

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-02695

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His official military personnel records amended to:

a. Recalculate his retirement pay using his pay grade as O-3E vice O-3. **(Failed to exhaust lower administrative remedy)**

b. Change the retirement on his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, to reflect Permanent Disability Retirement List (PDRL).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

His retired pay calculation from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is incorrect due to incorrect pay grade (captain [O-3] vice captain [O-3E]). DFAS is requiring the Air Force to send correct information. The applicant needs the Air Force retirement/outbound section to send his correct rank to DFAS to make the corrections to his retired pay and back pay. Department of Defense (DoD) 7000.14-R, *Financial Management Regulation*, paragraph 2.3.1.3. states, "...O3 who are credited with over 4 years of combined prior active service as an enlisted member...are entitled to the special pay rate of O3E." His DD Form 214 (RegAF) shows the applicant completed 10 years as an enlisted member, qualifying for the special O3E rate as a commissioned officer.

The applicant's retirement DD Form 214 shows a retirement; however, it is incorrect as he was medically boarded and retired under the PDRL. His DD Form 214 should reflect he was retired under PDRL. The applicant's retirement orders state, "Effective 25 Jan 24, you are permanently disability retired..." Based on research for separations codes for the DD Form 214 (<https://veteran.com/militaryseparation-codes/>), the correct code should be RFJ [Permanent Disability – Retired] or RFJ1 [Permanent Disability Retired List – USAF].

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a retired Air National Guard major (O-4).

On 21 Nov 23, according to an AFPC/DPFDD email, Subject: Disability Retirement PR – ANG – [Applicant], officials within the office of the Secretary of the Air Force approved the applicant's retirement under provisions of Title 10, United States Code § 1201 (10 USC § 1201). SPD [Separation Program Designator]: SEB (Retirement: Disability, Permanent, Not Combat-Related) – IDES [Integrated Disability Evaluation System]; Authority: Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-3212, *Physical Evaluation for Retention, Retirement, and Separation*.

On 24 Jan 24, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was furnished an honorable discharge, with type of separation of "Retirement" and separation authority of "AFI 36-3212." His

separation code was “SEB” and narrative reason for separation was “Disability, Not Combat-Related, IDES.”

On 25 Jan 24, according to Special Order Number XXXXX, dated 21 Nov 23, the applicant was permanently disability retired in the grade of major (O-4) with a compensable percentage for physical disability of 60 percent. Disability was the direct result of a combat-related injury as defined in 26 USC § 104: No.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DPFDD recommends denying the applicant’s request to amend his DD Form 214. Based on the documentation provided by the applicant and analysis of the facts, there is no indication an error or injustice occurred. This office must determine the appropriate SPD code authorized for DoD use at the completion of disability processing. The appropriate SPD code of “SEB” was used in the processing of the applicant’s retirement and for his DD Form 214.

On 4 Oct 23, the Informal Physical Evaluation Board (IPEB) found the applicant unfitting for Recurrent Pulmonary Embolism requiring lifelong anticoagulation. The AF Form 356, *Findings and Recommended Disposition of USAF Physical Evaluation Board*, Block 8E indicates the IPEB determined this condition was not combat-related as defined in 26 USC § 104. On 21 Nov 23, this office directed the applicant be permanently disability retired with a separation date of 24 Jan 24 using SPD code SEB (Retirement: Disability, Permanent, Not Combat-Related) - IDES. Special Order XXXXX announced his placement on the PDRL, effective 25 Jan 24. The retirement order correctly indicates the applicant’s disability was not combat-related as determined by the IPEB. On 19 Jan 24, his DD Form 214 was properly prepared to document the applicant’s retirement per our final disposition message, dated 21 Nov 23. Block 23 correctly lists the Type of Separation as Retirement; Block 26 correctly lists the Separation Code as SEB; and Block 28 correctly lists the Narrative Reason for Separation as Disability, Not Combat-Related, IDES.

Although the applicant found an online resource which may list SPD codes that differ from the code this office used, it is noted <https://veteran.com> is not an official DoD website and therefore, not authoritative for military use. This office and the office which prepared the applicant’s DD Form 214 must use the official listing published by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness (OUSD P&R). The most recent SPD code listing dated Jul 21 added SPD: SEB for members with non-combat related disabilities who processed through the IDES. A complete listing of current disability SPD codes used by this office was provided with this advisory. The OUSD P&R SPD code listing does not indicate SPDs: RFJ or RFJ1 were ever authorized for DoD use. Additionally, according to the SPD code listing, SPD family FJ is a historical group of SPD codes denoting permanent disability retirement under the older Legacy DES. This office previously used SPD: SFJ for members being permanently disability retired. However, this code has been subsumed by the newer SFI and SFO since they clearly identify whether the member’s disability was deemed combat-related or not.

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 18 Feb 25 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was timely filed.
2. The applicant did not exhaust 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/DPFDD and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. The Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) must use the official SPD listing published by OUSD P&R when preparing documents associated with separations and/or retirements. The website the applicant referenced in his contentions is not an official DoD website and not authoritative for military use. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

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-2024-02695 in Executive Session on 21 May 25:

, Panel Chair
, Panel Member
, Panel Member

All members voted against correcting the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 24 Jul 24.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DPFDD, w/atchs, dated 6 Jan 25.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 18 Feb 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