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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-01440

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COUNSEL: Work-Product

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His "Uncharacterized" Entry Level Separation (ELS) be changed to honorable.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) characterized his service as honorable.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

On 8 Oct 87, the applicant's commander recommended the applicant be discharged from the Air Force, under the provisions of AFR 39-10, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, paragraph 5-22b for entry level performance and conduct. The reasons for the action were his lack of aptitude for military service; failure to adapt to the military environment; and his lack of self-discipline.

On 23 Oct 87, the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate found the discharge action legally sufficient.

On an unknown date, the discharge authority directed the applicant be discharged for entry level performance and conduct, with an ELS.

On 2 Nov 87, the applicant received an ELS. His narrative reason for separation is "Entry Level Performance and Conduct" and he was credited with 5 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.

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

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AFR 39-10, dated 1 Oct 84, describes the authorized service characterizations that were applicable at the time of the applicant's separation.

Honorable. The quality of the airman's service generally has met Air Force standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty or when a member's service is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be inappropriate.

Entry Level Separation. Airmen are in entry level status during the first 180 days of continuous active military service or the first 180 days of continuous active military service after a break of more than 92 days of active service. Determine the member's status by the date of notification; thus, if the member is in entry level status when initiating the separation action, describe it as an entry level separation unless:

- A service characterization of under other than honorable conditions is authorized under the reason for discharge and is warranted by the circumstances of the case; or
- The Secretary of the Air Force (SAF) determines, on a case-by-case basis, that characterization as honorable is clearly warranted by unusual circumstances of personal conduct and performance of military duty.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP2SSR recommends denying the application finding no error or injustice with the discharge process. Airmen are in entry level status during the first 180 days of continuous active military service. The DoD determined if a member served less than 180 days continuous active service, it would be unfair to the member and the service to characterize their limited service.

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 20 Nov 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/DPMSSR and finds the preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. The Board notes the DVA's characterization of his service as honorable; however, the DVA is not governing

authority in determining service characterizations. Airmen are given an entry level separation with uncharacterized service when separation action is initiated within 180 days, which happened in the applicant's case; therefore, the type of separation and character of service are correct as indicated on his DD Form 214. The SAF can determine honorable service is warranted if unusual circumstances of personal conduct and performance of military duty is present; however, the Board finds no evidence to suggest such and therefore, recommends against correcting the applicant's records for this request.

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-2024-01440 in Executive Session on 11 Jul 25:

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 16 Apr 24.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP2SSR, w/atchs, dated 20 Nov 24.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 20 Nov 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.

7/20/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: USAF

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