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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-02585

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

The narrative reason for separation on his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, be amended based on the repeal of Title 10, United States Code, Section 654 (10 U.S.C. § 654).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He was discharged based on his sexual orientation. Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) was repealed in 2010.

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 30 Jan 03, the applicant received an entry level separation with uncharacterized service. His separation code and corresponding narrative reason for separation is HRB, *Homosexual Admission*, and his reentry code is 2C, *Involuntarily separated with an honorable discharge; or entry level separation without characterization of service*. He was credited with 5 months and 18 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) 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

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2024-02585

Work-Product

Work-Product

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 1 Aug 24 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application is timely.
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.

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 30 Jan 03, be amended to reflect 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-2024-02585 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/atchs, dated 15 Jul 24.
- 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: Letter, SAF/MRBC, dated 1 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.

11/6/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: USAF