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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2023-02010

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

The narrative reason for separation on her DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, be changed to reflect either "Parenthood" or "Convenience of the Government" rather than "Pregnancy or Childbirth – Convenience of the Government."

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

She was told by a Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) representative the narrative reason for separation on her DD Form 214 is the reason she is ineligible for a Certificate of Eligibility for the DVA home loan. She was given the option to separate when she became pregnant with her first child because she was overseas. The main reason she elected to separate was due to parenthood.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

On 23 Sep 98, according to DD Form 214, the applicant entered the Regular Air Force and was discharged on 28 Jan 00. She received an honorable discharge with a separation code and corresponding narrative reason for separation of MDF, *Pregnancy or Childbirth – Convenience of the Government*. She was credited with 1 year, 4 months, and 6 days of active service.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

DoDI 1332.14, *Enlisted Administrative Separations*, and AFI 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*. An enlisted Service member may be separated for convenience of the U.S. Government for numerous reasons. A female enlisted Service member may find pregnancy and the expectation of motherhood incompatible with continued military service. If so, she may be separated on the basis of pregnancy or childbirth upon her request, unless retention is determined to be in the best interests of the Service.

According to AFI 36-3202, *Separation Documents*, and DD Form 214 Total Force Personnel Services Delivery Guide, Enlisted members who are discharged for the Convenience of the

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2023-02010

Work-Product

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Government should have "Convenience of the Government" entered after the Narrative Reason for Separation in Block 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation). For Example, "Pregnancy or Childbirth (Convenience of the Government)."

According to <https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/eligibility>, Service members who served between 2 Aug 90 and present, and did not receive a dishonorable discharge, are eligible for a DVA home loan if they served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty, or at least 90 days if discharged for hardship, reduction in force or convenience of the government.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DPMSSR (Retirements and Separations) recommends denying the application, as there is no evidence of an error or an injustice with the SPD code, narrative reason for separation, or the discharge processing. In accordance with AFI 36-3208, Section 3B, *Reasons for Voluntary Convenience of the Government (COG) Separation*, pregnancy is one of the reasons an enlisted member can apply for voluntary separation. Furthermore, in accordance with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), who serves as the arbiter of all SPD code listings, "MDF" is used when a service member separates due to pregnancy or childbirth. There is no SPD code or corresponding narrative reason for separation for the generic term "Parenthood."

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 1 Nov 23 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed. The Board notes the applicant did not file the application within three years of discovering the alleged error or injustice, as required by Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code, and Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*. While the applicant asserts a date of discovery within the three-year limit, the Board does not find the assertion supported by a preponderance of the evidence.
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/DPMSSR and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. The Board does not find it in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement. 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 DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2023-02010 in Executive Session on 28 Mar 24:

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 29 Jun 23.

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

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DPMSSR, w/atchs, dated 31 Oct 23.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 1 Nov 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.

4/18/2025

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Signed by: Work-Product