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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-00429

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Remove any record she had a disease or substance abuse from her military records.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

She did not have a disease of any kind including substance abuse while serving or present. The records are incorrect and should not be a part of her record.

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 9 May 96, the applicant was ordered and acknowledged she was required to attend a command directed mental health evaluation.

On 19 Jun 96, according to the mental health evaluation memorandum the applicant had no evidence of mental defect, emotional illness, or psychiatric disorder. She was mentally responsible for her behavior and possessed sufficient mental capacity to understand and cooperate intelligently as a respondent in any administrative proceedings which might involve her. The evaluator noted, although fit and suitable for continued military service from a mental health perspective it was unlikely to change her level of motivation toward her military career, and recommended any action within the purview of the commander for discharge was advised.

On 8 Aug 96, the applicant's command was notified of the applicant's hospitalization on 7 Aug 96.

On 15 Aug 96, the applicant's commander recommended the applicant be discharged from the Air Force for conditions that interfere with military service-mental disorders with a characterization of honorable. The specific reasons for the action was on 12 Aug 96, the applicant received a comprehensive mental health evaluation as a result of a nine-day hospitalization, a one-night hospitalization at a civilian hospital, and then needing to be air evacuated back to home station. Additionally, the applicant had been referred for evaluation previously on or about 15 May 96 due to a depressed mood disorder which impacted her ability to function within the military. She was

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diagnosed with an adjustment disorder--Depressed Mood. The applicant's disorder was so severe, her ability to function effectively in the military environment was significantly impaired.

On 16 Aug 96, the applicant waived her right to counsel and waived her right to submit statements.

On 22 Aug 96, the Staff Judge Advocate found the discharge action legally sufficient.

On Aug 96, the discharge authority directed the applicant be discharged for conditions that interfere with military service-mental disorders with a characterization of honorable without probation and rehabilitation.

On 29 Aug 96, the applicant received an honorable discharge. Her narrative reason for separation is "Personality Disorder" and she was credited with 1 year, 9 months and 28 days of total active service.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DPMSSR recommends denying the application. Review of the applicant's discharge documentation in the Master of Personnel Records revealed the applicant was evaluated by a Clinical Psychologist and was diagnosed as having a condition that interfered with further military service. It was determined the condition was so severe, it impaired the ability of the applicant to function in a military environment and for further military service. The Base Discharge Authority concurred with the Commander's recommendation and the applicant was discharged from the Air Force. There is a minor error as the sub-paragraph for Conditions That Interfere with Military Service should have reflected "Adjustment Disorder" vs "Personality Disorder" on the DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*. However, based on review of the applicant's request and the Master of Personnel Record, there is no injustice with the discharge processing.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit C.

ADDITIONAL AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The AFRBA Psychological Advisor recommends denying the application. The Psychological Advisor finds insufficient evidence to support the applicant's request to remove records indicating she had a disease including substance abuse from her military records. There is no error or injustice with the medical/mental health information documented in her service treatment records and military personnel records. Although there is no error or injustice identified with her administrative discharge from service, an error was identified with the current narrative reason listed on her DD Form 214, which is listed as Personality Disorder. The applicant was not discharged from service for having a personality disorder but for having an adjustment disorder. The Psychological Advisor recommends the Board change her narrative reason to "Condition Not A Disability" to correct this error.

There are no records she had any substance abuse problems, received any substance use disorder diagnosis, or she received any substance abuse treatment during or after service. The Psychological Advisor does not know the specific records she was referencing to remove a disease of any kind from her military records. Her available military records revealed she was evaluated twice by a military mental health provider during service. The first evaluation was completed by referral from her commander because she had increased stress and no longer wanted to be in the Air Force. The second evaluation occurred after she was hospitalized for nine days at the Veterans Medical Center and one day at a civilian hospital while she was on leave because she was feeling depressed and having suicidal ideation about being in the military. She was assessed thoroughly through clinical interviews, collateral information obtained, and psychological testing for both evaluations. She was given a diagnosis of adjustment disorder with depressed mood from her second evaluation because she was experiencing situational depression from her dissatisfaction with her military career. There is no evidence she was misdiagnosed, and this diagnosis was appropriate and consistent with her clinical presentation at the time of evaluation. Furthermore, there are no records she continued to feel depressed following her discharge and this indicated that once her situational stressor of being in the military was removed, she no longer felt depressed and did not need mental health treatment or had depression following her discharge. This information provides additional support her adjustment disorder was appropriate and valid. Her condition/diagnosis of adjustment disorder with depressed mood was unsuited for continued military service, and she was discharged for having an unsuited mental health condition. There is no error or injustice identified with her reason for discharge. There is also no evidence or records she was ever diagnosed with a personality disorder during service. She was identified to have traits of a personality disorder, particularly histrionic and schizoid traits, but these traits were not enough to meet the diagnostic criteria for any personality disorder diagnosis. There is no error or injustice with the mental health provider's assessments of her condition and traits. From an exhaustive review of her available records, the applicant's request to remove diseases including substance abuse from her military records is not supported because there is no error or injustice identified with her mental disorder diagnosis given during service and no records exist to show she had substance abuse problems during service to be removed from her records.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit D.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinions to the applicant on 24 Oct 24 for comment (Exhibit E), 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 Psychological Advisor, finding insufficient evidence to support the applicant's request to remove records indicating she had a disease including substance abuse from her military records. There is no error or injustice with medical/mental health information documented in her service treatment records and military personnel records. Although




there is no error or injustice identified with her administrative discharge from service, an error was identified with the current narrative reason listed on her DD Form 214, which is listed as Personality Disorder. The applicant was not discharged from service for having a personality disorder but for having an adjustment disorder. Therefore, the Board recommends the changing of her narrative reason to “Condition Not A Disability” and denying the remainder of the applicant's request.

RECOMMENDATION

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show on 29 August 1996, she was discharged with service characterized as honorable, and a narrative reason for separation of Condition Not A Disability.

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-2024-00429 in Executive Session on 19 Feb 25:

-  Panel Chair
-  Panel Member
-  Panel Member

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

The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 21 Dec 23.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DPMSSR, dated 8 Oct 24.
- Exhibit D: Advisory opinion, AFRBA Psychological Advisor, 16 Oct 24.
- Exhibit E: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 24 Oct 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.

3/7/2025


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