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

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2023-03217

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**COUNSEL:** NONE

**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO

**APPLICANT’S REQUEST**

His character of service from his Officer Training School (OTS), from Nov 87 to Apr 88, changed from uncharacterized to honorable on his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*.

**APPLICANT’S CONTENTIONS**

He is currently a federal civil service employee pending Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) retirement, and wants his time spent in OTS credited towards his civilian service, so it can be included in his FERS service computation. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and USAF Total Force Service Center (TFSC) advised him military service for OTS is creditable, however they will not process any action without an “honorable” characterization. In support of his request, the applicant provides a copy of his DD Form 214 from OTS and a DD Form 214 as a commissioned officer in the Air Force. Additionally, the applicant provides a copy of his assignment to OTS orders, retirement orders, and letters from DFAS.

The applicant’s complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The applicant is an Air Force Reserve lieutenant colonel (O-5), who retired on 31 May 23.

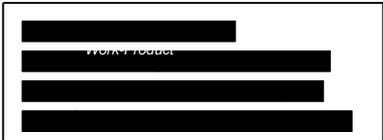
On 2 Nov 87, the applicant was ordered to active duty in the grade of staff sergeant (E-5), and assigned to Officer Training School, Work-Product Air Force Base, Texas to attend OTS for 12 weeks beginning 4 Nov 87.

On 12 Apr 88, the applicant received an entry level separation (ELS) with a character of service of “uncharacterized” after serving 5 months and 11 days on active duty. His narrative reason for separation was “To Accept a Commission in the AF from Officer Training Program.”

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

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## APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

AFR 39-10, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, dated 1 Oct 84, describes the authorized service characterizations that were applicable at the time of the applicant's separation.

**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:

- A service characterization of under other than honorable conditions is authorized under the reason for discharge and is warranted by the circumstances of the case; or
- 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. This characterization is authorized if the reason for separation is a change in military status according to chapter 2 which includes completion of officer training according to paragraph 2-11, honorably discharge graduates of officer training contingent on their acceptance of appointment as commissioned officers.

**Honorable.** The quality of the airman's service generally has met Air Force standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty or when a member's service is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be inappropriate.

## AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DPMSSR recommends granting the application. For many years, OTS operated under their own internal policy with regards to characterizing the service of their graduates. Discussions with them have indicated that 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. That said, 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, 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 our 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 and was given a characterization of "uncharacterized" or "N/A" and who is requesting a favorable service characterization.

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 23 Apr 24 for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

1. The application was not timely filed, but it is in the interest of justice to excuse the delay.
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. The applicant was attending OTS in an active-duty status and therefore fell under active-duty personnel policy. The current DAFI 36-3211 and former enlisted separations AFI 36-3208 both offer flexibility to give OTS graduates an honorable service characterization even though they are in entry level status. 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 his character of service from his OTS, 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-2023-03217 in Executive Session on 5 June 24:

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

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 28 Sep 23.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DPMSSR 12 Mar 24.
- Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 23 Apr 24.

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.

6/11/2024

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR  
Signed by: USAF