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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-00296

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Her narrative reason for separation be changed based on the repeal of Title 10, United States Code, Section 654 (10 U.S.C. § 654).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

She never identified as a homosexual and was confused at the time. She was not offered counseling and instead she was removed from her flight. Based upon recent changes, she is now able to request this change.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force airman basic (E-1).

On 3 Nov 98, the applicant's commander recommended the applicant be discharged from the Air Force, under the provisions of AFD 36-32, *Military Retirements and Separations*, and AFI 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, due to homosexual admission.

On 9 Nov 98, the discharge authority directed the applicant receive an entry level separation with uncharacterized service.

On 10 Nov 98, the applicant received an entry level separation with uncharacterized service, a separation code and corresponding narrative reason for separation of HRB, *Homosexual Admission*, and reentry code of 2C, *Involuntarily separated with an entry level separation without characterization of service*. She was credited with 1 month and 12 days of total active service.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

DoDI 1336.01, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)*. The Department of Defense (DoD) authorizes six characterizations of service for military service members to receive on discharge: (1) Honorable; (2) Under Honorable Conditions (General); (3)

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Under Other than Honorable Conditions; (4) Bad Conduct; (5) Dishonorable, and (6) Uncharacterized.

DoDI 1332.14, *Enlisted Administrative Separations*. A separation will be described as an entry-level separation if separation processing is initiated while an enlisted service member is in entry level status (180 days continuous active duty) except when: (1) Characterization under other than honorable is authorized under the reason for separation and is warranted by the circumstances or (2) The Secretary concerned on a case by case basis determined the characterization of service as honorable is warranted. The characterization is authorized due to reason of selected changes in service obligation, convenience of the government, disability, secretarial plenary authority, or an approved reason established by the Military Department.

Entry level separations, which are accompanied by an uncharacterized discharge, are given to individuals who separate prior to completing 180 days of military service or when discharge action was initiated prior to 180 days of service. This type of discharge does not attempt to characterize service as good or bad. Rather, an uncharacterized discharge is the absence of a characterization of service, as the individual being discharged does not have sufficient time in service in order to fairly characterize the individual's service.

On 20 Sep 11, with the repeal of the law commonly known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT), 10 U.S.C. § 654, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued supplemental policy guidance on correcting military records of former service members who had been discharged under that law or a precursor. The guidance applied to the following types of requests: changing the narrative reason for a discharge; re-characterizing service as honorable; changing a reentry code to one allowing immediate eligibility to reenter service. The guidance directed that such requests should normally be granted when both of the following conditions are true: (1) the original discharge was based solely on DADT or a similar policy in place prior to enactment of DADT; and (2) there were no aggravating factors in the record, such as misconduct. For meritorious cases, the guidance further directed the use of “Secretarial Authority” as the new narrative reason for separation, with Separation Program Designator (SPD) code “JFF” and reentry code “1J.” In addition, the guidance noted that while each request must be evaluated individually, an honorable or under honorable conditions (general) discharge should normally be considered to indicate the absence of aggravating factors. Finally, the issuance of a discharge under DADT or the taking of an action pursuant to DoD regulations related to a discharge under DADT should not by itself be considered to constitute an error or injustice that would invalidate an otherwise proper action taken pursuant to DADT and applicable DoD policy. Thus, remedies such as correcting a record to reflect continued service with no discharge, restoration to a previous grade or position, credit for time lost, or an increase from no separation pay to half or full separation pay or from half separation to full separation pay, would not normally be appropriate.

The complete DoD policy is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT’S REVIEW OF APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

The Board sent a copy of the DoD policy to the applicant on 4 Jun 24 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

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1. The application was timely filed.
2. The applicant exhausted all other available administrative remedies before applying to the Board.
3. After reviewing all Exhibits, the Board concludes the applicant is the victim of an injustice. While the Board finds no error in the original discharge process, the Board recommends relief based on the repeal of 10 U.S.C. § 654. The absence of aggravating factors in the applicant’s record meets the criteria of the DoD policy on records correction following the repeal of DADT. Therefore, the Board recommends correcting the applicant’s record as indicated below.

RECOMMENDATION

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show the DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, issued on 10 Nov 98, be amended to reflect she was discharged with a Separation Code of JFF, a Narrative Reason for Separation of Secretarial Authority, and a Reentry Code of 1J.

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-2024-00296 in Executive Session on 27 Feb 25:

- 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/atch, dated 4 Dec 23.
- Exhibit B: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: DoD Policy on Correcting Military Records after Repeal of DADT, dated 20 Sep 11.
- Exhibit D: Notification of DoD Policy, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 4 Jun 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.

9/27/2025

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 Signed by: USAF