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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-02838

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COUNSEL: Work-Product

(AKA) Work-Product

HEARING REQUESTED: YES

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

1. Her narrative reason for separation be changed from "Pregnancy or Childbirth" to "Early Out."
2. Her Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) certificate of eligibility (COE) be approved. (This is outside of the AFBCMR's scope of authority).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

During service, she was married and became pregnant. She was then told she had to sign a family care plan which would give custody of her son to another individual. At the time, her military husband was frequently on temporary duty (TDY). This left an unstable situation for their family as they did not have anyone else to care for their son, should they both deploy at the same time. She advised her supervisor of this and was told she would have to take an early out if she could not sign a family care plan for the event, they were both deployed. So, she did what was advised regarding her options and took the early out while her husband stayed in. She served her country with joy and followed the only available options given. She is asking she not be penalized for less than one month away from 24 months of service. She would have served more than the 24 months; however, her supervisor advised her not to, indicating her early out would be cancelled. So, she was strongly urged to choose a day in September. As a young airman, she highly valued the guidance from her leadership. It was a hard decision to make but she had to do it for the sake of her family at the time and they had no trust in the available caretakers.

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 1 Sep 03, the applicant received an honorable discharge. Her narrative reason for separation is "Pregnancy or Childbirth" and she was credited with 1 year, 10 months, and 22 days of total active service.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DPMSSR recommends denying the application, finding no error or injustice with the discharge process. The applicant's separation application is absent from the master personnel record (MPR). Based on the presumption of regularity, the applicant would have submitted a request for voluntary separation under the pregnancy or childbirth provision using the AF Form 31, *Airman's Request for Early Separation/Separation Based on Change in Service Obligation*, to the unit commander. The only documentation required for pregnancy is an AF Form 422, *Profile Serial Report*, to confirm the pregnancy. The commander would have recommended approval, and the discharge authority would have directed release from the Air Force. In this instance, according to the MPR, the applicant's remaining military service obligation was completed in the individual ready reserve (IRR). There is no separation program designator (SPD) for "Early Out." Furthermore, the Air Force was not involuntarily separating personnel for pregnancy. Pregnancy or childbirth has been a provision which falls under the voluntary separation program.

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 7 Jan 25 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed. The Board also notes the applicant did not file the application within three years of discovering the alleged error or injustice, as required by Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code, and Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-2603, Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR).
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 not the victim of an error or injustice. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DPMSSR and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. Standardized separation program designator (SPD) codes and their clear texts (corresponding narrative reason for discharge) are developed by the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (OUSD P&R) for DoD-wide use. There is no separation code and corresponding narrative reason for "Early Out." The applicant was properly separated based on her voluntary request due to pregnancy. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

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4. The applicant has not shown a personal appearance, with or without counsel, would materially add to the Board's understanding of the issues involved.

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 DAFI 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2024-02838 in Executive Session on 29 May 25:

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, Panel Chair

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, Panel Member

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, Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 8 Aug 24.

Exhibit B: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DPMSSR, dated 7 Jan 25.

Exhibit F: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 7 Jan 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.

10/23/2025

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GS-15, DAF

Associate Director, AFBCMR

Signed by: USAF

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