

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-01020

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Her DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, Block 28, *Narrative Reason for Separation*, be amended from Personality Disorder to Mood Disorder.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

On 21 Mar 05, the applicant was diagnosed with a mood disorder by a clinical psychologist at the Life Skill Center on her Air Force base. It was for this reason she was recommended for discharge from active duty. The Narrative Reason for Separation on her DD Form 214 incorrectly lists a personality disorder, which according to the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), is inherently different from a mood disorder. A personality disorder is characterized by an enduring and problematic pattern of maladaptive behaviors, especially in relationships with others, even in the absence of any mood symptoms. Whereas a mood disorder is characterized by symptoms that mainly affect the emotional state, such as depression.

Per the memorandum from her clinical psychologist, her diagnoses, as listed in the DSM, met the criteria for Complicated Bereavement (V62.82) and Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood (309.0). These diagnoses are classified as mood disorders and do not meet the criteria for a personality disorder diagnosis. She has not ever, either during her time in service nor since then, been diagnosed with a personality disorder.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is an honorably discharged Air Force senior airman (E-4).

On 21 Mar 05, according to a XX MDOS/SGOH [Chief, Life Skills Support Center] memorandum, Subject: Recommendation for Separation for [applicant], provided by the applicant, she met the DSM-IV [Fourth Edition] criteria for V62.82 Complicated Bereavement and 309.0 Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood, and was recommended for separation from the Air Force.

On 2 May 05, the applicant was furnished an honorable discharge, with Narrative Reason for Separation: Personality Disorder, Separation Code: GFX [Personality Disorder], and was credited with 6 years, 8 months, and 28 days active service.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The AFRBA Psychological Advisor finds there is sufficient evidence to support the applicant's request to change her Narrative Reason for Separation.

While the applicant's specific reason for administrative separation is not available, she appears to have been separated based on the memorandum generated by a clinical psychologist that determined the applicant's mental health conditions of Complicated Bereavement and Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood were not improving and were so severe her ability to function effectively in the military environment was severely impaired. The provider recommended separation. This Psychological Advisor does not have access to any mental health records that diagnose the applicant with a personality disorder during her military service or after discharge. She was service-connected for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in 2024, 19 years after her military service. This Psychological Advisor does not have access to the compensation and pension evaluation that established her service-connection, so it is impossible to determine the basis or etiology of this diagnosis.

Regardless, if the Narrative Reason for Separation, discharge, or release from the military is a mental health condition that is not a disability, the appropriate Narrative Reason for Separation, discharge, or release should be Condition, Not a Disability. The applicant's DD Form 214 currently lists her Narrative Reason for Separation as Personality Disorder. This Psychological Advisor recommends the Board change her Narrative Reason for Separation to "Condition, Not A Disability" and change the Separation Code accordingly, per policy and for privacy reasons.

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 19 Aug 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 the AFRBA Psychological Advisor and finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant's contentions in part. Specifically, the applicant has provided a memorandum from a clinical psychologist that reflects her diagnosis of Complicated Bereavement and Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood, which is sufficient to justify granting the applicant's request to change her Narrative Reason for Separation. However, for the remainder of the applicant's request, the evidence presented did not demonstrate an error or injustice, and the Board finds no basis to recommend granting that portion of the applicant's request. 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 on 2 May 05, she was discharged with a Narrative Reason for Separation of Condition, Not a Disability, and corresponding Separation Code of JFV.

However, regarding the remainder of the applicant's request, the Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, and the application will only be reconsidered upon receipt of relevant evidence not already considered by the Board.

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-2024-01020 in Executive Session on 18 Dec 24:

, Panel Chair
, Panel Member
, Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atch, dated 5 Mar 24.
Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFRBA Psychological Advisor, dated 16 Aug 24.
Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 19 Aug 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.

X

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR