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**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS**

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2024-03440

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**COUNSEL:** NONE

**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO

**APPLICANT’S REQUEST**

His general (under honorable conditions) discharge from the Air Force Reserve (AFR) be upgraded to honorable.

**APPLICANT’S CONTENTIONS**

Due to his service-connected mental health condition which started in 2001, he was unable to attend drill because his unit was over 100 miles from his home. This lack of attendance resulted in his under honorable conditions discharge and his mental health condition excuses or mitigates his discharge. While in the United States Army Reserve (USAR), he had a line of duty determination in 2001 for depression that eventually led to his service-connected disability. The condition worsened from 2001 and became debilitating in 2006. In 2001, his mental health condition was not well understood and went untreated.

In support of his request for a discharge upgrade, the applicant provides his medical records, Graduation Certificate (Master of Urban and Regional Planning), his Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating, his USAR discharge documents, and an award certificate (the Governor’s 2019 Smart Communities Award).

The applicant’s complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The applicant is a former Air Force Reserve (AFR) senior airman (E-4).

On 28 Jun 99, DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, reflects the applicant was discharged from the USAR in the grade of specialist (E-4) after serving 3 months and 18 days of active duty. He was discharged, with a narrative reason for separation of “Completion of Required Active Service.”

**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2024-03440**

Work-Product

Controlled by: SAF/MRB  
CUI Categories: Work-Product  
Limited Dissemination Control: N/A  
POC: [SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil)

On 29 Oct 03, DD Form 2807-1, *Report of Medical History*, indicates the applicant did not identify a history of any mental health issues to include depression.

On 24 Aug 04, the applicant was granted a conditional release from the USAR.

Dated 21 Sep 07, Reserve Order Work-Prod... indicates the applicant was honorably discharged from the AFR, effective 19 Aug 07 pending an administrative discharge.

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

### **POST-SERVICE INFORMATION**

On 22 Aug 25, the Board sent the applicant a standard request for post-service information. This letter informed the applicant that a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) background check would assist the Board in evaluating his case. Although the applicant did provide post-service information with his original application, he did not include an FBI background check or other criminal history data nor respond to this request for further evidence to support his application.

### **APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

On 3 Sep 14, the Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum providing guidance to the Military Department Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records as they carefully consider each petition regarding discharge upgrade requests by veterans claiming PTSD. In addition, time limits to reconsider decisions will be liberally waived for applications covered by this guidance.

On 25 Aug 17, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD P&R) issued clarifying guidance to Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records considering requests by veterans for modification of their discharges due in whole or in part to mental health conditions [PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), sexual assault, or sexual harassment]. Liberal consideration will be given to veterans petitioning for discharge relief when the application for relief is based in whole or in part on the aforementioned conditions.

Under Consideration of Mitigating Factors, it is noted that PTSD is not a likely cause of premeditated misconduct. Correction Boards will exercise caution in weighing evidence of mitigation in all cases of misconduct by carefully considering the likely causal relationship of symptoms to the misconduct. Liberal consideration does not mandate an upgrade. Relief may be appropriate, however, for minor misconduct commonly associated with the aforementioned mental health conditions and some significant misconduct sufficiently justified or outweighed by the facts and circumstances.

Boards are directed to consider the following main questions when assessing requests due to mental health conditions including PTSD, TBI, sexual assault, or sexual harassment:

- a. Did the veteran have a condition or experience that may excuse or mitigate the discharge?
- b. Did that condition exist/experience occur during military service?
- c. Does that condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge?
- d. Does that condition or experience outweigh the discharge?

On 25 Jul 18, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness issued supplemental guidance, known as the Wilkie Memo, to military corrections boards in determining whether relief is warranted based on equity, injustice, or clemency. These standards authorize the board to grant relief in order to ensure fundamental fairness. Clemency refers to relief specifically granted from a criminal sentence and is a part of the broad authority Boards have to ensure fundamental fairness. This guidance applies to more than clemency from sentencing in a court-martial; it also applies to any other corrections, including changes in a discharge, which may be warranted on equity or relief from injustice grounds. This guidance does not mandate relief, but rather provides standards and principles to guide Boards in application of their equitable relief authority. Each case will be assessed on its own merits. The relative weight of each principle and whether the principle supports relief in a particular case, are within the sound discretion of each Board. In determining whether to grant relief on the basis of equity, an injustice, or clemency grounds, the Board should refer to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Wilkie Memo.

On 20 Nov 24 and 22 Aug 25, the Board staff provided the applicant a copy of the liberal consideration/clarifying guidance (Exhibits C and D).

Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-3211, *Military Separations*, describes the authorized service characterizations.

**Honorable.** The quality of the airman's service generally has met Department of the 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.

**General (Under Honorable Conditions).** If an airman's service has been honest and faithful, this characterization is warranted when significant negative aspects of the airman's conduct or performance of duty outweigh positive aspects of the member's military record.

## AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The AFRBA Psychological Advisor completed a review of all available records and finds insufficient evidence to support the applicant's request for a discharge upgrade. There is no error or injustice identified with his discharge from a mental health perspective. The applicant's discharge paperwork is not available for review, so it is not known the actual reason for his discharge from the AFR. The available records, specifically Reserve **Attorney-Client** indicate he had an unspecified pending administrative discharge, and he was honorably discharged per AFR 35-41, *Separation Procedures for Air Force Reserve Members*, Volume 3. This order somewhat contrasts with the applicant's contention. This order did not state he was discharged for failing to attend his military drill or that he received an under honorable conditions discharge as contended.

The applicant's service treatment records are also not available for review, so there are no records to support his contention he had developed depression secondary to his knee injury that worsened over time, causing him to receive inpatient psychiatric treatment for depression, resulting in his discharge from the AFR for not attending drills. In fact, he completed a Report of Medical History form on 29 Oct 03, two years after his reported knee injury and onset of depression occurred, when he was in the USAR for retention purposes, and he denied having any mental health issues, including depression. Since the applicant contends, he developed depression in 2001 after he sustained a knee injury while he was in the USAR, his depression is considered a prior service condition (PSC) because it began during his service with the USAR and not with the AFR. There are no actual records to support his military service with the AFR aggravated his PSC of depression. There are no records confirming he was placed on orders or had a period of active-duty service with the AFR that aggravated his PSC of depression.

His DVA and submitted medical records were for evaluations and treatment services occurring years after his discharge from the AFR for depression. These records did report he had developed depression from his knee injury, and he received inpatient treatment for depression, but these reports were based on the applicant's self-report. There were no notations, any of his providers reviewed any treatment records from his time in the military. Furthermore, his post-service provider's records were inconsistent with the timeline of his condition and treatment. Nevertheless, his DVA and submitted treatment records reported there were intervening non-military service events that exacerbated and aggravated his depression, besides his knee injury, such as stress from graduate school and relationship issues. These events occurred in his civilian life and were not affiliated with his military duties/services with the AFR. While it is possible he had depression developed from his knee injury with the USAR and he missed drills with the AFR because of his depression, there are records to support this contention. Due to the vague and limited records, the Psychological Advisor finds no evidence his mental health condition had a direct impact or was a contributing factor to his discharge from the AFR. His personal testimony is considered evidence, but the available and existing records are more compelling.

**LIBERAL CONSIDERATION:** Liberal consideration is not required to be applied to the applicant's petition because Kurta Memorandum #15 states liberal consideration is not required for cases involving pre-existing conditions that were determined not to have been aggravated by military service. To reiterate, there are no records to support the applicant's PSC condition of depression developed during his time with the USAR was aggravated by his military service with the AFR.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit E.

#### **APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 9 Sep 25 for comment (Exhibit F) but received no response.

#### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2024-03440**

1. The application was timely filed. Given the requirement for passage of time, all discharge upgrade requests under fundamental fairness or clemency are technically untimely. However, it would be illogical to deny a discharge upgrade application as untimely, since the Board typically looks for over 15 years of good conduct post-service. Therefore, the Board declines to assert the three-year limitation period established by 10 U.S.C. Section 1552(b).

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 the AFRBA Psychological Advisor and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. According to Reserve Order Work-Prod... the applicant was honorably discharged from the AFR. There is no documentation indicating he was discharged with an under honorable conditions characterization. Therefore, the Board recommends no correction is warranted.

### 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-2024-03440 in Executive Session on 26 Sep 25 and 10 Oct 25:

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Panel Chair

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 28 Sep 24.

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

Exhibit C: Letter, SAF/MRBC, w/atchs (Liberal Consideration Guidance),  
dated 20 Nov 24.

Exhibit D: Letter, SAF/MRBC, w/atchs (Post-Service Request and Clarifying Guidance),  
dated 22 Aug 25.

Exhibit E: Advisory Opinion, AFRBA Psychological Advisor, dated 3 Sep 25.

Exhibit F: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 9 Sep 25.

**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2024-03440**

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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.

11/12/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR  
Signed by: USAF

**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2024-03440**

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