

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

XXX

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-02603

COUNSEL: XXXXXX

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

The break-in-service following his separation from active duty and transfer to the Air Force Reserve (AFR) be eliminated.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

Prior to his separation from active duty, he applied for a PALACE FRONT transfer; however, after he separated from active duty, he incurred a two-week break in service while waiting for his medical paperwork to be completed. This break in service caused him to be denied his active duty to AFR bonus.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a currently serving AFR staff sergeant (E-5).

On 3 May 23, according to AF IMT 1288, *Application for Ready Reserve*, provided by applicant, he applied for a Ready Reserve assignment upon completion of his active-duty expiration term of service (ETS) of 18 Nov 23.

On 18 Nov 23, according to DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, he was honorably separated from active duty in the grade of E-5 with the narrative reason of separation of "Completion of Required Active Service."

On 30 Nov 23, according to AF IMT 1288, his In-Service Recruiter (IRS) recommended approval certifying the applicant meets all requirements for assignment in the AFR.

On 1 Dec 23, according to DD Form 4, *Enlistment/Reenlistment Document, Armed Forces of the United States*, the applicant enlisted in the AFR in the grade of E-5 for a period of three years.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-3211, *Military Separations*, Chapter 26, *PALACE FRONT Program*. Paragraph 26.1 *Program Description*. The PALACE FRONT program is an intra-service transfer program which allows active USAF or USSF officers and enlisted members to transfer from the active component to the ANG or the AFR the day after their approved date of separation (DOS) from the Regular component. The PALACE FRONT program is not a voluntary separation program or a pre-ETS process that waives a current

enlistment contract or Active Duty Service Commitment. The purpose of the program is to allow members that already have an approved DOS to seamlessly transfer from the active component of the USAF or USSF to the Selected Reserve service within the Active Reserve Component (ARC).

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFRC/A1KK recommends granting the request. Based on the documentation provided by the applicant and analysis of the facts, there is evidence of an error or injustice. On 9 Jul 23, the applicant contacted his ISR to start the PALACE FRONT process. DAFI 36-3211, 6.2.1 states, "All applicants are required to contact an ARC ISR and complete a prescreening process prior to opening a new PALACE FRONT application." At this time, the applicant should have undergone a prescreening to determine if he met the qualifications to participate in the PALACE FRONT program, i.e. that he met all the applicable ARC accession standards as paragraph 26.2.2 states "All participants must remain qualified throughout the entire application process. If it is determined an applicant is not qualified to participate in the PALACE FRONT program, the applicant is not projected for an assignment into the ARC." At this point, the ISR should have notified the applicant he did not meet accession standards and would need to obtain medical clearance to ensure a seamless transfer from the active component to the Selected Reserve. The request for his medical clearance was not submitted to AFRC/SG until 17 Nov 23, the day prior to his separation from active duty, on 18 Nov 23. This delayed processing ultimately prevented the applicant from being projected into his Reserve assignment and led to a break in service.

Therefore, the medical clearance requirement should have been identified and processed prior to 16 Nov 23 to allow time for the member or ISR to obtain the medical clearance prior to his 18 Nov 23 DOS from active duty to prevent the break in 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 8 Apr 25 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 the victim of an error or injustice. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFRC/A1KK and finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant's contentions. 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:

- a. His enlistment into the Air Force Reserve, effective 1 Dec 23, be void and removed from his record.

b. On 19 Nov 23, he enlisted in the Air Force Reserve in the grade of E-5 for a period of three years.

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-2024-02603 in Executive Session on 13 May 25:

, 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/atchs, dated 22 Jul 24.
Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFRC/A1KK, dated 7 Apr 25.
Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 8 Apr 25.

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