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

### RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2023-04043

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: YES

### APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His separation code of "SEB" with corresponding narrative reason for separation of "Disability, Not Combat Related, IDES" be changed to "Disability, Permanent IDES."

### APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He was medically retired through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES). He filed for additional benefits and was determined to be permanent and totally disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a medically retired Air Force airman first class (E-3).

On 15 Sep 23, AF Form 356, *Informal Findings and Recommended Disposition of USAF Physical Evaluation Board*, indicates the applicant was found unfit due to his medical conditions of chronic thoracolumbar back pain (DVA rated as lumbosacral strain) rated at 20 percent and right lower extremity lumbar radiculopathy rated at 10 percent with an overall disability compensation rating of 30 percent with a recommendation of "Permanent Retirement."

On 20 Sep 23, AF Form 1180, *Action on Physical Evaluation Board Findings and Recommended Disposition*, indicates the applicant agreed with the findings and recommended disposition of the Informal Physical Evaluation Board (IPEB) and waived his rights to a formal hearing. He also indicates he did not request a one-time reconsideration of the disability rating for the conditions found unfitting.

Dated 25 Sep 23, Special Order **Work-Product** indicates the applicant was permanently disability retired in the grade of airman first class (E-3) with a compensable percentage for physical disability of 30 percent, effective 24 Oct 23.

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB  
CUI Categories: **Work-Product**  
Limited Dissemination Control: N/A  
POC: [SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil)

On 23 Oct 23, DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, reflects the applicant was honorably discharged in the grade of airman first class (E-3) after serving 1 year, 10 months, and 10 days of active duty. He was discharged, with a narrative reason for separation of “Disability, Not Combat Related, IDES.”

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

## **AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DPFDD recommends denying the application finding no indication an error or injustice occurred at the time of his Disability Evaluation System (DES) processing. His DD Form 214 properly reflects these decisions and authorized valuable transitional benefits that all disabled veterans rightfully deserve. To address the DVA’s totally and permanently disabled decision, this is a determination made by the DVA after separation that authorizes additional DVA benefits and allowances that are separate from DoD benefits and entitlements and has no bearing on the information contained in his DD Form 214.

Standardized separation program designator (SPD) codes and their cleartexts are developed by the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (OUSD P&R) for DoD-wide use. SPD code of “SEB” is currently used for service members processed through the IDES who receive a non-combat related permanent disability retirement. The explanation for this code reads as follows, Service initiated retirement in accordance with established directive, allowing for permanent retirement due to a non-combat related illness or injury as authorized within current DoD DES policy guidance, IDES. The applicant’s requested change to his DD Form 214 aligns with the older SPD code of “SEJ” which is no longer utilized because this SPD code does not convey the 180 days of free transitional medical and dental health care coverage under the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) in accordance with DoDI 1332.35, *Transition Assistance Program (TAP) for Military Personnel*. Use of SPD code “SEB” is more advantageous to service members being permanently disability retired since it conveys this additional free benefit for disability retirees and aligns with the other SPD codes used for disability purposes.

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 11 Jul 24 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 not the victim of an error or injustice. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DPFDD and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. Specifically, the Board finds the narrative reason the applicant wishes to have annotated on his DD Form 214 was not in use at the time of his disability processing nor is it currently used. This older SPD code and narrative reason for separation is no longer utilized because this SPD code does not convey the 180 days of free transitional medical and dental health care coverage under TAP. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

4. The applicant has not shown a personal appearance, with or without counsel, would materially add to the Board's understanding of the issues involved.

### 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-2023-04043 in Executive Session on 20 Nov 24:

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Panel Chair  
Panel Member  
Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 6 Feb 24.

Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DPFDD, w/atchs, dated 28 Jun 24.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 11 Jul 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.

12/9/2024

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR  
Signed by: USAF

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