought an interservice transfer and was discharged on 3 Aug 20 and applied to the Navy on 4 Aug 20. The applicant's 28 Mar 18 leave and earnings statement (LES) shows the debt for the collection of his HPSP stipend.

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 19 Sep 23 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was timely filed.
2. The applicant did not exhaust all available non-judicial relief before applying to the Board.
3. After reviewing all Exhibits, the Board concludes the applicant is not the victim of an error or injustice. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of ARPC/JA and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. The applicant contends his debt in the amount of \$5,714.53 for his HPSP was erroneous due to his commission in the Navy. However, the evidence indicates the debt was not for his HPSP but was for the

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collection of a stipend overpayment that he was not entitled to due to his requested leave of absence from the HPSP. The applicant also requests his discharge from the Air Force Reserve reflect 3 Aug 20, instead of 31 May 22. The Board does not know why DFAS would have informed the applicant he was discharged on 31 May 22. Per the applicant's Reserve Discharge Order dated 20 Aug 20, the applicant was relieved from the HPSP and honorably discharged from the Air Force Reserve on 3 Aug 20. The applicant would also not have been able to join the Navy on 4 Aug 20 if he was still in the Air Force Reserve. Accordingly, the Board finds no action is required regarding the request to change his date of discharge. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, and the Board will reconsider the application only upon receipt of relevant evidence not already presented.

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-2023-02511 in Executive Session on 5 Dec 23:

Work-Product Panel Chair
Work-Product Panel Member
Work-Product Panel Member

All members voted against correcting the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 27 Jul 23.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, ARPC/JA, w/atchs, dated 13 Sep 23.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 19 Sep 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.

8/17/2025

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Associate Director, AFBCMR
Signed by: USAF

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